



Welcome to the Faculty of Arts

Dear Incoming Class of 2020,

Bienvenue! Welcome to the Faculty of Arts, the largest and most diverse Faculty at McGill University. As Dean of Arts, I am writing to congratulate you on your achievement in gaining a place in our Bachelor of Arts program. I am certain that you will find our offerings both fascinating and intellectually challenging, and have no doubt that you will make lifelong connections as you pursue your degree.

Our programs in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Languages as well as our Interdisciplinary offerings provide students with tremendous flexibility to build a degree that is aligned with their interests and strengths. Arts students learn from and work with professors who are deeply dedicated to their respective disciplines, are at the cutting edge of their field of study, and are committed to providing you an innovative education. A McGill education will give you the confidence of knowing that, wherever you go in life, you will be able to critically analyze complex issues and generate solutions to address the most important challenges of our times.

This year, you are transitioning into one of the most exciting periods of your life. At the same time, the world is facing a pandemic like no other. I have no doubt that you are wondering what this new experience is going to be like. What will September 2020 hold? We have been working especially hard to address this since early March – when the COVID-19 pandemic changed how we do just about everything at the University. I want to assure you that we are quickly adapting and developing solutions to the disruptions these challenging times have brought upon us.

For all that has changed, some things still remain certain. We will start the Fall term at McGill as scheduled. We will continue to deliver academic programs of the highest quality, and we will use every means available to connect with you. To ensure that you can pursue your studies no matter where you are in September, we will optimize the tools and techniques we will use to deliver our Fall courses remotely. You can expect your courses to involve interactive sessions with your instructors and fellow students, along with multimedia activities and materials to work through on your own time.

In addition to delivering exceptional content, we are working to create and sustain the strong sense of community that has always been at the heart of the McGill experience. No matter where you are in the world, I want you to know that you will be a valued part of the McGill community. To support this sense of connection even when we are at a distance, we are developing ways for you to connect with your fellow first-year students that will give you an opportunity to check in regularly, chat about your experiences and ask questions about any aspect of university life.

Beyond this, our many student associations provide an excellent way to connect with your fellow students. The [Arts Undergraduate Society](#) is complemented by a multitude of [student associations representing individual programs](#). A virtual orientation is being planned and McGill's current students are helping to make it a reality.

Student Services have already created many [engagement activities and events](#), including the Student Wellness Hub's [Wellness and Life Skills Workshops and Groups](#) and International Student Services' [Events and Workshops](#). Student Services is also working with student leaders to create virtual communities, including communities for diverse student populations (for example, virtual faith communities, LGBTQ2+, etc.)

In these times of uncertainty, I would also like to emphasize McGill's steadfast commitment to the principle of equitable access to higher education. The [Scholarships & Student Aid Office](#), a comprehensive source of advice on financial assistance for students, is especially able to help if you have financial concerns relating to travel or living expenses. The Office's financial counsellors can also provide information about assistance available to help with internet- or equipment-related costs associated with remote learning.

If you have any questions about studying at McGill, the Faculty of Arts' dedicated team of undergraduate student advisors is here to help. They are part of the Office of Advising and Student Information Services (OASIS), and can be reached at advisor.arts@mcgill.ca or on their website at mcgill.ca/oasis. I invite you to read your [First Year Guide](#), which will provide you with important information on the next steps to take after accepting your offer. If you have any questions and would like to speak with someone, one of our advisers will be glad to call you at home.

We look forward to starting the Fall term both remotely and in-person. For those of you who will be joining us on campus, please be assured that we will adhere to public health guidelines regarding safe physical distancing. For those of you who will be joining us remotely, please be assured that this is only temporary, and we look forward to seeing you on our beautiful campus as soon as it is safe to do so.

Once again, my heartfelt congratulations to you on receiving an admission offer. I know the energy that you have put into this achievement. You have now taken the first step to taking what is going to be a true adventure in both personal and academic discovery. My colleagues and I very much look forward to welcoming you to McGill and joining you as you embark on this journey.

Sincerely,

Antonia Maioni
Dean, Faculty of Arts