



May 8, 2020
12:30 p.m.

I know you are concerned about your academic plans and there is much uncertainty about what the fall and our return to campus looks like. Brescia has begun planning for September and I want to share a few assurances with you today.

You may already know the Ontario government extended the emergency orders until May 19th. While we are all anxious to return to campus, we will only do so once it has been deemed safe by local and provincial health authorities. Brescia has established a working group that will develop a phased approach for our return to campus. The working group will also consider contingency plans so that Brescia is prepared to respond to multiple scenarios.

Alongside plans for a safe return to campus, plans for the fall/winter semester will begin next week. Based on information received from Western and in consultation with other education leaders, I can confirm that for September 2020 at Brescia, pending limited campus reopening is permitted:

1. Some Brescia courses will be moved online, while others will be held on campus. Adjustments will be made to accommodate physical distancing while ensuring a strong, student-centred approach to course delivery.
2. Along with online courses, some of Brescia's courses will be "blended." These courses will be offered online with some traditional classroom components, in smaller class sizes where physical distancing is possible.
3. Courses will be required to build flexibility into their format, to ensure we can respond quickly should a "second wave" necessitate a need for exclusive online delivery.
4. Clare Hall will remain open for new and returning students, ensuring physical distancing measures are in place as directed by local health authorities. Since Brescia will offer both in-person and online courses, we will welcome and support you, our students, who choose to live on campus.

Though there are many unknowns, I am confident as a community we can work together to adapt our campus and offer you an experience that reflects what you are accustomed to receiving. Because of our size, Brescia's staff and faculty are fortunate to have close connections our students, our physical spaces and each other, which gives us a clear advantage for us to excel in this new environment.



I want to be clear that Brescia is working around the clock to provide our students with the student-centred experience you were promised. I realize that it is frustrating to have few certainties as we move into the summer but can assure you, we are committed to providing the bold experience you expect and the exceptional service you deserve. We look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Sincerely,
Susan Mumm, D. Phil, FRHistS