



Q:With the uncertainty of the duration of "shelter in place" and financial strains it has placed on many, is Penn offering any alternative solutions to fulfilling the enrollment fee? Postponing payment possibly but still allowing students to officially commit?

A: unfortunately, no, we are not able to waive the enrollment deposit. Please note that this is a deposit toward your fall 2020 tuition, not a fee.

Q :Just wanted to check in again if a decision has been reached regarding summer courses being online?

A: we are hoping to have a decision on summer courses this week, and we will be sure to inform everyone as soon as we know!

Q :Does Weitzman offer need-based aid?

A: We do take need into consideration, but our Weitzman scholarships are mostly based on Merit.

Q :with those who have 3-and-a-half-year program that would need to start in the summer, will the summer term be online?

A: we are considering moving the Architecture Summer Prep Studio to summer 2 session. WE will decide in the next few days.

Q: if the summer is on campus but as an intl student I cannot make it in time due to visa and travel issues for the summer — what will I need to do?

A: IF you are unable to get your visa by the time classes start, we will defer your admission. In the meantime, you will still need to accept our offer and pay your deposit.

Q:Has the registration for classes deadline been extended?

A: if you are asking about registering for fall courses, the advanced registration has been pushed back.

Q:Should we still assume that we would be moving to Philly later in the summer, or is it possible if fall courses become virtual that we would not be asked to move yet?

A: As of now our fall classes are going to be held as usual, in person, which would mean you should plan to be moving here in summer. If this changes we will let everyone know immediately

Q :With many universities going to some sort of P/F system for spring semester, will you accept P (passing) grades?

A: we are DEFINITELY accepting P/F for spring 2020 semester!

Q:will the summer institute for HP be on-line

A: we are still deciding.

Q :Do you have any update regarding deferral conditions if one does not want to take the courses virtually

A: we are being more lenient with deferrals for international students who cannot get a visa on time, but to my knowledge we will not be offering deferrals IF classes will be offered remotely. No matter what the reason all deferral must be approved by your Chair so you would need to reach out directly to your department with your request

Q:If we need to take the class online in the summer or autumn, would you offer a waiver on the tuition?

A: we are not planning to reduce tuition at this time.

Q:Are there additional fees to use fine art facilities like printmaking spaces as an MLA student — if you want to incorporate that into your work?

A: I don't think there should be any extra fees, you would just need to work with the department on accessing those facilities.

Q:For students on the wait list, is it possible for them to receive financial aid including scholarships?

A: yes, we do keep \$\$ aside for students admitted from the wait list.

Q:If the summer or fall terms are announced as online classes will there, we reduction in tuition or will student that have accepted the offer have the option to defer

A: we likely won't reduce tuition, and we are still deciding on our deferral policy. I know this is all vague, and sorry about that, but we are still working things out!

Q :Is it possible to waive the fee for the prep courses in August for MCP program?

A: no, unfortunately not. The fees for those courses are tied to the course, much like tuition for the fall and spring courses, just much cheaper.

Q:It states that physical mail will be sent out regarding financial aid packages later in April on the checklist addendum, will it be available before April 15?

A: it is sent via physical mail, but it won't be available by April 15th. However, if you have received a preliminary financial aid letter from our office, that will be very close if not exact to the package you can expect to receive. Ours is just preliminary and the University's is the "official" package.

Q: I didn't get scholarship this time, will it possible to get in the future?

A: any scholarship you receive will remain with you during your academic career at Weitzman. You cannot reapply for a Weitzman scholarship after your first year, so I would suggest trying to negotiate with your department to receive a scholarship before you accept our offer. ALSO, you can apply for outside scholarships that you can receive in the future. It is only the Weitzman scholarship that cannot be reconsidered- does that make sense?

Q: So, for International students who might not be able to get a visa on time, if the fall term become remotely there will be no deferral for International students is that correct?

A: We are being more lenient with deferrals with our international students who cannot get a visa on time but please reach out to your department with your request as it must be approved by them first

Q: Is it compulsory to attend the summer boot camp? If not, do most students attend it anyway?

A: no, the MCP boot camp is optional. You can ask the department about the percentage of the class that usually takes the boot camp; I am not sure.

Q: do you know what's the tuition for MUSA?

A: you can find tuition costs for all programs here: <https://www.design.upenn.edu/graduate-admissions/tuition-and-financial-aid>

Q: Could the compulsory MArch summer course Digiblast: Fundamentals (Aug 10 to 14) be waived if confident in said software's? Or could they become virtual, in light of recent circumstances?

