



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Office of the Head
Department of Educational Studies**

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Dear EDST Graduate Students:

Greetings and hope this letter finds you and yours doing well during the Winter break, and that you are keeping safe and healthy under the dynamically evolving pandemic circumstances.

Your safety, and that of all those around you, fundamentally depend on your compliance with published Public Health Office (PHO) and UBC guidelines. Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with these guidelines as they are evolving depending on the situation.

Please be advised that UBC has announced a shift in instruction for Winter Term 2 to online delivery from the beginning of term January 4, 2022 until January 24, 2022. This effectively means that all courses you are registered to in W2 will be taught *synchronous online* (Zoom-based) for the entire interim period.

The campus, libraries, and Faculty of Education buildings (including EDST) will remain open during the interim period. EDST offices will be open daily during workday hours (8:30-16:30), with staff members alternating as part of Remote Work arrangements.

Beginning in January 2022, the Faculty of Education will send out a weekly bulletin that will provide updates to the community about COVID-related matters, especially those pertaining to teaching and learning. Please bookmark and check the Faculty of Education's [COVID-19 information page](#) regularly.

As you prepare for this transition period – January 4-24, 2022 – please ensure the following:

1. *Expect to be contacted by your course instructor(s)* with guidance regarding how to access your course(s) via Zoom and its embedded Canvas shell. If no such guidance is issued by your course instructor by January 1st, 2022, please email me.
2. *Keep in touch* with your Academic Advisor or your Research Supervisor, as applicable, as your first line of contact regarding your program and arrangements in effect during W2 (2022) and beyond.
3. In case of student concerns you would like to raise with the Department, please contact your program-based Student Representative and the GAA Team at edst.gaa@ubc.ca .
4. *Reach out to peers* who may not be aware of the present message and ensure this message is distributed to all those who need to know. Do not assume that everyone knows about the new provisions via the student listserv as many students have opted out of it.
5. *Familiarize yourself* with the Faculty of Education's [student-focused resources](#) and those offered by UBC with regard to [health and wellbeing](#).

6. *Do not hesitate to contact the [Faculty of Education's Counsellor](#) who is available to support all Education students, in case of need.*
7. *Commit to and comply with guidance provided by UBC, [provincial](#) and federal jurisdictions regarding safety, quarantine and isolation measures, particularly measures that apply to students who have travelled outside of Canada. For international students, please [check if you can travel to Canada](#), and [what conditions you must fulfill](#). It is important to check the [Government of Canada's travel advisories](#) and information regarding [vaccines and immunization](#), well before you leave on your trip. You should also review all entry and exit requirements to make sure you understand passport and visa requirements, as well as other entry/exit requirements.*
8. The EDST website provides [a compilation to COVID-19 related provisions at UBC](#). This compilation allows for a quick overview of past and recent directives. It does not replace the information provided by official UBC, provincial, and federal resources as listed above.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email edst.head@ubc.ca at your earliest convenience. I remain available throughout the winter break and will do my very best to answer student emails as swiftly as possible. That said, please remember: your most efficient first line of contact remains your Academic Advisor or your Research Supervisor (as applicable), followed by that of your specific course Instructor.

This email will be posted on the EDST Website to ensure maximum exposure for all students, particularly those who have opted out of the student listserv and thus placed themselves at a disadvantage in terms of receiving vital information. This is an opportunity to emphatically encourage everyone to subscribe to the student listserv, particularly under the current pandemic conditions.

Thank you for your attention and care.

With all best wishes for a safe and healthy Winter break,

André Elias Mazawi