

Bellevue, 19 June 2020

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

As Swiss authorities have begun to ease pandemic-related restrictions, Webster University Geneva is finalizing the plans and processes for students to return to our campus for the Fall 2020 term.

Webster University Geneva will begin the Fall 2020 semester and term as scheduled and with face-to-face instruction, following careful guidelines to ensure a safe, healthy university community.

There have been the following changes in the Fall schedule:

**August 24 - Fall semester and Fall 1 begins** (as initially planned)

**Oct 19 - Fall 2 term begins** (one week earlier than initially planned)

**Dec 11 - Fall semester and Fall 2 ends** (one week earlier than initially planned)

Please notice that this implies that the traditional **Fall break (originally scheduled for Oct. 19-23) will be cancelled** this year to allow Fall semester and term end a week earlier.

**Dec 7-11 will be exam week** (no instruction)

We assure you that Webster's transition back to on-campus activities is being planned in a careful, phased way that prioritizes our community's safety and well-being. For the past month, a COVID-19 Geneva Task Force has been working in preparing for this transition. Since June 8, staff have returned in alternate shifts to work on campus, to assist students and prepare for the fall. Summer courses as you know are all being taught remotely.

For the Fall semester and terms:

- **Course delivery, accessibility and flexibility:**

All courses will be taught face-to-face with remote learning possibilities to those students who might not be able to arrive on time due to visa delays or travel restrictions. These students will be able to join the classes face-to-face at their arrival (hybrid: face-to-face/remote learning). There will be adjustments to face-to-face instruction as needed to adhere to safety and security guidelines. Remote learning activities and options will be a

component of most classes. Importantly, all classes will be prepared to shift to remote learning if it becomes necessary.

- **Residential Students:** Students living on campus or in our residences downtown, have single suites and distancing and hygienic measures apply.
- **Technology:** We are investing in additional technology to further strengthen the teaching and learning experience for faculty and students.
- **Security and Health:** To help all of us follow best practices to maintain and monitor our health, self-screening and social distancing guidelines will be in place for all community members, and COVID-specific sanitation and disinfection procedures will be implemented consistent with local guidance. Access of visitors will be documented.
- **Communication:** Signage informing community members and visitors of new procedures will be installed on our campuses, and community members will be reminded of updates posted on the website and on social media.

To our entire community, we thank you for your input and responsiveness during the entire pandemic response and forward planning process. This necessarily continues to be an evolving situation, so we urge you to continue to stay informed through these announcements and the resources that are added to Webster's website.

Sincerely,

Clementina Acedo and the Covid-19 Task Force