

# BACHELOR OF INTERIOR DESIGN (HONOURS)

Bridging to 4th Year



## Admissions Information

Algonquin College is pleased to offer our highly successful online Bridging Program to the 4th year of the Bachelor of Interior Design (Honours) program. Our Bachelor of Interior Design program is fully-accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA).

The purpose of bridging into the 4th year of Algonquin's Bachelor of Interior Design (Honours) program is to offer an opportunity for interior designers already in possession of a diploma credential to upgrade to a baccalaureate degree. The impetus for the program's creation was the change to an Ontario requirement for all practicing interior design professionals. This regulation states that beginning January 01, 2017, a four year bachelor's degree will be the minimum standard of accreditation for both intern and registered membership categories within the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO). Additional information about these new regulations can be found at [www.arido.ca](http://www.arido.ca).

While different provinces have varying requirements for professional status, at Algonquin, we strongly believe that within a very short time, all practicing designers in North America will be required to possess a minimum of a baccalaureate degree. We encourage you to upgrade your current credential to stay competitive in the marketplace. Please take a moment to view the *Bridging to 4th Year Interior Design Degree - Admissions* and *Bridging to 4th Year Interior Design Degree - Portfolio Information* documents found at [www.algonquincollege.com/mediaanddesign/program/bachelor-of-interior-design/bridging-program/](http://www.algonquincollege.com/mediaanddesign/program/bachelor-of-interior-design/bridging-program/) for more information about how you can advance your career and refresh your design knowledge.

### What is the purpose of bridging into the fourth year of the Bachelor of Interior Design program?

#### Why should I consider continuing my design education?

The bridge into the 4th year of Algonquin's Bachelor of Interior Design (Honours) program has been created to fill the knowledge and credential gap between diploma and degree level learning outcomes within the interior design profession. The impetus for this endeavour was the important change to an Ontario requirement for all practising interior design professionals. **Beginning January 1, 2017, a CIDA-accredited four year bachelor's degree will be the minimum standard of accreditation for both intern and registered membership categories within the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO)\*.**

While different provinces and states have varying requirements for professional status, at Algonquin, we strongly believe that within a very short time, all practising designers in North America will be required to possess a minimum of a baccalaureate degree. We encourage you to upgrade your current credential to stay competitive in this fast changing marketplace.

As our profession rapidly matures towards more advanced credentialization, upgrading your own credential to a baccalaureate degree will enable you to function on an equal footing with colleagues both here at home and around the world. Interior design graduates with a baccalaureate credential may also pursue graduate studies in interior design or related fields.

**How does bridging into the 4th year of Algonquin's Bachelor of Interior Design (Honours) work?  
What are the entrance requirements? What are its components and how is the program sequenced?**

## Entrance Requirements

- Advanced diploma from a 3 -year interior design program with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B);
- Submission of complete transcripts from your previous institution and course descriptions for all courses taken;
- Submission of a curriculum vitae;
- Submission of personal portfolio\*:

## Bridging Components and Sequencing

Bridging to the 4th year of Bachelor of Interior Design (Honours) has been approved by the Ontario government's Post-Secondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB).

### 1. Successful completion of the following five online courses.\*

Critical Thinking and Academic Writing  
Topics in Design History and Theory  
Perspectives in Interior Design  
Sustainable Issues  
Issues in Psychology

The passing grade for all courses is C- (60 – 62%). These courses may be taken individually or in groupings as available within specific semesters. All courses are 45 hours in duration. The cost per online course\*\* is approximately \$600.00, however, please check the bridging program website for updates at:  
[www.algonquincollege.com/mediaanddesign/program/bachelor-of-interior-design/bridging-program/](http://www.algonquincollege.com/mediaanddesign/program/bachelor-of-interior-design/bridging-program/).

Courses are subject to cancellation dependent upon sufficient enrollments.

\*See course descriptions at the end of this document.

\*\* This fee applies to online courses only and does not include \$519.00 Co-Op fee or 4th year tuition fee. Please consult program website for additional information.

### 2. Successful completion of the 14 week Bachelor of Interior Design (Honours) summer Co-Op program.

\*Bridging students must complete a minimum of 14 weeks in a paid Co-Operative placement.

\*Candidates with appropriate documentation and extensive suitable work experience may be eligible for an exemption with regard to the Co-Op segment of the bridging program. Please contact Program Coordinator, Courtney Miller at [millerc2@algonquincollege.com](mailto:millerc2@algonquincollege.com) for further information.

