

A message from Dr. Janet Morrison



Winter Term Update

August 31, 2020

Dear Sheridan Community,

As we get ready to begin the 2020-2021 academic year, we have received a number of questions that specifically pertain to the Winter 2021 semester. We know that students turn to many of you for information. Please see below a number of updates that will be shared with learners this week.

Key Dates

Sheridan has adjusted the start date of the Winter semester to allow extra time for the re-tooling of curricula, should it be required. The semester will begin on **January 18, 2021 and conclude as planned on April 23, 2021**. Reading Week will fall between March 1-5 inclusive. The updated 20-21 academic calendar is available [online](#).

Academic Program Delivery Modes for Winter 2021

At present, we have not finalized the specific delivery mode for each program (virtual/remote learning or learning which includes some on-campus/in person activity). As you are likely well aware, the incubation period for COVID-19 ranges and can last up to 14 days. It is imperative that we carefully assess the impact of in-person activity taking place on our campuses during the fall semester, beginning on September 14. We will also review all the precautionary measures and responding actions that we're implementing to protect people's health and well-being. Following our evaluation, we will make our decisions.

We remain committed to transparency and accountability. I appreciate that this information is a key to informing learners' personal planning. Please rest assured that program-specific delivery details about the Winter 2021 semester will be announced to students as soon as possible and no later than early October. Specifically, students will learn about program's specific delivery modes prior to the Winter enrolment deposit/intent to register deadline.

On Campus Work for Non-teaching Employees

I am also empathetic to the fact that many of our non-teaching employees are eager to learn when (or whether) they will be required to return to campus. I know that many of you need this information to plan childcare or parental care, schooling, and many other pressing obligations.

Our Human Resources team has been in contact with Sheridan managers to determine the operational needs of each unit, and their ability to work remotely, where feasible, for the duration of the fall semester, which is Sheridan's preference. Further to the reference above, we must review the impact of the limited in-person activity that will be taking place on our campuses this fall before working with our public health authorities to determine the additional number of employees that we can safely accept on campus during the Winter semester. We endeavour to announce remote work details for Winter 2021 as soon as possible and no later than by mid-November.

Thank you for everything that you continue to do for our learners and the Sheridan community writ large.

Sincerely,

Janet Morrison, PhD
President and Vice Chancellor

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