

FAQ FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Please note, this document is updated when information changes or becomes available. Check this often to ensure you have the most up-to-date information.

QUESTIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

GENERAL

WHY WAS THIS DECISION MADE?

This decision was made to ensure the safety of our students, faculty and staff.

WHY WOULD I STILL STUDY? WHY SHOULDN'T I DEFER FOR THE YEAR, WHAT INCENTIVE IS THERE TO ENROL?

Why would you let a year of your life go by without pursuing your dreams? Right now, you have the opportunity to invest yourself and make progress towards the completion of your degree and build towards the attainment of an education that will prepare you to lead, regardless of what the global landscape looks like.

Keeping the bigger picture in mind, this temporary virtual environment will be a small part of your full four year university experience. By enrolling this year, you will keep your admission and scholarships secure, and easily transition to life back on campus when the situation permits it - at which point, you'll have plenty of time to enjoy the Huron experience in-person.

Huron is doing everything possible to ensure you have the best possible undergraduate experience. Although we are not able to host students on campus this fall, our dedication to students and culture of care will not change. Students will still have direct access to professors, counsellors and any additional supports that are needed. As mentioned by Dr. Craig in Huron's announcement, when it's safe to return to campus, we will be ready for you!

SO DOES THIS MEAN THERE IS A POSSIBILITY HURON WILL RETURN TO NORMAL ONCE SAFE?

Yes - we intend to keep a close watch on Public Health recommendations, and make informed decisions on an ongoing basis.

WHY IS HURON MOVING TO AN ONLINE MODEL WHEN MANY UNIVERSITIES ARE CHOOSING TO MOVE TO A HYBRID MODEL?

As soon as it's safe to welcome our students back into our classrooms, we will. The decision to offer classes online is to ensure our community is safe, and no risks are taken. As a result of COVID-19, the classroom experience we want to provide is not possible. Rather than offer some in-class experience, wearing protection and practicing social distancing, while offering the majority of classes online, we decided it's in our students' best interest to provide all courses online until we are safe to return to campus. You have already experienced many disruptions in your school year, and with the uncertainty of future outbreaks, we do not want to risk putting our students through this again.

WILL HURON CHANGE THEIR DECISION IF THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT ALLOWS UNIVERSITIES TO RE-OPEN IN PERSON? WHAT IF A VACCINE IS FOUND? WILL STUDENTS BE ABLE TO COME BACK TO CAMPUS FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER?

As soon as it is safe to welcome everyone back into our classrooms, we will. That could be later this Fall, this Winter, or next Spring. We will be ready to do so as soon as we can. What we want to avoid is having everyone return to campus, only to have another wave of COVID-19 cause another social shut down or, even worse, someone in our community being lost to this pandemic.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE OF US WHO DON'T LEARN PROPERLY WHEN EVERYTHING IS ONLINE. OUR GRADES WILL DROP, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO THEN?

Huron's educational experience is unmatched - inclusive of online learning and our student support. Our size enables us, whether in person or over a computer, to facilitate and work 1:1 with our students to ensure they succeed. That means, if you are struggling in any aspect, we are able to cater to your needs to enable you to succeed - this is our ultimate goal.

ACADEMICS

I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HURON'S INTERACTIVE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT. WILL HURON'S ONLINE CLASSES JUST BE A SERIES OF RECORDED LECTURES THAT I WATCH?

No. When you applied to Huron, you were promised a personalized, interactive undergraduate classroom environment completely unique in Canada, especially compared to the typical format of large, non-interactive lecture hall style learning commonly seen at the undergraduate level.

We will still deliver our promise to you, even in these temporary circumstances. Our faculty, with support of online curriculum specialists, will be designing online courses in a format to maximize their interaction with students. This will include synchronous (live) lectures and recorded lectures and course material (asynchronous) available to students. This will ensure flexibility for all students in the event they are unable to attend live.

The online classes experience at Huron will be completely different than the online classroom environment at larger universities, or even your past semester experience at high school. Since our classes are significantly smaller, it will be much easier for our professors to deliver the highly academic curriculum we are known for.

HOW WILL I BE GRADED IN EXAMS? WILL I BE GIVEN CREDITS FOR MY COURSES?

Examination assessment will be conducted in a format that allows you to complete the required exam or assignment remotely from home. Yes, you will be awarded credits for courses that count towards the progression of your degree in the same way you would if you were taking the course in-person.

WILL THE CLASS SIZE AND STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO REMAIN THE SAME?

Yes. Our uniquely small class sizes of 30 students per class on average and our 13:1 student to faculty ratio will remain.

