



BROWN

Office of
College Admission

In a traditional academic year, the Office of College Admission would now be beginning our fall outreach season, travelling across the country and around the world to engage with prospective students. Instead, we begin an entirely virtual season of communication with students, families, counselors, and Brown alumni.

We continue to make adjustments to our admission process to best facilitate both safety and equity. We have given extensive consideration to the role of the alumni interview option in the application process and made the difficult decision to suspend the Alumni Interview Program for the 2020-21 admission cycle. As with all aspects of the admission process each year, this change will be evaluated before the next application cycle.

For many years, the Alumni Interview Program has been a meaningful opportunity for applicants to share more about themselves and their interest in Brown with alumni volunteers, and to ask questions and learn more about Brown from those who have experienced it firsthand. Unfortunately, the growing number of applicants seeking an interview has now far outpaced the number of alumni volunteers available, and it has become impossible to meet this demand in recent years.

Additionally, as we embark on a fully virtual admission and outreach process this year, we are also confronted with numerous technical and legal constraints by now familiar to us all. As we researched the feasibility of online interviews, we discovered numerous and significant hurdles that would have dramatically impacted our ability to engage with prospective students. The COVID crisis has exposed the vast digital divide that exists in the country and that limits the ability of many students to have stable and secure internet access. We also acknowledge that not everyone is comfortable in an interviewing environment, especially a virtual one. Our goal, in such a difficult year, is to make every effort to reduce anxiety rather than amplify it. To that end, we have created a series of new options for applicants this year.

To ensure that access to this type of opportunity is equitable across our applicant pool, this year we hope that all who are interested will instead choose to submit a two-minute [Video-Portfolio](#) share more about themselves beyond the written application.

While we believe Video Portfolios will allow us a similar opportunity to hear from students in their own voice as a component of our holistic admission process, there is no substitute for the ambassadorial role that alumni have held on behalf of the Admission Office. In line with this year's extensive virtual outreach programming, we plan to introduce a series of alumni-led webinars for prospective students. These panels will highlight the diverse experiences of alumni during their time at Brown and beyond, and will provide students with a chance to learn more about the University through its best representatives. Interest in and attendance at these events will not be considered in our admission process, but we hope that this will allow every applicant the opportunity to learn more about life at and after Brown directly from those who are part of this community.

The Alumni Interview Program has also facilitated a meaningful connection between alumni volunteers and the admission office, and we hope to maintain that communication and transparency throughout this unusual year. To ensure that alumni are able to remain connected to the process during this transition, we will be offering a series of webinars for those interested in learning more about the admission process, specifically focusing on how various aspects of our process may be impacted by COVID-19. We hope these virtual events will serve as an opportunity for conversation and questions that alumni may have, and enable a continued connection between alumni and the Office of College Admission.

We remain deeply grateful to our alumni volunteers for the incredible efforts we have witnessed over the year, both to provide feedback as part of the admission process and to serve as illustrious representatives of the Brown community for those who seek to join us on College Hill. Though our work together may look different this year, we truly appreciate the impact alumni have had on our process and look forward to continuing our partnership.

Sincerely,

Logan Powell
Dean of Admission

Mandy Tachiki '95
AIP Global Chair