

Tuesday, March 31st, 2020

Guidelines to All Students BMSc and MD (Year 1-2): Barbados and US locations

Academic Administration, Basic Sciences

You are receiving this communication as part of a *proactive AUIS response* to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic upon your time-sensitive medical training and because you are currently in or scheduled to begin coursework that is likely to be offered in a remote teaching format due to decisions made by your Curriculum Committee and Deans of Basic Sciences and Clinical Sciences, under the direction of the institution's compliance with AAMC and ECFMG recommendations.

While we clearly understand the impetus behind these decisions, we understand the **derivative impacts** this may have on your:

1. ability to complete your educational requirements in compliance with the USMLE Step I,
2. the ability to make Residency match deadlines; and the
3. economic limitations due to student loans and remaining educational budgets, should you be delayed from completing your rotations.

AUIS priorities during this pandemic are to provide you with:

1. continued quality interactive education during Pre-Medical and Basic Sciences
2. delivery of the Academic Program(s) on schedule or with minimum delay
3. full access to academic support materials and IT support
4. uninterrupted communication and support of students by faculty, staff in Barbados and Atlanta

We have, however, sought to ensure that AUIS students also remain cognizant of the potentially significant academic and economic impact of postponement, termination or any associated delay levied upon the students' training program schedule would have on our students. We have therefore constructed the attached plan for all **current and incoming students**.

AUIS Action Plan:

1. 2020 Semesters Schedules

- a. Winter 2020 Semester: will be completed on schedule.
- b. **Summer 2020 Semester:** classes will start on schedule. A virtual orientation is scheduled for broadcast from Barbados and Atlanta on Monday, May 4th, 2020.
 - i. All *incoming MD-5 students* will have the option of attending the Fundamentals of Clinical Medicine (FCM) course live or through distance learning. In the event of continued closures, the course will be offered **ONLY** through distance learning via LMS-CANVAS.
 - ii. The CBSE score requirement prior to FCM start is waived for all students for the Summer 2020 term.
 - iii. BMSc and MD(1-4) students will complete Block 1 and 2 through distance learning. Any changes in grade distribution will be reflected in course syllabi for Summer 2020.

2. **Teaching and Learning:**

- All changes to course(s) delivery are being closely supervised by the AUIS curriculum committee.
- Blocks 1 and 2 on island will be offered utilizing the *Flipped Classroom approach*. Students may attend through distance learning or live attendance, depending on restrictions at that time. Irrespective of location, students will have access to all needed support.
 - Courses will offer daily modules. *Course Syllabi* with all relevant details including assignments, exams and clear associated deadlines will be posted prior to start of the semester
 - Professors will make recorded presentations and other learning tools available to students prior to the live 8X8 meeting session for interactive discussions daily
 - All video files will be made available through Google drive and Canvas share
- Faculty will monitor student progress through daily assignments, participation of students in online interactive classes and examinations.

3. **Prometric Testing:**

- In the event of continued closure of prometric centers, the AUIS Administration will make adjustments to the deadlines for taking CBSE and USMLE Step 1 exams.
- All notifications and communications from NBME and ECFMG will be directly forwarded to students immediately.

Important note:

- None of this changes your financial obligations to AUIS.
- No changes in tuition and associated timelines are expected. All scholarship options remain available to all students. Please write to our CFO, Ms. Debbie Lecher at dlecher@auis.edu for any further information.
- No requests for Leave of Absences (LOA) will be entertained outside of guidance clearly outlined in the AUIS catalog.
 - Filled request forms with all attached documentation may be submitted to the Dean of Basic Sciences for approval.
 - No absences are legitimate until after the approval is granted in writing.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated in this area.

Curriculum Committee

Dean of Basic Sciences Dr. A. Podcheko MD, Ph.D