HOW WILL THE PERSONALISED INTERACTION WITH THE PROFESSOR BE AFFECTED? WILL IT BE EASY TO CONTACT AND GET SUPPORT FROM MY PROFESSOR?

All the Huron advantages of a close-knit relationship with your professors and easy access to 1-on-1 conversations with your professor will continue virtually. We will not compromise on the highly personalized level of professor support Huron students enjoy - it will simply just be done through a screen instead of face-to-face.

HOW DO I GAIN ACCESS TO LIBRARY COLLECTIONS & LEARNING MATERIALS DURING MY ONLINE EDUCATION?

The Library at Huron is prioritizing digital-first access to its research and learning collections for students and faculty. Visit: <https://huronatwestern.ca/library> to access the Library's rich research collections to support your coursework at Huron.

WILL RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS BE AVAILABLE AS PDF COPIES IF I CANNOT ACCESS THE LIBRARY OR WESTERN BOOKSTORE?

Yes, you will be able to acquire any course material needed digitally, or through online ordering, regardless of where you choose to learn from.

WILL ANY CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICIES CHANGE WITH ONLINE LEARNING, ESPECIALLY FOR OUT-OF-PROVINCE STUDENTS WITH TIME-ZONE DIFFERENCES?

Our classes will be delivered in an asynchronous manner. This means, while you can attend classes live, you can also review the class recording. As each student's situation is different, our attendance policies will be reflective of this ever-changing situation.

HOW WILL THIS IMPACT ME TAKING COURSES IN OTHER WESTERN CAMPUSES OR FACULTIES?

If you would like to take a course not offered at Huron at another Western campus, you are welcome to do so. When the timetable goes live at the end of the month, students can view available courses and what the learning format is.

STUDENT LIFE

WOULD THE O-WEEK BE RESCHEDULED ONCE THE UNIVERSITY REOPENS FOR FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTIONS?

Plans are underway to allow you to experience the warm welcome and orientation week programming we are famous for, whenever it is safe for you to come to campus in-person. We are committed to providing our students with this future experience and all the exciting events that happen throughout the year at Huron.

WHAT ARE THE SOCIALISING OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE? HOW WILL I KNOW MY COHORT?

For September 2020, we are going to make it as easy as possible for you to meet as many of your future classmates, professors and support people as we can. Keep your eye on your email for invites to Meet and Greet, Game Nights and Wholesome Happy Hours where we will put our academic hats aside, have a ton of fun and ensure, together, we'll conquer any stress you may be coping with and enable a space to make lifelong friends.

HOW WILL ORIENTATION WEEK AND THE ABILITY TO MAKE FRIENDS BE AFFECTED?

Orientation Week and Welcome Week (international student orientation) will be revised for a virtual environment, but the primary focus and purpose will still be in supporting students to make friends and build a community. Our soph team and student engagement staff are well aware of the importance of students making connections and "finding their people". We will do everything we can to facilitate that outcome for all students.

WILL I STILL HAVE ACCESS TO MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES?

Yes. You will have a dedicated mentorship Lead who will be actively working to connect you with senior Huron students and our wildly impressive alumni who are eager to support your career.

STUDENT SUPPORT

HOW WILL INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES BE AFFECTED?

Our entire Career Advising team will remain personally available to you for individual virtual appointments and you can look forward to a comprehensive series of career-related webinars too. Due to the current situation, it's still widely unknown how internships and volunteering will be affected within other organizations, but we're going to work with you throughout this year to help you build a future plan for paid internships and volunteer experiences tailored to your interests.

WHAT SUPPORT SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY DURING THE ONLINE SEMESTER?

HURON IS ALWAYS ADAPTING TO SERVE YOU BETTER

We are expanding our student service hours to ensure our **Leaders with Heart**, from around-the-world, get to speak to our staff members – face to face.

During these online conversations, you will get to know the people who are personally invested in your short- and long-term success.

THAT INCLUDES YOUR VERY OWN:

- Academic Advisor who will help you choose, change and register for your courses
- Career Coordinator who can keep you up-to-date about all the opportunities we offer to build your most impressive portfolio possible
- Student Engagement staff member who is going to tell you about the virtual events, activities and connections you can take advantage of
- Mentorship Lead who is actively working to connect you with senior Huron students and our wildly impressive alumni who are eager to support your career

WILL I STILL HAVE ACCESS TO TUTORING SERVICES PROVIDED BY HURON?

Yes. All the unique and individualized support services that make Huron so special will continue to be available for you virtually, until we are able to return to campus and experience these supports in-person

WHAT WILL I NEED IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY STUDY AT HOME?

You will need a computer and internet access. All materials required for your courses will be accessible digitally.

