

# PLANS FOR FALL 2020

July 19, 2020



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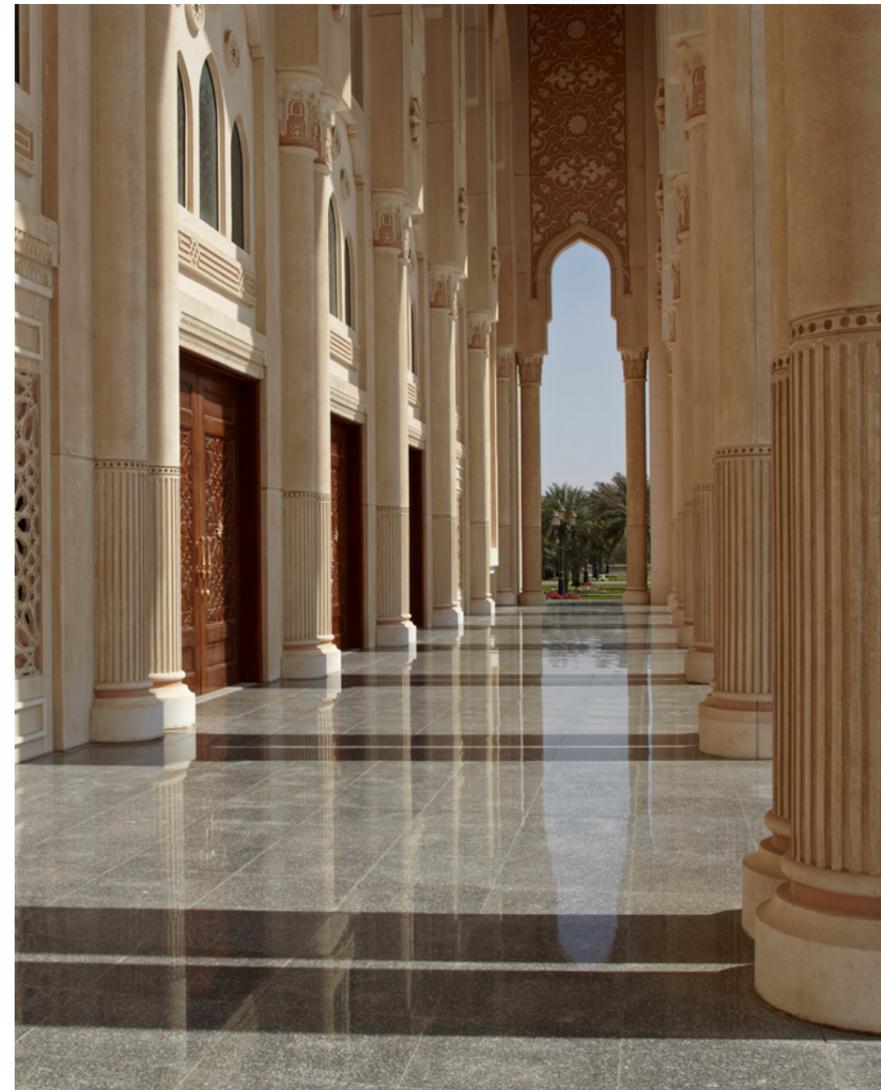
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## INTRODUCTION

While we want to return to life on campus as soon as possible, priority must be given to considerations related to the health, safety and wellbeing of the AUS community. Global developments indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact the ways in which we study, work, and live together. Therefore, as described in this document, AUS is planning to begin allowing limited access for specific groups while continuing to rely on remote teaching and learning for courses during the Fall 2020 semester. AUS will also continue to monitor the situation to determine if presence on campus can be increased during the semester.

If the UAE Ministry of Education issues directives that impact course delivery or mandates more stringent requirements than those outlined in this document, the university will provide an update.

The latest information related to the AUS response to COVID-19 can be found here: [www.aus.edu/updates](http://www.aus.edu/updates).





