

**This is a note from the Dean and has information regarding teaching, graduation, research, and building access.**

Hello everyone,

Sending along some updates.

**First**, communications have gone out regarding the Fall.

**Second**, FYI here is what the University will be doing for convocation: [Degree conferral and graduation activities](#)

**Third**, as you know, Associate Dean Nick Mosey has been managing research return to campus and we have received many queries about who and when we can come back. Here is a communication you can share:

There have been several queries regarding the circumstances under which faculty, staff and students are permitted to access Queen's buildings. We have consulted with the VP (Finance and Administration) for clear guidance on this matter. A version of response we received, which has been edited to focus on items pertinent to faculty, staff, and students in FAS, is given provided below.

Access to Queen's buildings is presently limited to ensure the University is in compliance with the Province's Closure of Places of Non-Essential Businesses Order (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200082>). Under this order, research has been deemed an essential business, whereas education has not. Since these definitions permit some activity to occur at Queen's, work required to ensure that Queen's operates in accordance with all applicable laws and under the guidance of public health officials is also considered essential. Consequently, essential workers remain on campus to perform functions that are required for the safe operation of the university, and a process (<https://www.queensu.ca/vpr/covid-19/research-facility-start-and-requests-site-access>) for accessing on-site research spaces and materials has been established.

To maintain compliance with legislation and guidance from the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada, faculty, staff, and students who are not essential workers maintaining the safe operation of the university, researchers with approved access, or supporting students returning to clinical placements should not be on campus. It is stressed that the use of offices for educational purpose or unapproved research activities is prohibited. Temporary on-site access is permitted to allow individuals to retrieve materials necessary to continue their work remotely. Campus spaces are not available for booking.

I hope this message provides clear direction on this matter, and I am happy to answer any questions about this you may have. Please distribute this information within your units so that we are all aware of what type of access is permissible.

**Forth**, we have sent the following communication to the graduate coordinators:

**FAS is developing a Working Group on Graduate Student Funding and Supervision**

The Faculty of Arts and Science has received many individual, department and association letters revealing the academic, funding, and space issues that have been further exacerbated as a result of the COVID19 pandemic in graduate education.

We all recognize that this is a challenging and unprecedented time—and we have organized meetings with students, graduate supervisors, graduate coordinators, Department Heads, staff and the Arts and Science community at large to be as responsive as we can. There are more than 1600 graduate students in FAS, each one with a unique graduate experience, and each one with a unique pandemic experience. Many graduate students have used the isolation to focus on writing their thesis or manuscripts, preparing for comprehensive exams, delving into literature related to their research, getting ready for our return to “the new normal.” Other graduate students have been severely affected—unable to enter the laboratory to carry out the final experiments for their degree, to access library resources critical to their research, to carry out field work or to travel for research. Many students have been well supported by their graduate supervisors, meeting often to discuss how to progress in this unprecedented time, while others have felt isolated from their support network of professors and fellow graduate students. While every graduate student has received their graduate stipend, we recognize that many students are facing financial hardship because the graduate stipend may not adequately cover living costs, there are limited opportunities to work outside the university at this time, there are unanticipated impacts such as those stemming from the loss of spousal income or the increased demands of child- or family-care. Because the effects of the pandemic are unique to each student, it is imperative that we address the needs of students on an individual basis, and many resources have been put in place to address the diversity of challenges that students face. The Faculty, the School of Graduate Studies and Student Services have provided more mental health support, flexibility on extensions, work opportunities and emergency funding to support those in need.

However, the pandemic has emphasized for us the need to take a critical look at graduate supervision and graduate funding in the Faculty of Arts and Science. We are developing a working group to investigate opportunities to standardize and enhance graduate supervision and ensure adequate funding across FAS. This committee will build on the School of Graduate Studies Working Group on Graduate Student Success and will report back to the community at the end of December. The terms of reference, membership and outcomes will be shared with you in mid-June.

In the interim, please find enclosed the financial and mental health supports that are available and thank you for raising these important matters.

Be safe and well,

Barbara

Barbara Crow, PhD  
Dean, Faculty Arts & Science  
Queen's University  
Kingston, ON Canada K7L 3N6  
[bc100@queensu.ca](mailto:bc100@queensu.ca)  
Tel 613 533-2446  
<http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/>  
Ageing, Communication and Technologies, <http://actproject.ca>

*Queen's University is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory.*