FINANCES

WHAT IF I START AT HURON AND DECIDE THAT THE ONLINE LEARNING MODEL ISN'T FOR ME - WILL I BE REFUNDED MY TUITION? CAN I DEFER MY OFFER AFTER SEPTEMBER?

Refunds to students who wish to withdraw from their studies will continue to be available. All students are eligible for refunds based on their withdrawal date at the refund level identified in Huron's refund policy (hyperlink to: <https://huronatwestern.ca/withdrawals-and-refunds>)

WILL ANY PART OF THE FEES BE WAIVED/REDUCED?

Your student fees will be reduced to reflect the change in learning format. We are currently reviewing details regarding fees and will be in touch in the future with next steps. Huron is dedicated to supporting our students, and students will still be eligible for scholarships, bursaries and financial aid.

WILL TUITION FEES BE REDUCED BECAUSE WE ARE ONLINE?

Tuition fees will not be reduced in the upcoming academic year. This is for a few reasons. We are making further investments in ensuring students have top quality support during their online learning, this includes student support, faculty support and new technology investments. Yes, there will be some ancillary fees that will not be included as the services related to these fees would not be utilized while online, but it is our promise to our students that we ensure success is not only achievable during an online academic year, but also that our students continue to thrive in this success, regardless of being in person or online. We will do this by making these further investments to ensure the Huron experience, that Huron is proudly known for, is upheld to the highest of standards. If you have further questions, please email Huron's admissions team at huron@uwo.ca

SINCE THE RESIDENCE DEPOSIT HAS ALREADY BEEN PAID, HOW WILL THAT BE COMPENSATED?

Your residence deposit can be fully refunded to you upon request. Please email huronrez@huron.uwo.ca to arrange this.

ADMISSIONS

IF I DEFER MY ADMISSION TO HURON TO SEPT 2021, WILL MY ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP STILL REMAIN VALID? WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS OF DEFERRAL?

Requests to defer your Offer of Admission will be considered on a case-by-case basis after your final grades are received. To request a deferral application form, please contact your Admissions Officer at Huron.

THE CONDITIONS OF DEFERRAL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- You must have been given an offer of admission to Huron at Western
- You must have formally accepted your offer of admission on OUAC (or internally)
- You must have met all conditions of your offer of admission and submitted all supporting documentation

Once we receive your completed form, we will review your request and inform you of any additional conditions. Your admission and automatic scholarship will remain valid in Sept 2021 only if your request for a deferral is approved and you meet all the conditions stated.

Remember, there are many benefits to continuing your education come September 2020. If you want to discuss why not deferring may be the best option, we are happy to talk with you.

WHAT IS THE LATEST DATE BY WHICH I HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION ON WHETHER I WANT TO REMAIN ENROLLED IN SEPTEMBER 2020 OR DEFER MY ADMISSION TO SEPTEMBER 2021?

July 31, 2020. Please speak to your Admissions Advisor at Huron if you have any questions or concerns about this decision.

RESIDENCE

HOW WILL YOU DECIDE WHO WILL BE PRIORITIZED FOR RESIDENCE ROOMS?

Priority right now is being given to those students who live or have a home address outside of North America. This is to enable as many students as possible to engage in real time online learning, but may have difficulty due to extreme time zone differences.

IF MY HOME ADDRESS IS IN CANADA, IS THERE ZERO CHANCE OF RESIDENCE BEING AVAILABLE TO ME?

There is a chance residence may be available to students living in Canada. We are currently assessing a number of scenarios to determine how many residential spaces we can offer, based on health and safety guidelines available to us at this time. Depending on total occupancy in the residence after we have processed the first set of applications, we may be opening up additional spots to students who live in Canada based on specific criteria, including students who have internet equity or accessibility issues (rural or Northern locations, lack of internet in the home) or personal circumstances that may create housing issues for students. A secondary application form can be requested by emailing huronrez@huron.uwo.ca or can be found on our website beginning June 1st. Students who wish to be considered for residence can fill out a secondary application and submit by June 30th. Each application will be evaluated on a case by case basis and approved depending on available spots in the residences. Students who submit a secondary application will not have to submit a residence deposit.

I'VE ALREADY APPLIED AND PAID FOR RESIDENCE - WILL I BE RECEIVING THAT MONEY BACK?

Students who reside in North America and have already applied to residence will be refunded the full amount of their deposit. This process will take approximately 4 weeks to complete. All applicants have been contacted about this and further communication with more details about this process will be coming soon to students' UWO email accounts.

A BIG INFLUENCE ON MY DECISION TO GO TO HURON WAS A GUARANTEED SINGLE ROOM. CAN I CHANGE MY DECISION?

