



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL of
ARTS & SCIENCES

Biomedical Sciences

June 26, 2020

To: Continuing and Incoming Biomedical Graduate Students

After deep consideration of safety in this time of COVID-19, the Graduate School has decided that, for on-site graduate programs, we will continue to deliver the formal coursework elements of our curriculum using, predominantly, distance technology for the fall 2020 term. This will allow for proper social distancing while not detracting from the overall quality of the material and its delivery.

That said, certain courses may require in-person or hands-on elements. We have alerted course directors and your program directors that requests to hold specific elements in-person will be fielded and approved through the Graduate School dean's office. You will have the responsibility to ensure that you are informed on the participation expectations for the courses in which you register. Should you wish to clarify if an in-person element is approved for a given course, you may contact Dr. Jennie McGuire (Jennie.McGuire@wakehealth.edu) to achieve that clarity.

We do anticipate fully onboarding those students that arrived for the current summer 2020 term and those students who plan to matriculate for the fall 2020 term on August 20th. **All summer 2020 and fall 2020 matriculants should be watchful for additional communications that will offer details on virtual orientation (fall students only) and onboarding (summer 2020 and fall 2020 students).**

Please carefully read the following, should the guidance be applicable to you:

PhD students:

1. New students: You should plan to arrive in Winston-Salem by August 6th to allow for ~2 weeks of self-isolation prior to onboarding on August 20th. Current students: If you are outside of North Carolina, you should plan for a ~2 week self-isolation period upon returning to Winston-Salem.
2. You should contact your program director for instructions from your program. Your program will offer you guidance on your program's plans for research, rotations (if applicable), and coursework. If applicable, they will direct you with regard to contacting potential research mentors if rotations are expected in your program.

MS students:

1. New students: You should plan to arrive in Winston-Salem by August 6th to allow for ~2 weeks of self-isolation prior to onboarding on August 20th. Current students: If you are outside of North Carolina, you should plan for a ~2 week self-isolation period upon returning to Winston-Salem.
2. You should contact with your program director for instructions from your program. If applicable, your program will offer you guidance on your program's plan for research, contacting potential research mentors (if applicable), and participation in coursework.

International students:

1. Please note the guidance offered in the previous section that applies to you.
2. If you are outside of the United States and unable to enter the country in time for the fall 2020 term (final deadline: 9/16/20), please consult your program director to assess your ability to participate in your curriculum prior to your entry or re-entry into the United States.
 - a. If a) your program's coursework curricular components can accommodate distance learning AND b) you are located in a country that allows you access to our Canvas courses, we may be able to allow you to begin your plan of study in the fall from distance.
 - b. If you are unable to participate from distance, your program director can counsel you on the possibility of a deferral (incoming students), or a leave of absence (current students).
3. Please contact Greta Smith (smithg@wfu.edu) in the WFU International Students & Scholars office should you need any assistance with the visa process.

Given that we are proceeding with distance technologies for much of our fall coursework, new students not requiring laboratory rotations (e.g., coursework-only MS students or those that can delay starting their research effort) may be allowed to delay their arrival in Winston-Salem until the spring 2021 term, which may mitigate concerns about moving during the pandemic for some students.

Should you have other general questions about this plan, you may refer those questions to our Director, Dr. Erik Brady (ebrady@wakehealth.edu). He will either respond or re-direct your inquiry as appropriate.

I hope you are staying safe in this challenging time, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Best,



Dwayne W. Godwin, Ph.D.
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