

# THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AT TALIESIN



## Welcome to the Taliesin West Immersion program!

During your eight-week residency, you are encouraged to embrace the academic and residential opportunities with an equal commitment to excellence and spirit of cooperation, as is the tradition at Taliesin. We have a strong and committed faculty and staff to assist with your arrival, and we encourage your participation in all aspects of life and learning while a participant in the Taliesin Immersion. Read on for some useful information as you pack and prepare for your Taliesin experience:

**Arrival Time:** *Please arrive and meet at the Taliesin West Bookstore on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 2pm.* Ride share services (*Uber, Lyft*) are approximately \$25 from the airport, taxi or *Super Shuttle* a bit more. Housing at Taliesin West is not available before January 8<sup>th</sup>. A list of local hotels can be provided upon request. Let us know if you need assistance with your arrival.

**What to bring:** In general, *don't bring too much of anything.* It's better to arrive light and purchase a few extra things if you need it. Shipping your items ahead of time may be arranged with the Residence Life Manager. We have an old saying at Taliesin: "Don't bring a full suitcase, bring it empty and fill it up while you are here".

**Clothing:** Each desert dweller has a wardrobe in the locker room about 4 feet wide with ample hanging space and a set of drawers. Warm clothing is a must in Arizona. A coat and a sweater or two are advised. Dressing in layers is best – mornings are cool, days warm, and evenings cold at times. Feel free to consult with the Residence Life

Manager for advice on particulars. In addition, work clothes such as jeans, sweatshirts, and gloves will be useful on construction projects, and steel-toed work shoes are required for most construction projects. While casual clothes are fine for most school activities, formalwear (tuxedo, dark business suit, evening dress, or cocktail attire) is required for Taliesin Evenings.

Dress in the Studio has become more casual over the years, but a comfortable and slightly more professional look is encouraged during the day. It's not a fashion show, but *please remember that hundreds of tourists see you everyday, and we expect you to represent the school professionally*- cut off jeans, tank tops, revealing or ratty clothes are not appropriate in the Studio (or at meals). For your safety, shoes are required to be worn within the common areas of campus at all times. Basic laundry facilities are available at both campuses at no additional charge. Dry cleaning services exist in abundance in Scottsdale.

**Taliesin West:** TW was designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright to be a seasonal camp in the desert. Today, the experience at Taliesin West is still pretty rugged and very camp-like (but with WiFi!). It's an amazingly beautiful place with 550 acres of natural desert as inspiration. Still, it's a little dusty and each living space is unique. Housing consists of desert shelters or small rooms/shared baths, yet all are somehow better than any typical college dorm. Most Taliesin students prefer the desert shelters much more and we strongly encourage you to try them out. It's a wonderful adventure you will remember always. Additionally, your immersion experience also comes with the chance (and expectation) to contribute to the daily life by way of helping in the kitchen, washing dishes and keeping the place beautiful for yourself and those around you. You'll be asked to perform a simple weekly "maintenance" as well, like helping to clean the Studio or assisting with school events, etc. If you like fitness and the outdoors, we have a few miles of private roads and trails, lots of hiking and biking trails nearby, and a fitness and swim center nearby. *Please remember that you are a steward and representative of this National Historic Landmark, and the privilege of living and working here comes with the responsibility of ownership and care of the buildings and the desert.*

**Desert Shelters:** Upon arrival, our Residence Life Manager will show you around the desert and identify the available shelters. Each shelter is supplied with a mattress. You must bring your own sleeping bag or other warm bedding (winter nights are COLD in the desert). We also have a limited number of sheet/pillow sets available for purchase on arrival. Remember that we at times share the desert with its natural inhabitants. DO NOT keep food in your shelters, as it will attract local critters. Other students will be of great help to you as far as tips and tricks to make desert life more predictable.



**Desks:** Your desks are assigned to you in the historic Drafting Studio, as are your locker spaces in the locker rooms.

**The Taliesin Community:** Currently, the greater community consists of about 35 people living in residence at Taliesin West plus another 40 or so employees of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation who live offsite. Students range in age from 23 to 50, and the school staff and senior "Fellowship" range from 50 to 93. *One important point:* you'll soon get to know several people who are of advanced age who were apprentices to Frank Lloyd Wright, who worked on his projects, built the buildings we live and learn in, and who have dedicated their lives to the perpetuation our School of Architecture. They're to be respected, and are very friendly and interested in the work of our students. This is your unique opportunity to learn about Frank Lloyd Wright from the few remaining people who knew him well.

**Meals:** We have a professional Chef at Taliesin whom you'll have the privilege of working with. Breakfast here is on your own, and we have bagels, cereal, and fruit available. Lunch is at 12:30pm and dinner at 6:30pm. Meals are served Mon-Sat; Sunday is for going out or finding leftovers. *If you have food allergies or preferences, let us know in advance; we're very accommodating.* There are many excellent restaurants and cafes in the greater Phoenix areas as well, ask about recommendations for a night out.



**Security:** Many buildings at Taliesin West are not locked at night, but we do have professional security on-site from 2pm to 6am daily. While each student is responsible for their own equipment/computers, you'll see that they're very comfortable in leaving them at their desks in the Studio. However, I do recommend covering your desk and computers with plastic when rain is forecast (Frank Lloyd Wright is known for leaky roofs!). More information will be provided during orientation.

**Insects and Wildlife:** The pleasures and perils of desert flora and fauna will be discussed during orientation.

**Automobiles:** You are welcome to have a personal vehicle here - 8 weeks without a car can be difficult for some. If you are here without, but wish to explore, there is the option to occasionally rent a car from local rental companies (some will even pick you up). Often you can catch a ride to town with a resident or student for basic necessities. Ride Sharing Services have proven useful in recent years as well. A parking sticker and parking instructions will be provided.

**Visitors:** Occasionally our Immersion students wish to have a weekend guest with whom to share the experience. This is normally no problem based on space availability and your satisfactory standing in the program. A daily fee is charged to cover room and board and advanced notice is appreciated- see the Residence Life Manager for arrangements.



**Alcohol and Controlled Substances:** Taliesin West is a drug-free environment, *no exceptions*. Regarding alcohol, you'll likely find that bonding with some of our students occasionally happens over adult beverages at the pool or at local bars. While we encourage early "breaking of the ice" to forge new friendships, please remember at all times that you are representing The School of Architecture at Taliesin as well as yourself. We've worked hard to maintain our reputation in the community and expect mature behavior from all Taliesin residents.



**Academics:** Your instructor will provide much more information for you, and you should be prepared for a studio designed to be interesting and fun, but also very rigorous. Please review the separate syllabus document to become more familiar with the academic program. You'll work in the historic drafting studio alongside our graduate students and at times will have the opportunity to audit their classes. The Studio is a quiet and contemplative space and academic expectations are high for all Taliesin students.

While this information is intended to help you prepare for your travel and arrival to Taliesin West, it's by no means comprehensive. Please feel free to contact the School with any additional questions or concerns. We're here to help, and you'll find our students and staff to be very kind and helpful, and though it may take a short time to "break the ice" (only because everyone is busy and doing their own thing), you'll quickly fit in and build solid and lasting friendships while here.

Congratulations on your Taliesin West Immersion experience!

### **Contacts:**

**Robin Vanhof**  
Dir. Admissions and Student Services  
[rvanhof@taliesin.edu](mailto:rvanhof@taliesin.edu)  
480-267-5345

**Jason Silverman**  
Residence Life Manager  
[jsilverman@taliesin.edu](mailto:jsilverman@taliesin.edu)  
480-234-7122