Area of Interest: Arts and Design

Bachelor of Interior Design (Entry Level 06) (Honours) (Co-op)

Honours Degree   Program Code: 6148B03FWO

4 Years

Ottawa Campus

Our Program

Combine strategic and design thinking for a career creating functional spaces.

Entry into the fourth year of the Bachelor of Interior Design program offers an opportunity for interior designers already in possession of a diploma to upgrade to a baccalaureate degree. After meeting program and college eligibility requirements, you receive Level 06 status and complete five online bridging courses. You then progress into the final year of the degree program.

The Bachelor of Interior Design (Honours) degree program prepares you to pursue a professional career related to the design of the built environment. The curriculum integrates professional and general studies with an emphasis on critical thinking and applied research.

Enriched with a focus on environmental and global perspectives in interior design, you learn to consider ecological, economic and social aspects to analyze and design healthy living and working environments.

Projects increase in scale and complexity from residential scale to medium and large scale projects from commercial sectors such as:

- retail

- workplace

- hospitality

- healthcare

The program contains a strong experiential component that includes design studio experiences and an active engagement with the professional design community. In the fourth year, you have the opportunity to specialize in an area of interest specific to the profession and are required to complete an applied research paper.

You may also earn a Building Biology Advocate (BBA) Certification upon successful completion of the seven required Construction courses and the completion of IBE101. Please speak with the Program Coordinator for specific details and deadlines.

Students also gain real-world experience through a paid co-operative education (co-op) work term (s) (see Additional Information for more details). Please note that places in the co-op work term(s) are subject to availability and academic eligibility. Please note admission to a co-op program does not guarantee a co-op placement.

The integration of theory, analysis and practice prepare you to assume a leadership role within the profession. As a graduate, you are able to apply strategic thinking and a research orientation to your responsibilities as a professional interior designer and can contribute to the development and evolution of the field of design.

Employment

This program graduates interior designers equipped to fulfill leadership roles within the profession on a national and international level. Graduates may find employment in interior design offices,

architectural firms, government planning and facilities management offices, healthcare environments, educational environments or other design and built-environment related fields. Graduates have the skills to work on interdisciplinary, multi-cultural design teams in a variety of settings. Over time, and with suitable experience, some graduates may wish to develop their own firms.

With this degree, graduates may wish to continue their academic studies in interior design and related disciplines, such as environmental studies, environmental psychology and architecture.

Learning Outcomes

The graduates have reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Be competent knowledgeable workers able to apply fundamental concepts and skills of design in a variety of contexts.

- Design built environments consistent with industry standards and best practices.

- Be critical and creative thinkers able to analyze situations, draw conclusions and develop innovative and creative products using an accepted decision-making model.

- Be effective collaborators able to use communication and interpersonal skills to fulfill a leadership role on an interdisciplinary, multi cultural design team.

- Be continuous learners and contributing professionals able to assume the responsibilities of a professional designer, work within legal and ethical guidelines governing their practice and contribute to the development and evolution of the field of design.

- Be informed citizens able to adapt their work across cultural, social political and geographical contexts.

Program of Study

Level: 06	Courses	Hours
DSN4001	Critical Thinking and Academic Writing	42.0
DSN4002	Topics in Design History and Theory	42.0
DSN4003	Perspectives in Interior Design	42.0
DSN4004	Sustainable Issues	42.0
DSN4005	Issues in Psychology	42.0
Co-op: 01	Courses	Hours
DSN4100	Co-Operative Work Term	0.0
Level: 07	Courses	Hours
DSN0034	Applied Research	56.0
DSN4076	Design Studio VII	84.0
DSN4078	Construction VII	42.0
ECO2000	Environmental Economics	42.0
Elective: choose 1	Courses	Hours
CUL4000	Global Citizenship	42.0
ENL4016	World Literature	42.0

