

Welcome to the School of Architecture



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY



BEDS Orientation 2026

BEDS Orientation web page

(Architecture > Current Students > How the School Works > BEDS Orientation)

- This page includes the BEDS orientation schedule and fall timetable.
- Read all documents carefully. Download them to your computer for reference.
- The following forms may be filled out and handed into the office, or downloaded from our web page and sent digitally: address form, questionnaire, citizenship form, NSAA membership application (online)
- DSU Health Plan: Sept 22 is the deadline to opt out. It covers Sept. 1–Aug. 31.



Atmosphere

- Be kind and help one another.
- Be positive, especially using online communication. Celebrate rather than negate.
- Your neighbours in studio will soon be your best friends. You will learn from everyone.



Work together



Respect (in the studio and also online)

- Creativity depends on being comfortable and being able to focus. Use headphones if you listen to music. Have noisy conversations where it won't bother anyone else.
- Dal has a "no scents is good sense" policy.
- Find out if anyone has allergies or sensitivities: nuts, citrus, etc.
- No pets are allowed in the Architecture building.
- Respect the craft that went into the furniture. Don't draw, paint, glue, or cut directly on it. Clean up after yourself, especially if you are using a classroom.
- Keep your space tidy. Recycle all you can. Clean up after yourself.



Listen to music with headphones



Safety and Security in our Building

- The front and side doors are open Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 usually.
- After hours, don't let anyone you don't recognize enter the building.
- Don't let a stranger enter the studio at any time.
- If you notice someone suspicious, notify the office or call Dal Security at 4109 or 902-494-6400, and/or download the Dal Safe security app.
- First aid kits are located in various locations, & an automatic defibrillator (main flr).
- If you have an accident, you need to fill in an incident report (online).
- Parking spaces for cars are not in abundance. You can't park on Dal property after 1:30 a.m. You are encouraged to walk, bike or use the bus around the city. You get a bus pass with your fees.
- Mask are available in the office for those immune comprised or if you are sick.



Your Belongings (in studio, but also your own property)

- This will feel like home, but don't leave valuables unattended.
- Write your name on your sketchbook, your flash drives, and your drawings.
- If you find something without a name, place it on the Lost and Found shelf in the Resource Centre or hand it in to the office.
- if handed into the office you may receive a poem about the lost item
- Photograph or scan your drawings and models soon after they're done.
- Library books: If you are finished with them, return them so others can borrow them.



Involvement

- Take part in DASA. It's here for your benefit. It gives you a voice on committees, including student admissions and faculty appointments.
- There are many opportunities for extracurricular activities. Current initiatives involve equality, fairness, inclusiveness, climate change and justice, housing, Studio East (yearly published book on student work)etc. Be involved. The more you take part, the more this becomes your school. Then we all become better at what we do.
- Be sure to fill out the instructor evaluations (SLEQs) at the end of the term. They tell the instructor, the Director, and the Dean what's working well and what isn't. Be constructive.



Building Repairs and Renovations

- If you notice that repairs are needed to furniture or part of the building, or the heat or cold is too much, or there are critter friends wandering around, contact Susanna in the office: arch.office@dal.ca. I'll put in a work order. As of this year you can also put in your own work order fixit@dal.ca
- Renovations are ongoing. Be adaptable. Something is always being improved here. That's a good thing!
- Please report any insufficiencies that get in the way of completing your work.



Recycling and Waste

- Dal is a leader in diverting waste from the landfill.
- Place reusable materials in the material depot in the East Studio.
- There are separate bins for paper, organics, recyclables, and garbage. Please separate just as you would at home.
- There are containers in the studio and the Resource Centre for fluorescent bulbs, things that contain mercury, paint, batteries, broken glass, knife blades, printer cartridges, and electronics.



Balance and Health

- Maintain a balance between school and home life. Make clear lines.
- You will experience pressure to work long hours, but the School has guidelines on how many hours a week to spend on each course. Follow them.
- If an assignment seems to expect too much, double-check with the instructor before proceeding.
- You can't be creative or productive if you're tired or hungry.
- It's dangerous to use a knife or other tools when you're not alert.



Avoid this ...



and this ...



Communication

- We communicate primarily through your Dal email.
- We may post notices on the bulletin boards halfway up the centre stairs.
- We enter your email on a listserv to provide you with external messages.
- We have social media pages.
- General info is on the School website.
- Mailboxes are provided in the Resource Centre. Please check for returned papers, outside mail, etc.
- You may arrange for packages to be sent to the School office. We will let you know when they come in. It makes sense, as we are in the office all day.



COVID and Flu Safety

- All students are strongly encouraged to get fully vaccinated. Check the Dal website on COVID info and flu shot updates.
- You are no longer required to wear a mask, but if you want to, we will have some in the office.
- Wash your hands frequently. Disinfect pertinent areas.
- If you are sick, stay home. Go outside to exercise.
- Sleep.....



The Office

- Visit us often and email us. The office staff are here to help you navigate the university. If we can't help, we can point you in the right direction.
- Don't ignore fee payments. Explain your situation, as this makes Dal more forgiving.
- Read your Dalhousie email. Check your mailbox regularly (in the Resource Centre), and check for announcements on the bulletin board and on Brightspace.
- If you are sick, let us know. Twice a term for each course, you can submit a “student declaration of absence” that covers up to three days. For a longer period, you'll need a medical note that you submit to the office.
- If you need an academic accommodation, visit the Student Accessibility Centre before the start of each term. If you have one, you will need to reapply every term.
- Hugs, listening ears, and advice on where to go for help are all free. Just ask. So is candy (and apples in the fall).