## **CLASSES AND INSTRUCTION**

The first day of classes will be Sunday, August 30, as stated on the Academic Calendar, which can be found here: [www.aus.edu/academic-calendar](http://www.aus.edu/academic-calendar). Classes will continue to be offered online, with on-campus access initially available for undergraduate students completing capstone research projects required for degree completion and graduate students undertaking professional projects, theses or dissertations. A review of potential demand is being conducted and information regarding scheduling access to research facilities will be provided prior to the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester.

Provision for additional on-campus activities during the semester will be dependent upon an assessment of capacity to accommodate an activity and the directives issued by the UAE Government authorities responsible for health and education.

AUS is working to enhance support and capabilities for online courses based on feedback from students during the Spring 2020 semester and Summer 2020 term.

All office hours and advising sessions will be held virtually.

The 2020–2021 Academic Calendar has been adjusted to allow students to pursue an internship during the period between the end of the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

## **WELCOMING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS**

The Fall 2020 Week of Welcome activities, orientation, placement testing, file completion and registration for first-year students will be held online and the First Year Experience (FYE) Program is developing many opportunities for engagement to ensure that new students are integrated into the AUS community and have the support necessary to successfully facilitate the transition to university life.

AUS will continue to explore ways to bring first-year students on campus to engage in small group activities that adhere to health and safety protocols.

In order to support new students as they prepare for the Fall 2020 semester, the university will share information on the use of online tools through workshops in August. New students will receive further information during the coming weeks.

### **THE AUS EXPERIENCE IN NEW (BUT TEMPORARY) FORMS**

The Office of Student Affairs will continue to work with the Student Council, clubs, and organizations to develop initiatives that rely on alternative forms of engagement.

The Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, in collaboration with the Graduate Student Association, will develop activities that support the continued development of graduate students during the Fall 2020 semester. The Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies will be contacting graduate students.

Career Services and the school/colleges will develop programs to ensure career readiness and prepare students to remain competitive. Building on the success of the online Spring 2020 Career Fair, AUS is working with employers and alumni to provide opportunities to enhance skills and capabilities. New initiatives will be announced using AUS social media channels.

### **ACCESS TO ACADEMIC SUPPORT FACILITIES**

The AUS Library will continue to provide circulation services to ensure that faculty and students can access the material that is not available in digital format. Study spaces will not be accessible until further notice. Visit the AUS library website for the most up-to-date information (<https://library.aus.edu>).

The All Prints Bookstore will not be open for in-person visits but will provide online ordering and delivery via courier or pick-up at a designated area. Further information will be provided prior to the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester.

### **ACCESS TO ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES**

AUS is committed to continuing to remotely provide the full range of services to support students, including those offered by IT, the Academic Support Center, University Counselling Services, Career Services, the University Health Services, and the Office of Student Affairs.

### **STUDENT HOUSING**

There will be limited opportunities for student housing during the Fall 2020 semester, and initial priority will be given to 1) international students who have been unable to return to their home countries due to travel restrictions in place since March, 2) graduate and undergraduate students who reside outside the UAE (or beyond driving distance) and must conduct experimental work in AUS facilities in order to complete a capstone project or a graduate professional project, thesis or dissertation, and 3) students who would face significant difficulty in completing online work in their home country or current country of residence. All students will be accommodated in single rooms. For more information about applying for space in student housing or pricing, send an e-mail to [roomassignment@aus.edu](mailto:roomassignment@aus.edu).

Only dormitory residents and authorized personnel are permitted to enter student housing.

All students approved to reside in student housing must adhere to testing protocols that may be required prior to and during the period of residency, consent to temperature testing upon entry and exit from residential halls, immediately disclose the onset of COVID-19 symptoms or other illness, agree to abide by all health and safety rules, and comply with any directives issued by the university and/or UAE Government authorities responsible for health and education.