ENL4100	Creative Writing	42.0
ENL4200	New Worlds and Alternative Realities: Speculative Fiction	42.0
PHI4001	Philosophy and Popular Culture	42.0
PHI4002	The Philosophy of Drugs	42.0
PHI4003	The Philosophy of Love and Sex	42.0
PHI4004	Technology, Society and the Environment	42.0
PHI4100	Survival in the Information Age: Risk and the Media	42.0
PHY4000	Black Holes, Big Bangs and the Cosmos	42.0
PSY4000	Developmental Psychology	42.0
SOC4001	Global Perspectives	42.0
Level: 08	**Courses**	**Hours**
DSN0035	Senior Project	84.0
DSN4081	Senior Seminar	42.0
DSN4083	Professional Practice and Ethics II	42.0
DSN4094	Community Connection IV	10.0
Elective: choose 2	**Courses**	**Hours**
CUL4000	Global Citizenship	42.0
ENL4016	World Literature	42.0
ENL4100	Creative Writing	42.0
ENL4200	New Worlds and Alternative Realities: Speculative Fiction	42.0
PHI4001	Philosophy and Popular Culture	42.0
PHI4002	The Philosophy of Drugs	42.0
PHI4003	The Philosophy of Love and Sex	42.0
PHI4004	Technology, Society and the Environment	42.0
PHI4100	Survival in the Information Age: Risk and the Media	42.0
PHY4000	Black Holes, Big Bangs and the Cosmos	42.0
PSY4000	Developmental Psychology	42.0
SOC4000	Criminology	42.0
SOC4001	Global Perspectives	42.0

Fees for the 2025/2026 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees

Estimator tool at http://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar's Office website at http://www.algonquincollege.com/ro

Fees are subject to change.

Admission Requirements for the 2026/2027 Academic Year

Program Eligibility

- Graduates of an advanced (3-year) diploma from a recognized interior design program with a minimum cumulative grade point of 3.0 (B) may be eligible to undertake the five course online bridging program which must be successfully completed to enter into the fourth year of the Bachelor of Interior Design program. Bridging students must also complete a minimum of 14 weeks in a paid summer cooperative placement.

Admission Requirements for 2025/2026 Academic Year

Program Eligibility

- Graduates of an advanced (3-year) diploma from a recognized interior design program with a minimum cumulative grade point of 3.0 (B) may be eligible to undertake the five course online bridging program which must be successfully completed to enter into the fourth year of the Bachelor of Interior Design program. Bridging students must also complete a minimum of 14 weeks in a paid summer cooperative placement.

Application Information

BACHELOR OF INTERIOR DESIGN(HONOURS)(ENTRY LEVEL 06)(CO-OP)
Program Code 6148B03FWO

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

ontariocolleges.ca
60 Corporate Court
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 5J3
1-888-892-2228

Applications are available online at http://www.ontariocolleges.ca .

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants please visit this link for application process information: https://algonquincollege.my.site.com/myac360/s/self-registration-page .

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar's Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Avenue
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8
Telephone: 613-727-0002
Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723
TTY: 613-727-7766
Fax: 613-727-7632
Contact: https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro

Additional Information

Algonquin College has been granted consent by the Minister of Colleges and Universities to offer this applied degree for a seven-year term starting November 6, 2020. The College shall ensure that all students admitted to the above-named program during the period of consent have the opportunity to complete the program within a reasonable timeframe.

As the interior design profession rapidly matures towards more advanced credentialization across the globe, upgrading one's credential to a baccalaureate degree enables one to function on an equal footing with colleagues around the world. Interior design graduates with a baccalaureate credential may also pursue graduate studies in interior design or related fields.

The following online courses need to be completed:

- Critical Thinking and Academic Writing

- Topics in Design History and Theory

- Perspectives in Interior Design

- Sustainable Issues

- Issues in Psychology

CO-OP INFORMATION:
Co-operative education (Co-op) allows students to integrate their classroom learning with a real-world experience through paid work terms. Two academic terms prior to the cooperative education work term, students are required to actively participate in and successfully complete the self-directed co-op course, readiness activities and workshops.

Students must actively conduct a guided, self-directed job search and are responsible for securing approved program-related paid co-op employment. Students compete for co-op positions alongside students from Algonquin College and other Canadian and international colleges and universities. Algonquin College's Co-op Department provides assistance in developing co-op job opportunities and guides the overall process, but does not guarantee that a student will obtain employment in a co-op work term. Co-op students may be required to relocate to take part in the co-op employment opportunities available in their industry and must cover all associated expenses; e.g. travel, work permits, visa applications, accommodation and all other incurred expenses.

Co-op work terms are typically 14 weeks in duration and are completed during a term when students are not taking courses. For more information on your program's co-op level(s), visit the courses tab on your program's webpage.