Residence rooms will be assigned as single rooms only for 2020-2021 in order to facilitate appropriate safety and health concerns around physical distancing. Anyone who has selected a double room and/or requested a roommate will be assigned to a single room based on their other preferred room choices on the application.

IF I AM NOT ALLOWED TO LIVE IN HURON RESIDENCE - CAN I LIVE IN RESIDENCE AT ANOTHER AFFILIATE OR WESTERN?

Your ability to live in another residence is a decision that is made by the other affiliates and Western. In the past few years, there have not been rooms available to students in residences other than on their home campus. Western and the affiliates have prioritized their first years and the residences have been full to capacity. We do not put restrictions on allowing students to live in another residence and attend Huron, but we will not be opening our residence to students from Brescia, King's or Western.

I'M A VARSITY ATHLETE AND MY SEASON HASN'T BEEN CANCELLED - CAN I LIVE IN HURON'S RESIDENCE? IF NOT, CAN I STILL BE A HURON STUDENT BUT LIVE IN A WESTERN RESIDENCE BUILDING?

We are reviewing individual cases and specific criteria as we consider various scenarios for our residence. Housing our athletes in the event that athletics at Western are not cancelled will be considered case by case basis. You may live in a Western residence building and still attend Huron classes. Your application will be considered, and processed or denied, by the Housing department at Western.

I HAVE AN IEP - CAN I BE GRANTED SPECIAL PERMISSION TO BE IN RESIDENCE?

We are currently considering a couple of scenarios for residence based upon specific criteria and need for all students. These include, among other things, limited or poor internet access, living in a different time zone, and limited access to learning platforms due to government regulations. IEPs, as they are applied specifically to classroom scenarios and learning expectations, have never been a consideration in granting special accommodation requests for residence. Moving forward with online learning for September, IEPs will be considered and applied appropriately by faculty, but are not considered for room accommodations.

WILL YOU ASSIST THE INCOMING CLASS WITH SECOND YEAR ACCOMMODATIONS / HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS? PICKING ROOMMATES FOR OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING IN YEAR 2 WILL BE DIFFICULT HAVING NOT MET OUR CLASSMATES IN PERSON YET / LIVED WITH THEM ALREADY IN RESIDENCE.

We are eager to develop programming that encourages students to make friends and get to know one another through the virtual environment with the activities and events we are planning for next year. In addition to the social aspect of university, students will also get to know their classmates thanks to the smaller class sizes at Huron. Even though our classes will not be held in person, the smaller numbers and individualized support and attention provided by faculty and staff will help students make connections and develop friendships. Our Residence Managers, Student Engagement Coordinators, and Wellness staff can also help connect individual students as they consider housing options for their second year.

FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO LIVE ON CAMPUS (INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS)

WILL I BE REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE WHEN I ARRIVE IN CANADA AND ON CAMPUS? IF SO, HOW WILL THAT WORK?

At this time, guidance from health officials suggests all travellers who arrive from outside of Canada will be required to be in quarantine for at least 2 weeks. Huron is considering a variety of scenarios for residence, all of them taking into account the need to quarantine students appropriately on-site (within the residence).

WILL I HAVE TO SHARE ROOMS OR BATHROOMS WITH ANY OTHER STUDENTS?

We are currently looking at a number of scenarios for residence accommodation. None of the rooms will be shared; we are assigning single rooms only. As for bathroom use, we will be relying upon the guidance of public health to make informed decisions regarding hygiene spaces.

WHAT MEASURES IS HURON TAKING TO ENSURE THE CAMPUS IS HEALTHY AND HYGIENIC?

In the residences, we are moving to single room accommodations for all students, implementing physical distancing measures in our planning, and scheduling additional cleaning of all residential spaces and campus spaces. Common areas within the residences will remain closed to discourage gathering of groups of students in breach of physical distancing measures. Masks will be provided to students and additional hand sanitizer stations will be installed within the residence and around the campus. Staff or faculty who are on-site will practice physical distancing throughout the work day.

IF I GET SICK, WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE?

Your residence support team will be available 24/7 as your first point of contact to personally support you should any issues arise. International and Canadian students will both have health care coverage and can therefore visit the on-campus health services, located less than 5 minutes walking distance away from Huron's residences. As well, there are numerous walk-in clinics near campus and one of the region's largest hospitals, London's University Hospital, is a 2 minute drive from campus.

CAN I DO MY FIRST YEAR AT HURON ONLINE FROM MY HOME COUNTRY, INSTEAD OF COMING TO CANADA AND LIVING IN RESIDENCE?