A: Digi Blast is required. At times the department will waive it if you cannot arrive on time. I would suggest reaching out to the Architecture Department.

Q: Have there been any students that cannot obtain the necessary funding for attending?

A: yes, this is possible, but most of our US citizens can put together enough money between their assets, Federal Loans, and work-study.

Q: Does Penn accept credits from another program? I was accepted into the MSHP and have two graduate level courses (one in preservation one in urban planning theory) that I took two years ago and I'm wondering if I'll be able to get some credit from those

A: we do not accept transfer credits. However, if you have already taken a course that we require you can work with your academic advisor to waive out of that course and fill it with an elective course instead

Q:If remote classes are not being offered in the Fall, the deferral will be for the Spring right? Not an additional year?

A: IF you are given a deferral you would begin classes in fall of 2021. We do not offer admission in spring

Q:Do students generally secure financial aid from sources in Fastweb?

A: because students apply for outside scholarships on their own, and the scholarship checks go directly to the tuition billing office, we wouldn't know how many of the students actually get those scholarships. Anecdotally, I have spoken with students who have outside scholarships.

Q:Are there loans that Penn offers for international students who are struggling to find low interest loans?

A: Penn does not offer loans - the loans that are processed through Penn are either US Federal Loans, or private loans secured by the student. Most private loans required a US co-signer, but there is one that does not: MPower Financing: <https://www.mpowerfinancing.com/>

Q:I would like to ask if I can reapply for international financial aid after the first year ? and when can student apply for being a graduate student instructor?

A: No, you cannot reapply for international financial aid after your first year. Whatever you are given your first year will remain with you during your studies at Weitzman. Please reach out to your department with questions regarding ta-ships

Q:If classes will be held remotely this fall, can we request for a deferral?

A: you would need to have the deferral approved by the department.

Q:For merit-based scholarship included in the initial admission letter, is the amount fixed after the prospective student accepts? Or is there still opportunity to discuss the amount with the department Chair/Program Director

A: generally, the Chair will not increase the award after accepting the offer, as that secures your scholarship offer. But you can reach out to the Chair to check.

Q:For the general fee and clinical fee listed in the projected budget, how are we billed for those? Are they billed separately from tuition?

A: they are billed together with tuition

Q:If I've spoken with the department chair about requesting additional financial aid, will I be notified whether my aid can be increased before April 15th?

A: I would follow up with your department

Q:If admission is deferred to Fall 2021, do financial aid offers carry over along with that? Is there still any ability to request/negotiate additional scholarship at all next year?

A: it depends on your Chair- some programs may carry over a financial aid award with your deferral, some may not. You would need to check with them

Q:I'm an MSD RAS student, should I pay additional money to use the lab (equipment and materials) during the following year?

A: there should not be any separate fees for using the lab as an MSD-RAS student. At times specific courses have a technology fee, but I am not aware of this for MSD-RAS.

Q:Could I take any university online courses to fulfill the prerequisite requirements?

A: if you are asking about the M.Arch. prerequisites, we may be offering History of Architecture and Physics online, but we are waiting on a final decision. Hopefully will know later this week and will email all who need those prerequisites to let them know.

Q:is there a monthly tuition payment plan available?

A: yes, I believe there is, but you would need to follow up with Student Financial Services office at sfsmail@pobox.upenn.edu

Q:In the cost of attendance mentioned on the website, how accurately is the cost of room and board estimate? Does it consider off campus or on campus housing?

A: for room and board, it is an estimate based on the average of what our students generally spend off-campus. On-campus may actually be a little bit more expensive.

Q:If I have been accepted to the 3-year MLA degree, but have a previous design degree specializing in landscape, and experience in a LA office... is there a possibility of getting some first year courses waived? or replaced with electives?

A: there is a possibility, but you would need to work with your student advisor and reach out to your department directly about this

Q:For commuting, what's recommended by the department? Are there any student discounts for parking?

A: there is no student discount for parking. Parking can be challenging around campus and most of our students do not have a car. Most of our students live close enough to walk to campus, or they take SEPTA to commute, or UPenn busses that are free to students

Q:When are student advisers assigned to students? When can one contact them?

A: each department handles assigning academic advisors differently, so we would suggest asking your academic department.

Q:Can I apply for CPT visa for getting a professional part-time job outside of the school as an international student? Thank you!

A: CPT is usually an option for summer internships and jobs, but during the semester it is not always allowed - please ask your department, they will know for sure.