International students enrolled in a co-op program are required by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to have a valid Co-op/Internship Work Permit prior to commencing their work term. Without this document International students are not legally eligible to engage in work in Canada that is part of an academic program. The Co-op/Internship Work Permit does not authorize international students to work outside the requirements of their academic program.

For more information on co-op programs, the co-op work/study schedule, as well as general and program-specific co-op eligibility criteria, please visit http://www.algonquincollege.com/coop .

Completion of the total number of co-op work terms listed under the courses section on the program page are mandatory for graduation. Co-op students must make every effort to remain on schedule and participate in co-op work terms as planned. Students who fail to complete co-op work terms as scheduled may be required to take an unscheduled break in their studies, resulting in a delay in graduation in order to complete their co-op at a later date. Taking an unscheduled break in studies can impact an international student's immigration status, including, in most cases, the ability to work. International students are advised to consult with the International Education Centre to understand the potential implications of unscheduled breaks at http://www.algonquincollege.com/international/student-handouts/scheduled-unscheduled .

TRANSFER CREDIT RECOGNITION:
Applicants with degrees or degree level courses from Canadian institutions empowered to award degrees and from other degree granting institutions recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. To receive a course credit, a minimum grade of C (65%) is required. Official transcripts and course descriptions/outlines must be presented with the application for credit recognition. Applicants with degrees or degree level courses from countries other than Canada or from postsecondary institutions not recognized by the MCU must have their degrees evaluated by a recognized Canadian public or private institution that specializes in the evaluation of international degree programs.

DEGREE ELECTIVE INFORMATION:
Students may choose from a variety of breadth courses. Courses from a range of disciplines are offered within the humanities, social sciences, sciences, global cultures and mathematics. Elective

offerings may vary from semester to semester.

Course Descriptions

CUL4000 Global Citizenship

Informed citizens in today's world appreciate the meaning of civic life at the local, national and global level. Students reflect on and develop a personal awareness of the meaning of freedoms, rights and obligations in a diverse global community and consider the political, social and economic drivers that influence patterns of human behaviour and the health of the planet. Based on general principles of global citizenship, students look beyond national borders to assess personal responsibilities related to the health and well-being of the planet and inhabitants. Students critically evaluate information related to environmental and social health, equipped with attitudes and behaviours that foster global environmental and social responsibility.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1100 and PHI1000
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN0034 Applied Research

An understanding of applied research, the process of applying existing knowledge or processes to create useful products or services, is provided. A major applied research project, linked to the community where possible, serves as the vehicle for developing skills in analyzing qualitative data, establishing an implementation plan, conducting research and reporting on it. This research forms the basis of the culminating project and is further developed in DSN0035 Senior Project.

Prerequisite(s): ENL2015 and PHI2004
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN0035 Senior Project

In this culminating advanced studio, students are guided by faculty to apply their accumulated knowledge to a topic and design sector of their choosing in response to the culminating project assigned in DSN0034 Applied Research. Students apply research they conducted in the previous semester to their design concept, design development and detail packages. Utilizing peer critiques, pin-ups, collaboration and industry feedback, the students work through the design process to arrive at a human centered solution that meets the applicable codes and regulations and effectively communicates their solution from 2D into 3D.

Prerequisite(s): DSN0034 and DSN4076 and DSN4078
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4001 Critical Thinking and Academic Writing

Exercises in speaking, writing, researching and discussing of academic texts inform 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.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4002 Topics in Design History and Theory

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.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4003 Perspectives in Interior Design

Students study the major influencers of design decisions (e.g. cultural implications, technology, demographic trends, sustainability, and 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 are also discussed.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4004 Sustainable Issues

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

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4005 Issues in Psychology

Students develop an understanding of psychological concepts as they apply to the relationship of human behaviour to the natural and built environments. Students link an understanding of human behaviour to the design of spaces to suit a variety of occupant needs.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4076 Design Studio VII

Students apply knowledge obtained in the previous years to complete studio assignments centered upon complex environments with an emphasis on the hospitality sector. They engage in advanced research, analysis and synthesis of information to create unique, innovative and responsible solutions as faculty take on an "advisory role", similar to that of a senior designer in an office setting.

