



Dear Students,

The Multi-Ministry Taskforce has, on 3 April 2020, announced an elevated set of safe distancing measures, as a circuit breaker to pre-empt the trend of increasing local transmission of COVID-19. The aim is to reduce much more significantly movements and interactions in public and private places. **The heightened safe distancing measures will be in place for four weeks (i.e. two incubation cycles) from 7 April 2020 to 4 May 2020.** You can read the public announcement [here](#).

Accordingly, from 7 April 2020 (Tuesday), there will be necessary adjustments that our University must implement. These adjustments may impose some inconvenience, but we seek your understanding as these are challenging times that call for unprecedented measures across the country. Your well-being and safety remains the University's foremost priority.

**IMPACT OF HEIGHTENED SAFE DISTANCING MEASURES ON CAMPUS OPERATIONS**

All SMU students, faculty and staff should work and study at home

- All lessons are being conducted online now. From 7 April, approximately 98% of faculty and staff will also be working from home, with only a small group of staff members identified as providing essential services who will be permitted to come on campus. This group are from the Office of Campus Infrastructure and Services, Office of Integrated Information Technology Services, and Office of Safety and Security, who will be on campus to maintain the essential operations of the University.
- This is intended to further enhance safe distancing at workplaces. On this note, we also seek your understanding and cooperation **not to come on campus**.

Campus facilities and services

- Accordingly, from 7 April, most spaces on campus will be closed. Please refer to table below. For enquiries, you can call 6828-0343 (24hrs) or email [fmhelpdesk@smu.edu.sg](mailto:fmhelpdesk@smu.edu.sg).

Basement Concourse spaces connected to MRT stations	Remain open till further notice
All SMU Buildings and Offices	Physically closed and locked by card readers. Only security counters at lobby entrance will remain open. Students should not visit the campus to access facilities. Only designated staff whose names have been notified by HODs to OSS will be granted access into the

	buildings. Accordingly, SMU Libraries, student study lounges, group study rooms and collaboration spaces across the campus will be closed.
Campus Green and running track	Remain open for exercise. Users are advised to practise social distancing. No group activities are allowed.
Spaces with open benches, chairs, tables	Out of bounds and cordoned off.
All third-party operators/services (including F&B, retail and services) in the buildings and Concourse	All will have to cease, except for essential service operators, who have also been encouraged to cease due to closure of campus. However, should there be any essential service operators who prefer to keep their businesses open, we will provide an updated list this week.  For a definition of essential service providers, please see <a href="#">here</a> .
Clinic@Campus	The continued operation of the clinic is not yet confirmed at this point in time. Please contact the clinic at 63339300 for updates in the interim.
Prinsep Street Residences (PSR)	Remain open to residents but visitors will not be allowed, except for essential service contractors, cleaning and maintenance crew. Safe distancing measures have been put in place in PSR and all residents are to strictly adhere to these measures.
Building car parks	Remain open. However, carpark day passes for faculty, staff and students will not be sold during these four weeks.

We fully recognise that the closure of spaces including the libraries, student study lounges, group study rooms and collaboration spaces across the campus will pose inconvenience to some students, but we seek your understanding that the measure is necessary to reduce your contact exposure while travelling to campus. For your safety, all students should stay at home to study.

#### **IMPACT ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

Classes and Examinations for Academic Programmes (UG, PGP and PGR)

- There is no change to the details communicated by Provost on [26 March](#), that is, from 30 March 2020, all classes have gone online, either synchronous or asynchronous. Going forward, there is also no change to the examination schedule. Students will take their remote online exams off-campus as planned and scheduled. Students are to follow the instructions of their instructors for each remote online exam respectively. The University will issue further guidance on examinations in the coming week.

#### Continuing Education & Training (CET)

- For SMU Academy, all courses are now delivered online or via e-learning modules; the small number that cannot be taught online have been postponed for a few months. As for Executive Development, clients have postponed the majority of programmes until after June with the exception of a small number that are being conducted online or via blended learning.

#### Students events and CCA

- The Multi-Ministry Taskforce had earlier advised that tighter measures be adopted to control the spread of infection. These stricter measures mandate that physical distancing of at least one metre must be achieved when seated or standing in a public place. Given the latest measures announced on 3 April, the cancellation or deferment of all student events and CCA activities will continue to be in force.

#### **OVERSEAS TRAVEL SUSPENSION EXTENDED**

- On [16 March](#), the University shared that all official overseas student (undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD) programmes and activities will be suspended until end-July 2020. This suspension is now extended until further notice.
- In view of the heightened risk of further importation, MOH had, on 18 March 2020, advised Singaporeans and residents to defer all travel abroad. This is to reduce the risk of being infected with the virus when abroad, and spreading it upon return. As such, we strongly advise students to defer all travel plans.
- All students should not travel overseas as advised by the Singapore Government. Students on student pass (STP) are also to comply with the new rules by ICA/MOE regarding travel overseas, whereupon additional approval is required for re-entry to Singapore. STP students have been notified earlier of this.

#### Special Financial Assistance Scheme for students affected by the suspension of overseas programmes and recall to Singapore

- You may be aware that the University have had to suspend overseas student programmes and recall all students who were on these programmes to return to Singapore. We thank all affected students for your understanding towards the measures which had to be taken to ensure your well-being and safety. SMU has taken measures to provide alternative academic arrangements for returning students to mitigate the impact on their degree progression.
- Additionally, we recognise that these students, and others who had been unable to embark on their overseas programmes, have also been affected financially due to the suspension of their programmes and recall to Singapore. We have therefore developed a [Special Financial Assistance Scheme](#) to help them defray certain financial costs incurred. We believe this will alleviate their financial pressures and serve as reassurance of our commitment towards supporting their education during these challenging times. Broad details of the assistance

plan have already been communicated to affected students, and more details will be made available to them in the coming week.

**Contact information for enquiries on:**

Examinations and Academic Matters – [registrar@smu.edu.sg](mailto:registrar@smu.edu.sg)

Suspension of Overseas Programmes – [io@smu.edu.sg](mailto:io@smu.edu.sg)

Postgraduate Professional Programmes – [masters@smu.edu.sg](mailto:masters@smu.edu.sg)

SMU Academy – [academy@smu.edu.sg](mailto:academy@smu.edu.sg)

Executive Development – [exd@smu.edu.sg](mailto:exd@smu.edu.sg)

IITS Helpdesk – [Helpdesk@smu.edu.sg](mailto:Helpdesk@smu.edu.sg); tel: 68280123

International Office – [io@smu.edu.sg](mailto:io@smu.edu.sg)

**PLANNING AHEAD**

As we adhere to the current requirements, we are also planning ahead. We have carefully deliberated the need to make alternative arrangements for several key forthcoming events in the University calendar, putting your well-being and safety as our top priority.

Graduation

- The University has begun to make alternative arrangements to carry out Commencement 2020 differently this year. We plan to conduct the ceremony virtually, and in a way that will allow us to get as close as possible to the experience of being there while being safe at the same time. For those who are unable to participate, they will be invited to attend a special ceremony, at a later date, as alumni representing the Class of 2020. This ceremony will also be open to those who have joined in the virtual one. We will be providing more information in due course.

Freshmen Orientation

- On **30 March**, the Dean of Students announced that all Freshmen Orientation activities which involve physical attendance from participants (as well as all other student activities involving assemblies of people) will be cancelled until further notice. Leveraging on technology, activities will take place virtually and online.

We thank all students for your understanding, patience and resilience in these challenging times. You have our assurance that we are committed to your education as much as we are to your safety and well-being. Please stay safe, strong and healthy.

**SMU Crisis Executive Group**