Yes

AM I STILL ABLE TO APPLY FOR A STUDY PERMIT TO STUDY IN CANADA? OR IS CANADA NO LONGER ACCEPTING STUDY PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

Even if your local Visa Application Center is temporarily closed, Study Permit applications are still being accepted online and reviewed by the Government of Canada. If you are missing any documents, applicants are being advised to still apply for their study permit but with a letter of explanation for documents you are unable to provide and to provide them when you are able to. Applications that lack a necessary document are not being refused by the Government of Canada; instead, other parts of an application will be processed until your remaining documents are provided.

Please visit Canada's Immigration and Citizenship website at <https://www.cic.gc.ca/> for information on how to apply and the latest, most accurate updates. We highly encourage you to apply as soon as possible considering processing times.

AM I STILL ALLOWED TO TAKE ONLINE CLASSES UNTIL MY STUDY PERMIT IS APPROVED? WHAT HAPPENS IN CASE MY APPLICATION FOR A STUDY PERMIT GETS REJECTED?

A study permit isn't necessary if you want to begin your Huron program online from your home country this September 2020. However, you will need a study permit to enter Canada to complete program requirements in-person or to be eligible for the Post Graduate Work Permit (PGWP). If you would like to stay eligible for the PGWP, you would need to be approved for your Study Permit before starting your program online from your home country. It is for this reason that we highly advise all our applicants to apply for a Study Permit as soon as possible, even if you intend on beginning your Huron program online from your home country.

In the event that your application to receive a Study Permit is rejected, before classes begin in September, we will refund all fee payments you have made to Huron.

WILL TAKING MY COURSES ONLINE AFFECT MY ELIGIBILITY FOR CANADA'S POST GRADUATE WORK PERMIT?

If you are approved for Study Permit before you begin your Huron courses online in September 2020, then you will still be eligible for Canada's Post Graduate Work Permit (PGWP). The Government of Canada recently announced that PGWP eligibility will not be affected for international students whose September 2020 courses will be online due to COVID-19. Students in this situation may begin their classes while outside Canada and complete up to 50% of their program via distance learning if they cannot travel to Canada sooner. More details are available here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/pgwpp-rules-covid19.html>

We know there will come a day when a sense of normalcy will return. In the meantime, we are committed to giving you the long-term future of opportunity that made you choose to study at Huron and live in Canada in the first place – even if you start your studies online from your home country.

WILL I BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE MY RESIDENCE ROOM DURING MY FREE TIME?

At this time, we cannot say for certain what restrictions will be in place in the Fall. Students will be allowed to leave their rooms but are expected to adhere to physical distancing practices at all times.

IF I CHOOSE TO STAY IN RESIDENCE STARTING SEPTEMBER, AND AM ELIGIBLE, WILL I BE ALLOWED TO INTERACT IN-PERSON WITH OTHER STUDENTS OR FACULTY? WILL THERE BE ANY ACTIVITIES OR WILL I BE BORED?

Social interactions, while limited by physical distancing, will be allowed for in-person contact. This may be restricted to very small numbers or individual face-to-face interactions, but future guidelines may expand these restrictions and allow for larger gatherings. However, we expect physical distancing requirements will be in place for some time.

For students who choose to live in residence, we will be working hard to ensure you are able to enjoy social interactions, events and make friendships with fellow residence mates - all while maintaining physical distancing requirements. We want to make sure you will not feel isolated or lonely.

WILL DINING HALL SERVICE AND MY MEAL PLAN CHANGE?

The dining hall experience will change as a result of the need to physically distance and adhere to health and safety requirements. At this time, we are reviewing various scenarios including pick-up of individual meals and snack packs at various times throughout the day for students living in the residence. We are working closely with our dining hall provider to ensure that we provide high quality and a good variety of food options while also maintaining health and safety standards. We are looking at options for dining in with spaced out seating arrangements, and giving careful consideration to the hours of operation that best suit students' needs.

WHAT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE IN-PERSON?

Though this could change in the coming months, we plan to offer in-person academic advising and career services support with physical distancing and barriers in place.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN THE CITY OF LONDON, ONTARIO?

The total confirmed case count of COVID-19 in the Middlesex-London region is 466 of which, 324 cases have been resolved.

For the latest figures and updates, please visit the Middlesex-London Health Unit website at:

<https://www.healthunit.com/novel-coronavirus>

As a city, London has coped better the most in responding to COVID-19:

Rate per 100,000 population:

93.8 London, Ontario

144.6 Toronto, Ontario

231.2 Total Ontario

Source: Public Health Ontario, as of May 14, 2020 <https://www.ontario.ca/>