Prerequisite(s): DSN0032 and DSN0033 and DSN4066
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4078 Construction VII

Focus is on developing an understanding of the integration and coordination of building components through the study of building materials and construction details pertinent to complex hospitality facilities. Applicable building codes and regulations are examined and applied as they relate to hospitality construction and interior environments. Students increase their ability to transfer design concepts into production documents. Building Biology Advocate (BBA) Certification upon successful completion of Construction 07. Students will also partake in an integrated, multidisciplinary construction workshop.

Prerequisite(s): DSN0032 and DSN0033 and DSN4066
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4081 Senior Seminar

Focus is on readings, visual and verbal articulation and discussions to bring forth critical thinking and criticism within the field of interior design and architecture. Students reflect upon design issues, trends and implications of design interventions so as to investigate and articulate the complicity inherent in the discipline of design due to the inter-weaving of socio, cultural and political factors as important and inevitable determinants.

Prerequisite(s): ENL2015 and PHI1000
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4083 Professional Practice and Ethics II

Students continue their study of the current state of interior design profession and practice, business and project management and ethical conduct as they prepare for employment as a professional designer after graduation. Students engage in research, analysis, and discussion of topics related to varying workplace environments and practices both in Canada and abroad to better understand global design and business practices.

Prerequisite(s): DSN4059 and DSN4076
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4094 Community Connection IV

The spirit of volunteerism and community involvement is an important professional goal. Participating in industry and college events and activities allows students to learn about the interior design and allied professions, design education and the local community at large. This helps develop a responsible and positive professional and personal standard, essential for the practicing interior designer and as a conscientious citizen.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

DSN4100 Co-Operative Work Term

As members of a design team, Designers are challenged to address increasingly complex design situations encountered in the workplace. Students are encouraged to assess their own performance in the work they produce and to build their professional portfolios. Students have the opportunity to explore opportunities within the sector of the industry and city of their choosing.

Prerequisite(s): DSN0032 and DSN0033 and DSN4059 and DSN4066
Corerequisite(s):none

ECO2000 Environmental Economics

Issues pertaining to the environment have a major financial impact on society and government. Environmental economics examines the way human decisions affect the quality of the environment, how human values and institutions shape our demands for improvements in the quality and about designing effective public policies to bring about these improvements. Students examine problems and solutions relating to environmental policy analysis in the Canadian context.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

ENL4016 World Literature

Exposure to broad sources of literature promotes an open-minded perspective on today's global society and encourages an appreciation of diversity and human differences. In World Literature, students explore key literary works from around the world and examine the socio-historical and cultural contexts in which authors wrote and set these texts. Students learn to identify common themes and apply literary and cultural theory to these works towards expanding critical thinking skills and developing an analytical vocabulary. Through seminar presentations, group discussions, debates, journaling, and creative writing, students grapple with literary representations of social, political, and cultural issues from around the world, gaining an appreciation of what it means to be responsible global citizens and possess the ability to listen to, question, and value diverse perspectives.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1100
Corerequisite(s):none

ENL4100 Creative Writing

Whether for personal or public consumption, many people enjoy writing short fiction to express their creative energy while improving upon their overall writing abilities. Working with professional short stories as models, students examine the stylistic components that contribute to the excitement, atmosphere, and overall readability of short fiction. Students share their work and provide formal feedback on the work of others.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1100
Corerequisite(s):none

ENL4200 New Worlds and Alternative Realities: Speculative Fiction

Speculative fiction gathers together all those works of fiction in which new worlds or alternative realities are envisioned. Within this category of prose, students have the opportunity to explore the various sub-genres that present readers with new ways of thinking about some of the issues that face society. Students also develop skills in critical analysis using a variety of approaches and methodologies from literary studies.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

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Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PHI4001 Philosophy and Popular Culture

Many facets of today's popular culture engage, directly or indirectly, with the concerns of a variety of philosophical traditions. Students critically analyze the way popular culture permeates society and the way it presents and interprets philosophical questions. Through the use of case studies and research, students evaluate the soundness and validity of thought experiments.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

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Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PHI4002 The Philosophy of Drugs

