Frequently Asked Questions about the Thunderbird move

Why was the decision made to move Thunderbird to downtown Phoenix?
Since the merger between Thunderbird and ASU, senior leaders at both institutions have been in discussions about how to evolve the school and continue its trajectory of excellence. Working together, they made the decision to move the campus to downtown Phoenix to optimize opportunities for Thunderbird faculty and staff and current and prospective students.

Locating Thunderbird’s graduate degree programs and its executive education activities in close proximity to other ASU schools and departments on the Downtown Phoenix Campus (such as the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the College of Public Service and Community Solutions, the College of Nursing and Health Innovation and the College of Health Solutions) will provide greater community embeddedness and enhanced resources for Thunderbird students and faculty. This move also brings Thunderbird closer to private and public sector entities in downtown Phoenix which are engaged in international business and nonprofit organizational activity.

Where will Thunderbird be located on the ASU Downtown Phoenix Campus?
The new Thunderbird building will be located on the south side of the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, between 1st and 2nd Street, on Polk Street. It will be ASU’s sixth college headquartered on the Downtown Phoenix Campus.

When will Thunderbird move to the Downtown Phoenix Campus?
Thunderbird’s new building is expected to be complete in time to welcome students in 2021. There will be a move to a temporary location in Phoenix before that. We are in the process of determining the timing of that move and location of the temporary space. We expect to know those answers in early 2018.

What is the cost of the new building?
Detailed planning is now underway. A final budget has not been established but early estimates are for a project cost of between $40 million and $50 million for the new academic facility.

What are the key features of the new building?
The new building will be between 85,000 and 95,000 square feet and include classroom, meeting, enclave and office space. The upper two levels and the roof are currently expected to be designated for the Thunderbird Executive Education program.
Will any of the Thunderbird campus in Glendale be retained?
ASU Enterprise Partners, a not-for-profit organization, has initiated conversations with the City of Glendale to develop plans for Thunderbird’s current campus at North 59th Avenue and West Greenway Road. ASU Enterprise Partners will work closely with the City of Glendale to develop a plan that will serve the people of the West Valley.

What happens to the Tower? The Pub?
The pub will be relocated to the new Thunderbird building on the Downtown Phoenix campus. No decisions about the Tower have been made at this time; all parties are aware of the importance of the Tower to Thunderbird alumni.

Will Thunderbird degree programs be altered?
Thunderbird faculty revise their program’s curricula on an ongoing basis, in a process of continuous improvement and adaptation to a rapidly changing international business environment. The move will not alter Thunderbird faculty’s continuing commitment to providing world-class global management and business education with a unique intercultural focus or its position as an elite institution. The school’s closer proximity to other professional and academic programs will enable more interdisciplinary content and facilitate joint programs that leverage faculty expertise across the university.

Will we continue to focus on diverse cohorts? International students?
Absolutely. Nothing about our efforts to ensure diversity in the Thunderbird student body will change.

What will be the impact to students who are currently enrolled at that time?
Students’ degree programs and courses of study will continue uninterrupted throughout the move to the downtown campus. Every effort will be made to ensure that changes in living arrangements are as seamless and smooth as possible.

Will the cost of tuition change?
There will be no change made in tuition because of the move to the Downtown Phoenix Campus.

What will be the student housing and dining options downtown?
Housing and meal plans will be available during both the temporary facility period and after completion of the permanent facility. Options are currently under evaluation and will be announced once they are finalized.

Will Thunderbird students have the same access to ASU amenities downtown that ASU students have today?
Yes. And the campus downtown provides many more amenities than the current campus does.
**Will the current Thunderbird faculty be relocating to the Downtown Phoenix campus?**
Yes. While some faculty may work on the ASU West campus to administer the undergraduate programs, most Thunderbird faculty will be teaching and working in the new Thunderbird building on the Phoenix downtown campus.

**Will there be organizational changes in Thunderbird as a part of the move?**
There may be some functional reassignments or job changes as a result of the change in proximity to the downtown campus.

**Will parking be provided? Will rates go up?**
Parking will be available on the same basis as it is offered to all Downtown Phoenix Campus employees and students.

**When will we know more details?**
This process is just beginning and there are many important details to work out that will affect ASU, Thunderbird, students, faculty and staff, the city of Glendale, and the city of Phoenix. As opportunities for input occur and as decisions are made, we will continue to share information with Thunderbird alumni.

**What does the future hold for Thunderbird?**
The future for Thunderbird is bright. Thunderbird has been a unit of the ASU Knowledge Enterprise since 2015. The move to ASU’s downtown campus presents an opportunity for Thunderbird to maintain and strengthen its identity while enabling stronger linkages to other ASU academic units and greater access to the private and public sector institutions and organizations in downtown Phoenix. Students seeking internships and engagement with governmental and nonprofit organizations will find many opportunities in the Phoenix urban center. The move to the Downtown Phoenix campus will offer the opportunity for Thunderbird to build ties to internationally-focused organizations located in or nearby downtown Phoenix. Thunderbird and ASU leadership will seek to enhance those organizational relationships as part of the school’s strategy during and after the move. Closer proximity to the airport, hotels, and to other Phoenix institutions and organizations will also facilitate Thunderbird’s future as an active hub of international activities in education and outreach.