Provision will be made for the isolation of students residing on campus who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or who have come into contact with an individual who has tested positive for the virus. If isolation is required, students must adhere to all applicable protocols.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

There will be limited transportation options to/from campus during the Fall 2020 semester. The most up-to-date schedule and protocols can be found here: [www.aus.edu/life-at-aus/around-campus/parking-and-transportation](http://www.aus.edu/life-at-aus/around-campus/parking-and-transportation).

### **CAMPUS AMENITIES AND OUTLETS**

The AUS Sports Facilities and Student Center remain closed until further notice. The most up-to-date opening hours for commercial outlets is available here: [www.aus.edu/life-at-aus/around-campus/on-campus-services/commercial-outlets](http://www.aus.edu/life-at-aus/around-campus/on-campus-services/commercial-outlets).

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS WHEN ON CAMPUS**

Face masks will be required.

Physical distancing (minimum of 2 meters) between individuals will be required at all times.

Health officials recommend frequent handwashing using soap and water; if this is not possible, please use the sanitizing stations that will be provided throughout campus. The university recommends carrying your own personal hand sanitizer at all times.

Temperature checks may be required for campus and/or building entry and compliance with checks will be mandatory.

There will be no public gatherings or athletic events until further notice. Athletic facilities and sports fields remain closed for all group activities until further notice.

Symptomatic individuals must remain at home and follow the directives issued by the UAE Government authorities responsible for health.

AUS will follow the directives issued by the UAE Government authorities responsible for health, including those related to contact tracing, isolation periods and disinfection protocols.

Protocols for the use of laboratories and research facilities will be posted in the spaces and must be observed at all times.

## **CLEANING AND DISINFECTION**

Laboratories and other spaces that are scheduled for use will be cleaned between rotations. Faculty, students and staff working in laboratories and campus facilities are asked to contribute to maintaining a healthy working environment by wiping down surfaces before and after each use.

In addition to routine cleaning, there will be enhanced cleaning of high-touch surfaces using disinfectants approved by the relevant authorities.

All spaces that have been used during working hours will be cleaned and disinfected after 5:00 p.m.



## ESSENTIAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Please refer to [www.aus.edu/updates](http://www.aus.edu/updates) for regular updates from AUS regarding its response to COVID-19. Questions can also be directed to the following points of contact.

### Medical contact information

General medical enquiries

University health center phone: **+971 6 515 2760**

(8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sunday to Thursday)

Emergency phone (24 hours): **+971 50 635 7651**

Email: **healthservices@aus.edu**

Mental health and well-being support

Phone: **+971 6 515 2100**, press option **1**

Email: **ucsappointments@aus.edu**

### Contact information for faculty and staff

Human resources

Email: **HumanResources@aus.edu**

Teaching related support

Phone: **+971 6 515 2484** or **+971 50 108 7484**

Email: **fdc@aus.edu**

IT support (for faculty and staff)

WhatsApp: **+971 6 515 4800**

Phone: **+971 6 515 2121**

Email: **ITServicedesk@aus.edu**

Web: <https://itfaq.aus.edu/faq/tools-collaboration>

### Contact information for students

First year experience

Phone: **+971 6 515 2180**

Email: **fye@aus.edu**

Orientation

Phone: **800 ASKAUS** or **800 275 287**

Web: <https://infodesk.aus.edu>

On-campus accommodation

Phone: **+971 50 727 0448**

Email: **roomassignment@aus.edu**

Student life questions

For student engagement and leadership enquiries, email

Haifa Ismail at **hismail@aus.edu**

For student athletics and recreation enquiries, email

Graeme Dobie at **gdoobie@aus.edu**

IT support (for students)

WhatsApp: **+971 6 515 4900**

Phone: **+971 6 515 2121**

Email: **ITServicedesk@aus.edu**

Web: <https://itfaq.aus.edu/faq/student-tools-collaboration>

College of Architecture, Art and Design

Email: **DeanCAAD@aus.edu**

College of Arts and Sciences

Email: **CASinfo@aus.edu**

College of Engineering

Email: **CEN\_admin\_office@aus.edu**

School of Business Administration

Email: **DeanSBA@aus.edu**