Drugs are everywhere: professionals prescribe them to us to make us "better"; we take them recreationally; we give them to our children, pets and other loved ones; we buy them on the streets and in grocery stores. What are "drugs"? Why are some drugs legal and others not? How do drugs get to market? What ethical issues are relevant in a global drug industry? Are current intellectual property regimes appropriate if the goal of drug research is to promote benefits to society? Students critically examine these, and other, questions through the lens of historical and contemporary ethical, philosophical and legal theories and arguments. Students engage in various peer-oriented learning activities throughout the course.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

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Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PHI4003 The Philosophy of Love and Sex

Love and sex are central to the human condition, and have been topics of academic inquiry and controversy throughout history. Various practices surrounding love and sex are celebrated in Western culture, such as monogamy and marriage, while other practices, such as polygamy and pedophilia, are condemned. Why is this? Students critically explore these and other issues surrounding love and sex using examples from popular music, movies and literature, framing those issues with the help of historical and contemporary philosophical theories and arguments. Students engage in various peer-oriented learning activities throughout the course.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PHI4004 Technology, Society and the Environment

Environmental issues have come to occupy a central place in the marketplace, politics, policy, and society at large. Owing largely to the many environmental consequences that have accompanied industrialization, we humans have been forced to rethink the complex relationship between technology, society and the environment. Students investigate philosophical concepts and theories surrounding technology, society and the environment including: the "naturalness" of technology, sustainability and animal rights. Students critically examine course material by focusing on questions such as: What is nature, and what role do/should humans occupy in it? What do we owe non-human organisms? What do we owe future generations? Students engage in various peer-oriented learning activities throughout the course.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PHI4100 Survival in the Information Age: Risk and the Media

On an almost daily basis, the media, through its various outlets - television, radio, web sites, RSS, and podcasts - reports on issues that address our wellbeing. Through discussions, readings, and assignments, students enhance their ability to interpret and question information presented by the media by better understanding the inherent risks. Issues like alternative medicine (i.e. vaccinations) and socio-legal issues (i.e. bullying, hacking, surveillance, privacy) provide grounds for students to use principles from the social science as a means to think critically about real and perceived risks in

daily life.

Prerequisite(s): PHI1000
Corerequisite(s):none

PHI4100 Survival in the Information Age: Risk and the Media

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Prerequisite(s): PHI1000
Corerequisite(s):none

PHY4000 Black Holes, Big Bangs and the Cosmos

The dynamic and exciting field of Cosmology outlines our current understanding of the Universe from its start, at the so-called Big Bang, through the ensuing 13 plus billion years to the present and beyond. Students learn how to discuss our present understanding of the three phases of the Universe as well as its five part make up, with matter making up only 4% of the whole. Students explain our knowledge of the various phases of evolution of the Cosmos and also the latest theories and experiments that are trying to address our uncertainties. Throughout the course, students evaluate and debate many of today's ideas and concepts revolving around cosmology.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

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Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PSY4000 Developmental Psychology

One of the keys to self-knowledge is an understanding of the stages that human beings progress through during the course of their lives. Students analyze human behaviour from biological, psychological and social perspectives using principles from these disciplines to explain and anticipate behaviour across the lifespan. This enables students to articulate developmental tasks, special challenges and needs for each stage of human development.

Prerequisite(s): PSY2100
Corerequisite(s):none

PSY4000 Developmental Psychology

One of the keys to self-knowledge is an understanding of the stages that human beings progress through during the course of their lives. Students analyze human behaviour from biological, psychological and social perspectives using principles from these disciplines to explain and anticipate behaviour across the lifespan. This enables students to articulate developmental tasks, special challenges and needs for each stage of human development.

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Prerequisite(s): PSY2100
Corerequisite(s):none

SOC4000 Criminology

The interdisciplinary study of social science examining the individual and social aspects of crime is known as criminology. Students work through an introduction to the social science perspective on crime. Presentations, discussions, and assignments allow students to investigate the various theoretical positions related to crime and criminal behaviour. Working forward from the types and definitions of crime, students trace some of the links between government policy and the impacts of these policies on both society and the individual.

Prerequisite(s): SOC2000
Corerequisite(s):none

SOC4001 Global Perspectives

Sociology, through its exploration of the organization of society and the connections between people and their surroundings, provides new ways of looking at the world. Using fundamental knowledge in the field of sociology, students analyze globalization and its impact on Canadian society. Students take opposing views to debate the opportunities and challenges that come with globalization.

Prerequisite(s): SOC2000
Corerequisite(s):none