

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS ADMITTED TO PENN PRESERVATION

- **I'd like to get as much information as possible about the program, but it's impossible to visit right now.** We have been uploading much of what we typically do in an Open House online, and we'll send you details very soon to review both before and after our virtual [Open House](#) on April 6. We're also happy to connect you with faculty members, current students, and graduates of our program. Please email Micah Dornfeld at micahdor@design.upenn.edu if you'd like us to help you connect with anyone.
- **I'm interested in a research or graduate work position. How can I get one?** Any incoming student who wants to apply for up to 20 hours of work as a graduate research or work assistant can do so. Our faculty are engaged in research projects, some of which will be discussed at Open House. Specific positions are usually prepared over the summer and posted before the fall. Interested students are encouraged to contact the faculty or office for more information at that time. We have several research centers within the Weitzman School of Design including [The Center for Architectural Conservation](#), [Penn Praxis](#), [Penn Institute for Urban Research](#), and the [McHarg Center](#) as well as the [Architectural Archives](#). If you are interested in working with a particular faculty member or in one of these centers, reach out to them via email and let them know you're interested. We all have projects starting at different times so, while you may not be hired right away, the faculty member(s) will know about your interest and skills and keep you in mind for when they can hire.
- **Is my financial aid offer final?** When we send out financial aid offers, we actually offer more aid than we expect to use. That's because we know some of you will turn down our offer of admission. We are sometimes able to free up additional aid later in the process, but it all depends on how many people accept and how many decline. Typically, many people make their decisions after the open house. If we are able to offer additional aid, at any point, we'll absolutely let you know.

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- **What is the Making Sense Initiative all about?** This year, at the Dean's request, each department identified an issue or topic that would bridge our teaching and research in ways relevant to contemporary concerns. [Making Sense: Interpreting Place in the 21st Century](#) a new initiative of the Historic Preservation Program dedicated to exploring next-generation ideas and practices of creative heritage place-making through innovative research and experimentation in interpretation. Interpretation is embedded deeply in preservation's theory, history and contemporary practice. Every place has its stories. Those stories are activated, revealed, and experienced through interpretation. Recent controversies over existing public narratives concerning race, gender, and social equity as revealed in public monuments, sites, and places around the world suggest a great need now for critical research devoted to realizing the scholarly insights, professional means, and social benefits of engaging the public around issues of interpretation. In short, Making Sense seeks to explore the subject of interpretation and how it can be better activated through design and preservation discourse and practice.
- **Will things go back to 'normal' this summer and fall?** While no one knows for sure how the current CV-19 crisis will play out, we are operating under the assumption that we will return to normal operations by late summer/fall. This includes classroom teaching, completion of our new studio and conservation lab, and the new plaza entrance to Weitzman School of Design.