Q:When should students expect to receive a setup code to create their PennKey for the on-campus housing application?

A: students generally receive an email with the PennKey setup code within 2-3 business days of submitting your enrollment form accepting your admission.

Q: Does that cost also include an average cost of utilities? And what all does the 'miscellaneous' category include?

A: yes, that would include utilities for room and board. Miscellaneous is for things like transportation, furniture, social events, etc. Anything that doesn't easily fit in other categories.

Q: I was accepted to the AAD program and I am very interested in the Real Estate Certificate. The program has 1.1/2 yrs. length and as an international student, I believe that I am not able to pursue this concentration, due to Visa requirements that does not allow me to extend an extra semester, technically necessary to fulfill all required courses.

I am deeply considering studying at Penn for a myriad of reasons, but I cannot see any openings in the curriculum to follow this concentration in Real Estate.

I would like to know if there is another program or alternative to this situation, that we could discuss.

A: unfortunately, the AAD program is too short to pursue any certificates, such as the Real Estate in Design Certificate. there are no alternatives that we are aware of, other than that you can use your elective courses to take some courses that relate to this certificate

Q:any date range for the waitlisted students?

A: usually most movement with the waitlist happens around April 15th, but candidates can be admitted from the list all the way up until classes begin

Q: I know that Penn offers the PennPass for SEPTA riders, but does that include regional rail, or just the subways, buses, and trolleys? And how much does the price for the pass fluctuate?

A: my understanding is that the PennPass is just the regular local TransPass at a discounted rate for students, so that just includes the local transportation, subways, buses, and trolleys. Regional rail would be extra. I am not sure what you mean by fluctuate - each month the fee should be the same unless SEPTA raises their rider rates.

Q:Is the Master of Science degree in Architecture (MSA) a STEM and a NAAB accredited program?

A: no, the MS in Arch is not STEM and it is not NAAB accredited

Q:What is the best contact if we did not receive a PennKey setup code after submitting the decision form?

A: have you checked your junk mail, spam folder, etc.? It would be an email from the University Registrar's Office. If you have not received it, please email us at admissions@design.upenn.edu and we can follow up with instructions for who to contact.

Q:Do students wanting to take up a certificate alongside MCP tend to extend their program duration? Or are they able to complete it within the two years?

A: Generally pursuing a certificate does not extend your program length

Q:If I add a dual degree after I start my current degree and that extends my time at Penn — how will it work with visa extensions as an intl student?

A: if you add a dual degree that extends your program length, you would submit a program extension request to the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to extend your I-20.

Q:Should remote learning become necessary, does it affect one's program or final degree in any way?

A: no, remote learning would not affect your program or final degree

Q: I am current student applying for dual. I wanted to know how does the scholarship work. Is the higher amount taken or the sum of scholarships offered by the two departments?

A: usually the two departments split the scholarship and you would get it for the full length of your program. If you decide to only pursue one degree, the other department would withdraw their offer.

Q: In the AAD Curriculum, are electives OPEN to choose any course within the University or are they specific electives in Architecture Program?

A: you can use your electives in any program you would like. You can confirm this with your program's chair though

Q: for AS M.Arch admitted students, will I still have the chance to pursue and apply for any certificates?

A: Yes, you can apply for certificates once you have begun your studies here

Q:Do departments usually connect students online (group chats, Facebook, etc.) before the academic year starts?

A: we put together a Facebook group for admitted students, after the April 15 deadline, so that they can connect with each other, find housing together, etc.

Q: Does deferral need to be approved by the department means that I should contact my program director if I need to request for a deferral?

A: correct, if you have a reason for requesting a deferral at this point, then you should write to the department with your request and reason for requesting the deferral.

Q: Will I get a confirmation after submitting the decision form? I have accepted the offer but have not got a reply for several days.... And when will the I-20 and other required document be sent out?

A: once you complete your decision form and pay your deposit it can take up to one week to receive an email with further information regarding your I-20

Q: Regarding the Boot Camp August 3-20th, is that still going to happen? If no, is each class \$250 that is the cost for the entire camp?

A: so far it is still going to happen! You should follow up with Lisa at her session today.

Q: What will the opportunities be for orientation and to connect with fellow students before the fall, especially if classes do become virtual?

A: right now, orientation and fall courses are expected to happen in-person, on campus.

Q: Is there an average cost for a certificate program through Weitzman or does it depend on the certificate?

