



Dear SMU Community

We would like to keep you informed of the following important developments:

Suspension of all official overseas student programmes and activities

The Ministry of Health (MOH) has issued a press release about new border restriction measures announced by the Ministerial Taskforce on COVID-19 to reduce the number of imported cases into Singapore. We understand that separately, many universities around the world have announced moving into full online learning and even closed their campuses, including on-campus housing.

Given these developments, the Ministry of Education (MOE), together with the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), have decided to suspend all official overseas student programmes and activities. At SMU, these will include, but are not limited to, all internships, exchange programmes, community service projects, study missions, SMU-X overseas projects, and overseas postgraduate and PhD activities, until end-July. Students who are currently undertaking such overseas programmes and activities will be recalled as soon as practicable.

To address students' concerns about the loss of credits earned during their exchanges or programmes, SMU is committed to supporting our affected students by providing alternative learning arrangements. This would include offering more courses relevant to our affected students during Terms 3A and 3B, as well as offering them local internship placements. As most of our affected students are second or third year students, they also have the option to take additional credits in subsequent years. In the coming weeks, we will work with affected students to finalise these alternative arrangements. In addition, we will help affected students in their penultimate semester to graduate as planned.

The decision to suspend overseas placements was reached after careful consideration of the uncertainties ahead, the fact that our students would be able to access similarly meaningful learning opportunities at SMU and other Autonomous Universities, as well as the safety and well-being of our students.

SMU's suspension of all official overseas travel

In line with MOE's guidance for students and the possibility that travel to more countries might be affected by Stay Home Notices (SHNs) in the coming weeks, the University has decided to suspend all official overseas travel for faculty and staff.

Singaporeans are also advised to defer all non-essential travel abroad. This advisory will apply for 30 days, and will be revised thereafter. This is to reduce the risk of Singaporeans contracting COVID-19 while overseas during this global pandemic.

Should you be planning any personal travel, please be mindful that you will be required to serve a 14-day SHN when you return from the following countries/regions:

- Mainland China
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Iran
- Republic of Korea
- Spain
- ASEAN (except for those travelling into Singapore from Malaysia via sea and land crossings)
- Japan
- Switzerland
- the United Kingdom

It is important that you keep abreast of the new countries/regions, between now and the time you travel, that may be added to the list in the [MOH Advisory](#) which require you to serve a 14-day SHN.

To ensure the continued smooth operations of the University, faculty members planning any personal travel to countries affected by SHNs upon return to Singapore, are required to buffer time for the SHN so as to not disrupt any courses that they are teaching. Staff serving the SHN will be required to telecommute during the period.

You are reminded to submit and update your travel declaration online for upcoming personal trips until 31 July 2020 at: https://traveldeclar.intranet.smu.edu.sg/log_travel_preface.asp, even if you do not have any travel plans.

In the meantime, please continue to monitor your health and take your temperature twice a day, even if you are not on campus. Let's all do our utmost and work together to keep our SMU community healthy and safe.

Thank you

SMU Crisis Executive Group