Similarly, candidates who are enrolled in the previous bridging course(s), with program advisor approval, may complete this component of the program concurrent to the completion of course work. Candidates who wish to pursue this option should first contact Program Coordinator Courtney Miller at [millerc2@algonquincollege.com](mailto:millerc2@algonquincollege.com) for more information.

**3. Successful completion of the 4th year of study in the Bachelor of Interior Design (Honours) program.**

Once you have successfully completed the previous three components of the bridge, you will graduate with a Bachelor of Interior Design credential from Algonquin College. Algonquin's program is fully accredited by the Council for Interior Design Education (CIDA) and housed in the strong tradition of a professionally-oriented college environment. Algonquin College was the first college in Ontario to offer a baccalaureate degree in interior design.

**What are online courses like? How do I know if I am a good candidate for online education?**

Online learning is simply study via a digital, Internet -based communication platform. All of your course tutorials and assignments, as well as communication with colleagues and faculty will be managed online through Algonquin's Blackboard learning environment. You will study within a community of online learners with courses facilitated by a qualified educator. Because these courses are completely online, Algonquin welcomes students from Ottawa and around the world. As a participant, an added benefit is therefore that you will have the opportunity to share ideas with colleagues from all over the globe. If you are comfortable using the Internet, have looked at Web pages and have attached a file to an e-mail, then you should be familiar with the management of the online class environment and are likely a good candidate for online education. As previously mentioned, our program is geared to recent graduate designers holding a diploma credential, as well as those who may already be working professionals.

**How long are the courses? Do online courses meet at a specific time? When do they start?**

All courses are 15 weeks long and follow the standard Algonquin College calendar. There are generally no specific meeting times as there are in a traditional classroom setting, allowing students to work on assignments based upon their own time commitments. The first week of each bridging course includes an assignment to familiarize each student with the online learning environment. Many online learning courses also include some participation in group discussions which take place online at a specific time ('synchronous') in addition to those discussions which are 'asynchronous', or are essentially discussion points which have been posted to a specific site by individual students working according to their own schedule. Synchronous meetings offer an opportunity for all students and professors to meet together to discuss and expand upon ideas and work posted online.

**Can I begin the program in the Winter semester, rather than in the more traditional Fall semester?**

Yes, it is possible to begin the bridging program in the Winter semester, however, in doing so, the completion of the Co-Op term and the fourth year of study will be delayed. This is because the approved structure of all components of the program ( i.e. 5 online courses, completion of the Co-Op term and the fourth year of study) is limited to three courses per semester. If you choose to begin the program in the Winter semester of any given academic year, the typical\* timeframe for completion of the entire program would look like this

## Bridging Course Descriptions

### Critical Thinking and Academic Writing

In this course, exercises in speaking, writing, researching, and discussion of academic texts informs the preparation of academic documents including summaries, response papers and formal essays. An introduction to research methods and scholarly texts prepares learners to engage in academic thinking and communication activities. Learners develop the capacity to articulate independent thought, apply sound logic, and explore a variety of problem-solving methods.

### Topics in Design History and Theory

In this course, through lectures, independent research, and group activities, learners develop the ability to identify and explain historical and theoretical topics related to the design of the built environment within a broader art and design context, both historical and cultural. Learners identify and analyze the evolution of design themes and link past work with the future of design.

## Perspectives in Interior Design

In this course, students study the major influencers of design decisions (e.g. cultural implications, technology, demographic trends, sustainability, business factors) in order to more fully understand the complexity of future design decision-making. Emphasis is placed upon the study of factors affecting specific design sectors (e.g. corporate, health-care, hospitality, retail, residential) in addition to the overlapping concerns which designers must address. Topics such as “green” design, generational design, infection management, the democratization of design, “ stay-in place housing” are discussed and analyzed in order to separate substantive issue from trend. Current design issues, including licensing, LEED accreditation, Bill 124 examinations, community - based design initiatives will also be discussed.

## Sustainable Issues

In this course, students study the history and evolution of the built environment and the effects of human development on the availability of natural resources. Learners examine the role of interior designers and other professionals responsible for the built environment in working towards a sustainable future. Topics will address a broad range of societal, environmental and ecological issues from a holistic perspective. Students will be required to critically explore ways of sustaining global well-being through the exploration of current and future innovations in alternative methods, materials, and systems.

## Issues in Psychology

In this course, students develop an understanding of psychological concepts as they apply to the relationship of human behavior to the natural and built environments. Learners link an understanding of human behaviour to the design of spaces to suit a variety of occupant needs.

**Note:** The course descriptions indicated above are subject to change at the discretion of Algonquin College.

**For further information about the program, please contact Program Coordinator Courtney Miller at:**  
613 727 4723 ext. 6594 or millerc2@algonquincollege.com