A: the pursuit of a certificate generate takes the same amount of time as your master's degree. If pursuing a certificate while pursuing your masters the certificate will not cost extra money.

Q: Could you, please talk a little bit about offer-extended policy at Penn and Weitzman? Is it possible to come in the future because of my personal reason? If so, for example any guarantee fee that need to pay or anything else? Thanks!

A: you can request a deferral from your department. IF they agree to give you a deferral you would need to complete your decision form and pay your \$500 deposit on or before April 15th, that is the only way we could save a spot for you in fall of 2021. But the first step is to request a deferral from your department

Q: I want to know about when & how should I pay the tuition?

A: the fall tuition bill will be prepared and available at the beginning of July and will be due at the end of July.

Q: if I am offered a different amount as scholarship(X) from Architecture and a different amount from Landscape(Y), do both apply(X+Y) if I decide to pursue both?

A: please email me offline and I'll explain more fully

Q:I haven't received information about financial aid beyond scholarship amounts, as of yet. Has that information been sent out?

A: do you mean your loan package? Did you file a FAFSA?

Q2: Yes, and Yes

A2: Please email us directly so that we can look into this

Q:If I hold a BA in architecture at UC Berkeley , can I waive some first year MArch courses? I think I took some of the courses during my bachelor's degree already

A: if you have completed equivalent courses, you may submit a degree requirement waiver and, if approved, you would replace the course(s) with an elective course. This happens through the academic department.

Q:Is it possible to waive the M.Arch summer course before Fall 2020?

A: please reach out to your department- generally this is required and cannot be waived but they may work with you for an extenuating circumstance

Q:is it possible to fasfa money for costs such as off campus housing, even if you received a full ride?

A: you would be eligible for US Federal Loans for your living expenses if you file a FAFSA.

Q: can AAD students have a Dual Degree in other extend the program length or is only for M.Arch students to have a dual degree?

A: there are no dual degrees with AAD because it is so short.

Q: is there a cost for Digiblast?

A: yes, it is \$750.00

Q:If we are approved for a deferral by the department chair, do we complete the decision form as normal or is there a different process/method to indicate that?

A: yes, you need to submit the decision form and deposit by April 15.

Q: do I need to pay half of the tuition in July, and then the rest in winter?

A: correct - bills are sent twice per year.

Q:when is the proper time for submit a degree requirement waiver for fall semester?

A: check with the Department

Q:For those students admitted from the wait list, is it common for there to be an window in which

scholarships or additional money may be negotiated prior to accepting, or must the student formally accept before a financial aid package could be generated (if one were to be so)? Thank you.

A: you would generally be given two weeks from the time of admission from the waitlist to respond to the offer of admission, so you would have some time to talk with the Chair.

Q:If we need to request a deferral do we do this now, or wait to get more clarity on the situation? However, the April 15 deadline is approaching so is there protocol to follow regarding this?

A: if you know for sure that you won't be coming in the fall, you can request a deferral now. You must submit your decision form and deposit by April 15, regardless.

Q:Do you have any recommendations for how to find outside scholarships? Are there any popular scholarship search engines or resources?

A: please have a look at our outside scholarship page here: <https://www.design.upenn.edu/graduate-admissions/outside-scholarships> and also check fastwebs

Q:After decisions are made, will there be opportunity for students increase in aid?

A: once you accept your offer of admission, scholarships generally will not increase from the School.

Q:I have received the admission letter in the application web page. What should I do next to make sure I am admitted?

A: you must sign on to your ApplyWeb account, complete your decision form and pay your \$500 deposit

Q:If I request for defer and get approved, do I still need to pay the tuition before July this year or I can pay it in 2021?

A: if you are approved for a deferral, that puts everything on hold, so you would not pay tuition until next year. The only thing you would pay for now is the \$500 enrollment deposit to hold your place in next year's class.

Q:I am not sure I received the enrollment key. please resend, thank you

A: do you mean the decision form? There should be a button next to Decision Letter and View Checklist.

Q:If we accept now, and are eventually unable to attend classes in person due to delay in visa in the current scenario, will we be allowed to defer? Even if we haven't checked with the department chair prior to April 15th?

A: yes, if you accept our offer and pay your deposit by April 15th, then are unable to attend due to immigration issues, then yes, we will offer a deferral.

Q: If I cannot get an F-1 visa in time this summer, is it possible to study in UPenn with B-2 for the first semester?

A: no, B-2 visas are not eligible for our level of coursework - B-2 only allows recreational courses such as a cooking course or one-day workshop.

