

From: [FAFA](#) on behalf of [FA President](#)
To: fafa@lists.uvic.ca
Subject: [Fafa] January classes online from Jan 10-21
Date: December 23, 2021 9:08:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[request-accommodation.docx](#)
[Family Status Accommodation.pdf](#)
[Temporary FS Accommodation Plan.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.txt](#)



Dear Colleagues,

As I am sure many of you have seen, President Hall just announced that "in response to the changing situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Omicron variant" most courses will be online from January 10-21st, with the plan to return to in-person instruction on January 24th. <https://www.uvic.ca/news/topics/2021+notice-january-classes-update+notice>

As noted: During this brief period, some courses, including those with essential clinical or other experiential, performance, studio or lab components, may continue in person with appropriate approvals by deans and safety protocols in place.

The Association is very pleased to hear this announcement, as it provides certainty to our members in planning the first two weeks of their courses for the coming term, and provides the university and the provincial government more time in which to understand the nature and impact of the Omicron variant in postsecondary settings so that in early January they will be able to plan appropriately for the rest of the term. We very much appreciate that this decision was made now, to allow our members some peace of mind over the holiday break.

While there is no obligation to work on teaching preparation over the holiday break, I've been told that the LTSI has increased their hours over the break for those who wish to do some work on transitioning to online instruction for the first two weeks of term. See [LTSI Supports and Winter Break Hours](#)

If any of you are not sure whether your course should be online or not in the first two weeks of term, you should consult with your Chair/Director or Dean. The process for making this decision is outlined here: <https://www.uvic.ca/vpacademic/assets/docs/news/memo-jan2022-course-delivery-23dec2021.pdf> If you have any concerns about the nature of the delivery of your course in the first two weeks of term, don't hesitate to contact the FA. I will respond to urgent questions over the break, and the Association office is open as of January 4th.

Accommodation

I have further information for those who wish to seek a medical or family status accommodation to teach online for all of next term.

If you are seeking a medical accommodation to teach online, you should contact your Chair/Director and request a medical accommodation (form attached), copying Kelly Simpson (kellysimpson@uvic.ca), the Faculty Relations Consultant in your faculty and one of our membership services officers:

Nathan Todd – uvicfa@uvic.ca

Reuben Kellen – msofa@uvic.ca

Ben Johnson – advisorfa@uvic.ca (on vacation until January 10th)

Kelly Simpson is the Work Life Consultant who supports faculty accommodation issues. You should indicate in the email that you are scheduling/have scheduled an appointment with your physician to provide supporting medical documentation.

If you are seeking a family status accommodation, because you have young children who cannot yet be vaccinated, or elderly parents, see the document and form attached with information regarding family status accommodations.

Support for academic Afghan refugees

On a very different topic, if any of you are looking for a very worthy cause to which to donate over the holidays, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is appealing for donations to the CAUT Refugee Foundation. The Foundation, established in the 1970s, is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency and provides assistance to academic colleagues and their families fleeing persecution and threats. This Fund is currently supporting resettlement efforts for at-risk Afghan academics and human rights activists. As you know, the Taliban is moving swiftly to target activists, journalists, civil society leaders, and academics – with women, ethnic and religious minorities, and those from the LGBTQ community most at risk.

Our Vice President, Monica Prendergast, and an FA committee are working with UVic through the Scholars at Risk program to bring an Afghan academic to UVic. We are pleased to be part of the Scholars at Risk initiative here at UVic, but this appeal is a broader one, as your donations would help support the many Afghan scholars, trade unionists, and human rights defenders who are facing immediate danger and would enable CAUT to assist those who need to leave Afghanistan and seek refugee protection.

Online donations can be made through Canada Helps [here](#). Cheques can be made to the CAUT Refugee Foundation and sent to:

CAUT Refugee Foundation

2705 Queensview Drive

Ottawa, Ontario

K2B 8K2

Thanks for considering this.

Gratitude

Before closing I'd like to thank our wonderful staff members, Ben Johnson, Reuben Kellen, Penny Murray and Nathan Todd for their exceptional work for the Association and for you all, and our impressive officers, who do so much for you, and provide me with wise counsel – Monica Prendergast, Elisabeth Gugl and Patricia Cochran. Elisabeth has done such impressive work as our Treasurer, I'm not sure how we will manage without her, as she ends her term this December. We should all be very grateful to her for her hard work, care and skill in stewarding our finances. I would also like to thank our hard-working, committed and knowledgeable Portfolio holders, Chris Bose and Vicky Wyatt, and all members of the FA Executive Committee who make this important volunteer commitment to the Association – Arif Babul, Chris Eagle, Colin Goldblatt, Susan Last, Jane Morrison and Caterina Valeo. Thanks also to all of those doing important work on the many FA committees, with a special mention to Terri Lacourse, who as FA rep on the University Health and Safety Committee plays a particularly important role in these COVID times.

I'm sure you share my hope that this is the final email I send you until January!

Wishing you a healthy, restful and enjoyable break, with at least one uncertainty resolved.

All the very best,

Lynne

Lynne Marks

President, University of Victoria Faculty Association <http://www.uvicfa.ca/>

Professor, Department of History

<https://www.uvic.ca/humanities/history/people/faculty/markslynne.php>

University of Victoria

Victoria, B.C.

We recognize with respect the WSÁNEĆ (Saanich), Wyomilth (Esquimalt), and Lkwungen (Songhees) peoples on whose territories the University of Victoria stands, and whose relationships with this land remain profound today.

We acknowledge the devastation that government-created residential schools and Indian hospitals has inflicted on the health and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples and the ongoing effects of concentric trauma that continue to this day.

