

# Back2QUESTROM

## QUESTROM MBA FALL PLANS

I am excited to welcome you to Questrom this fall! I'd like to introduce you to Professor Cathy Fazio, Lecturer of Strategy and Innovation, who is the new Faculty Director for the MBA Program. Cathy will take over my role as I am moving into a position that oversees all our residential graduate programs. In this role, Cathy is responsible for strategic oversight of our MBA programs and ensuring the quality of the academic experience. You can reach Cathy at [cfazio@bu.edu](mailto:cfazio@bu.edu). She looks forward to engaging with you during Launch and beyond. Cathy will work closely with PEMBA Faculty Lead Jim French, whom many of you have met during the admissions process.

Second, I know many of you are anxious for more details about the fall semester. As you have heard, Boston University will be implementing extensive procedures to ensure the safety of the students, faculty and staff on campus this fall. For details, please refer to [the Back2BU Graduate and Professional Students Guide](#), as well as the recent letter from Provosts Elmore and Kleinman on quarantine, isolation and testing protocols, summarized in this [BU Today article](#). While these are obviously important parts of our return to campus, they are not the main focus of my communication today.

What I want to share with you today is our plans for **Learn from Anywhere (LfA)** for this Fall. The LfA model accommodates you whether you choose to participate in-person or you decide to learn remotely from Boston or anywhere in the world. Irrespective of the learning modality you select for Fall 2020, your Questrom faculty and the members of our Questrom student services are committed to delivering a fulfilling experience and a supportive learning environment for all students. We understand that many of you are in the process of finalizing plans for the fall semester, including your course schedule. Thus, we hope the following information provides additional and valuable details.

- Due to social distancing guidelines, most Hariri classroom capacities are limited to about 12-18 students. Therefore, students in the **in-person LfA format** will attend class on a rotation. Depending on the size of the class, the proportion of you who decide to engage 100% remote, and the classroom adjusted capacity, you will most likely attend every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> class session. Some small classes might even be able to accommodate most or all students for each session (without rotations).
- Faculty will be determining the rotation schedule for their classes. You will hear from them prior to the start of class. We have developed an app that will allow you to check your rotation, indicate your preference for attendance, and sign up for available seats.
- You can move back and forth between modes—that is, you might decide to attend in-class and then switch to the remote format throughout the semester.

- Instructors will be in the classroom and will be assisted by a TA or a moderator in order to fully include the remote and in-person learners into one single learning community in each session.
- We have added monitors to the front of every classroom in Hariri so that students in the class can see those participating remotely. In addition, we have added cameras so that the students participating remotely have views of the in-class students and instructor.
- In-person participants will need to bring a laptop and headphones/mic to class in order to participate in break-out groups with the remote students.
- Faculty will be available for in-person meetings by appointment and will hold regular office hours via Zoom.
- Likewise, the advising and career teams will be available to meet in-person or remotely via Zoom.
- Exams will be administered remotely.
- We expect Starbucks and Breadwinners will be open during the week for take-out/mobile ordering, with limited seating. Because everyone must wear a mask during class, no eating will be permitted in the classroom. Beverages are allowed with a straw. Please plan accordingly.
- Team rooms will be open, but to maintain social distancing most will be limited to a capacity of one or two people. In addition to the existing team rooms, we are exploring adding meeting space capacity that could hold 4-6 people.
- There will be some limited lounge space for MBA students available on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and the Graduate Lounge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will be open with limited capacity.
- We also expect the Pardee Management Library to be open, with additional limited space for studying and meeting.
- You will see increased signage on how to safely navigate our building, including directional signs to maintain stairway traffic, capacity limitations on elevators, and areas to queue for student service appointments. We appreciate your cooperation with all posted signs and new policies, as it takes the full participation of our community to stay safe.

**Importantly**, some class sections will be offered in a **100% remote format**. I've [linked a list of classes that will be 100% remote](#). These courses will be offered via Zoom in the same format that our faculty used last spring and over the summer.

Please note that the section of **MO712: "Leading Organizations and People" on Tuesday evening** (flex section will be held in a 100% remote format, as well as **all** sections of **ES740: Leadership Communications**. If you are registered for one of these sections and would prefer to take LfA classes, please contact Brad Czarnowski ([bczar@bu.edu](mailto:bczar@bu.edu)) or Regina Fetterolf ([reginaf@bu.edu](mailto:reginaf@bu.edu)) and they will help you adjust your schedule.

Our faculty and staff are working hard to prepare for the fall semester. For example, we have implemented a coaching system to guide faculty in adjusting to the LfA format and will be running numerous practice sessions. We also plan to hold tech training sessions for students. FT MBA student Lauren Zimmerman serves on our LfA Task Force and has been a valuable contributor to our planning process. You should expect to hear from your faculty soon and Cathy and I will continue to update you during August.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at [bickart@bu.edu](mailto:bickart@bu.edu). We look forward to your return in a few weeks and are excited to welcome you [Back2Questrom](#).

Very Best,  
Barb

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