Q: If the request for deferral gets approved, will the financial aid package stay the same for 2021?

A: it is up to the Department.

Q: When are tuition bills due?

A: the first bill is due at the end of July

Q: How should I pay the \$500 deposit? Is it also through the ApplyWeb account and I can pay by credit card?

A: Correct

Q: So, this is something (negotiating aid) that should be discussed prior to accepting?

A: correct; if you would like to be reconsidered for scholarship, you should discuss this with the Chair/Program Director prior to accepting your offer of admission.

Q: where can we request a deferral form ? is that from admission office?

A: to request a deferral, you should write to the Chair of your Department, stating your reasons why.

Q: How is tuition paid? Is it possible to pay in monthly sums, or is the full semester's tuition due at once?

A: there is a monthly payment plan. For more information, go to <https://srfs.upenn.edu/> for Student Financial Services

Q: I am an international student, and I do have my F-1 student visa valid until June 2021. However, due to the current travel restriction imposed by the US (because of the COVID-19 outbreak), I am worrying about not being able to get into the US this August. If that happens, can I get a deferral?

A: if you cannot get into the US in time for fall courses, then yes, we would offer you a deferral. Our hope is that this is not the case.

Q: I have paid my deposit; I may have missed an email with the key??

A: once you have paid your deposit it can take up to one week to receive further information with your key, also be sure to keep an eye on junk/spam mail

Q: I am also curious that after I pay \$500 deposit, is it possible to change my decision about admission?

A: if you decide not to come to Penn after paying your deposit, you forfeit the deposit. It is non-refundable. If you do come to Penn, the deposit will be applied toward your fall tuition.

Q: if I want to go to Philly with my wife, should I prepare the I-20 application for her F-2 visa independently?

A: you can see instructions for F-2 dependents on ISSS website here:
<https://global.upenn.edu/iss/dependents>

Q: What should we do next after submitting the decision letter? should we wait for enrollment key ?

A: we will follow up with you within a week with I20 information, as well as other important communications.

Q: When is the deadline to pay tuition for Fall 2020 after I accept admission?

A: the first bill will be issued in July

Q: I am admitted to a dual program within Weitzman, do I need to pay the \$500 deposit twice when accepting both offers?

A: if you are planning to accept your offer of admission to both programs, please email us at admissions@design.upenn.edu and we will work with you to waive one of the \$500 deposits - you only need to pay one.

Q: when is the latest we can request to be deferred?

A: you will need to pay your deposit and complete your decision form by April 15th, then you can request a deferral all the way up until classes start

Q: If I want to transfer my H1-B visa to F-1 student visa, any procedures I can look up on the school website?

A: my understanding is that you will need to go through a Change of Status:
<https://global.upenn.edu/iss/cos>. But I would suggest that you reach out to Penn's ISSS office at iss@pobox.upenn.edu for guidance.

Q: will the I-20 be sent out electronically?

A: generally, the I-20 is a physical, paper document that will be shipped to you. However, our ISSS office has said that an electronic version may be used for requesting a visa interview due to delays in getting the paper I-20 to our students. If you have questions, please email ISSS at iss@pobox.upenn.edu.

Q: As an AAD student can I request to be transferred to another program, such MCP? If so, can it be arranged before the April 15 decisions deadline?

Thank you!

A: You cannot transfer to another program. You would need to apply for whatever program you are interested in, and it is now too late to apply for any program for admission in fall of 2020. If you would like, you can apply for another program while you are pursuing your AAD, then, if you are admitted you can pursue that program as soon as you are finished with AAD

Q:When do work study positions for the fall semester become available? Would I need to apply before the start of the semester? Also, is the amount listed for work study the maximum amount one can earn through a work study position?

A: they usually are available in mid-August . You don't have to apply before the start of the semester, but you will have a better selection then. And yes, the maximum you can earn is \$3500.

Q:If international students cannot arrive at Penn in time this summer, will the workshops and courses be partly online?

A: we are hoping so!

Q:If our previous school is closed and is unresponsive to email, but we need our transcript, what can be done about that? When is the last day to submit official transcripts?

A: we are giving everyone some leeway on this. Just keep in communication with us and we will work with you!

Q:If I want to change my program after enrollment, is that possible? who should I contact for?

A: you cannot change your program unless admitted to another program. We do not allow transfers at the graduate level.

Q:If I had courses for Master of Architecture at another graduate school, is it possible to waive some courses in the Fall 2020 term?

A: you should contact the Department directly: arch@design.upenn.edu.