BUILDING ON STRENGTHS: ARTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
Global Business and Digital Arts students work in project rooms at UWaterloo’s Stratford Campus.

Arts for the 21st century

Many of the pressing issues facing humanity today are directly addressed by Arts research and teaching.

MISSION

The Faculty of Arts is committed to the discovery, application, and communication of knowledge and creativity across the humanities, social sciences, and creative arts to benefit the peoples, economies, and cultures of Canada and the world.

VISION

The Faculty of Arts will produce exceptional scholarship within and between traditional and emerging disciplines, while supporting creativity and the applications of new and existing knowledge. We will be known for our research, for our commitment to student engagement and experiential learning, and for the success of our students and graduates worldwide.

VALUES

» Agility and responsiveness
» Ingenuity and creativity
» Integrity and rigour

» Global thinking and engagement
» Free and critical inquiry
» Collegiality and respect
KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION AND CREATIVITY TO APPLICATION

The Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo is a destination for those seeking the richest opportunities to advance knowledge, develop their creativity, and pursue answers to some of the most pressing questions regarding the past, present, and future. We live in an age where knowledge is produced, transformed, and applied at an unprecedented rate. Our objective is to help our students successfully navigate such rapid changes, and together provide solutions and deepen understanding for an increasingly interconnected world.

Our Strategic Plan is the result of more than 40 consultation meetings, four priority working groups, two town halls, and countless other discussions and drafts. We reached beyond the Faculty to colleagues across campus, including those in our four affiliated university-colleges. From this extensive process emerged a clear sense of the Faculty today and an appreciation of the opportunities lying ahead.

Building on our strengths, the Arts Strategic Plan will guide us over the next five years as we prepare engaged and productive citizens who possess both agility and a sense of enterprise cultivated through the experiential traditions of the University of Waterloo.

We do Arts differently at Waterloo.
We are proud of that heritage and inspired by the future.
Sociologist Lorne Dawson is one of Canada’s leading experts on religious extremism and the process of radicalization leading to violence. He is Co-Director of the Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society and is frequently in the media providing expert commentary.

strategic priorities and objectives

1

ENRICH THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

We will build on strengths and proven successes in undergraduate education. Leveraging the Faculty’s tradition for putting knowledge into action, we will increase experiential learning opportunities across undergraduate programs. Students will have more flexibility in their study options so they can benefit from a richer combination of academic and applied activities. We will create more opportunities for cross-cultural engagement so students can develop meaningful global perspectives. We will ensure that all Arts undergraduates access vital and dynamic learning opportunities to prepare them for life and work in the 21st century.

Our objectives include:

» Develop strong global awareness and engagement initiatives on campus, in study-abroad terms, or through international co-op jobs and internships

» Increase our students’ awareness of the connection between their Arts learning experience and career readiness, and improve their ability to articulate that connection to prospective employers

» Build new and improve existing facilities to provide better study, project, and social areas for our students

» Develop targeted outreach and recruitment that attracts Arts students who are the right fit for the particular programs and experiential opportunities we offer
» Ensure all undergraduates fully develop and recognize the value of their core skills gained from an Arts education, including communication, information literacy, problem solving, collaboration, and cross-cultural insights

» Complement students’ academic learning with a suite of career-focused minors that provide hands-on practice and exposure to real-world challenges

RECRUIT AND SUPPORT STRONG GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate students today are preparing for a range of career options both inside and outside academe. Anticipating changing job markets, our master’s and doctoral students need more opportunities in both research practice and professional development. Along with the excellent skills they develop through their teaching and research assistantships, we will provide more programming and events that will build on their abilities to apply advanced and specialized knowledge. In addition, we will continuously strive to offer our graduate students sustainable and competitive funding to enable them to focus and succeed.

Our objectives include:

» Develop targeted outreach and recruitment to attract graduate students who will succeed in our distinctive programs

» Offer wide-ranging career and professional training via programs, workshops, and resources

» Build capacity to offer more internships, co-op placements, and study abroad options

» Develop and launch new professional master’s programs that respond to emerging career possibilities

» Create more study, research and social spaces designed for graduate student use

ENABLE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY AND IMPACT

Waterloo Arts is home to a vibrant research culture. Our faculty members share nationally and internationally recognized scholarship through highly cited peer-assessed publications, leading disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects, and expert commentary in the media. We value both pure research and its capacity to generate new knowledge and applied research that directly addresses societal challenges.
Our objectives include:

» Strengthen and sustain the conditions that support high-quality research in all our fields within the humanities, social sciences, and creative arts

» Enable more interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research activity

» Enhance communication of research developments and how their outcomes benefit society

OPTIMIZE SPACE

Students need more than excellent teaching to succeed — they need resources and facilities that support all aspects of university life. Our growing community of scholars also requires space for collaboration, equipment, labs, and other supports. The need for better space emerged as a dominant theme during the strategic planning consultations, and especially from student surveys. If Arts is to meet its goals in education, research, and student engagement, we must optimize existing space and build more.

Our objectives include:

» Improve the use of Arts’ current space for teaching, research, study, and social gathering

» Plan and design a new Arts building to accommodate research and dynamic learning spaces — in addition to the construction of the Hagey Hall student space in 2015

INCREASE OUTREACH AND VISIBILITY

Our Advancement and Communications units play key roles in supporting the Faculty’s strategic priorities. Both celebrate and leverage the achievements of faculty, students, staff, and alumni. With a rich and diverse array of achievements to be shared, we will continue...
to build greater awareness of Arts, ensuring our many areas of strength are recognized and supported.

Our objectives include:

» Create a fund development plan anchored in and supporting identified strategic priority areas

» Engage alumni in the life of the Faculty, developing mutually beneficial activities to support the priorities of the Faculty and provide a stimulating and meaningful experience for alumni

» Produce communications that are aligned with the strategic priorities of the Faculty and the University

» Work with the central Media Relations team to increase engagement between Arts scholars and the media

REVITALIZE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Governance that is inclusive and collegial will ensure we move forward with sustainable planning practices. We will review and revitalize administrative and committee structures and continuously ensure our decision-making processes are fair, transparent, and engage members across the Arts community.

Our objectives include:

» Ensure a culture of discussion and participation in an environment of collegial governance within the Faculty of Arts

» Review and, where appropriate, revise administrative structures for a more sustainable and efficient Faculty organization
ARTS 2014 AT A GLANCE

6,844 undergraduate students
897 graduate students
24 undergraduate major subjects
37 graduate degree programs
284 faculty
150 staff
+50,000 alumni worldwide

DEPARTMENTS, SCHOOL, AND CAMPUS

» School of Accounting and Finance
» Anthropology
» Classical Studies
» Drama and Speech Communication
» Economics
» English Language and Literature
» Fine Arts
» French Studies
» Germanic and Slavic Studies
» History
» Philosophy
» Political Science
» Psychology
» Religious Studies
» Sociology and Legal Studies
» Spanish and Latin American Studies
» Stratford Campus

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND TEACHING STRENGTHS, 2014

» Global security, justice, and governance
» Cognition, development, and decision-making
» Multilingual cultures and societies
» Science, policy, and ethics
» Finance, taxation, and global business
» Digital media communications
» Human-technology interface

Interested in helping us build on our strengths?

» Share your expertise as a mentor or guest speaker
» Hire and inspire a co-op student
» Financially support a priority project
» Refer an outstanding student

Contact Arts Advancement:
+1-519-888-4567, ext. 38514
artsadv@uwaterloo.ca

faculty of arts

uwaterloo.ca/arts