

FAQs and Answers

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| Question 1 | SMU offers all students the opportunity to have a global exposure experience prior to graduation. However, the university has suspended ISEP for two consecutive terms. How can SMU ensure that there will be enough global exposure opportunities for all students? |
| Answer | Covid-19 is an unprecedented situation and the basis for the extension of the suspension for the upcoming term remains the same as last term – to protect and preserve the health, safety and well-being of our students. SMU will endeavour to provide alternatives to facilitate degree progression and graduation, including providing Global Exposure (GE) opportunities in subsequent terms – both shorter and longer duration GE programmes to cater to students’ needs and circumstances. |
| Question 2 | Term 1 AY20/21 is my only available window to go on ISEP due to academic requirements and/or other commitments e.g. internships, core modules. Can I be excluded from the suspension since this is my last opportunity to participate in ISEP? |
| Answer | Covid-19 is an unprecedented situation and the basis for the extension of the suspension is to protect and preserve the health, safety and well-being of our students. To this end, we encourage students to take up shorter term programmes like overseas study missions in the following term to gain global exposure or meet the GE graduation requirement, where applicable. Do consult your academic advisor on possibilities. |
| Question 3 | My host university has confirmed that they will proceed with their exchange programme. It is also located in a safe country with very few Covid-19 cases and/or the government has eased the country’s lockdown measures. Can I proceed with my exchange? If not, can I take a LOA to do a self-arranged exchange at the same PU instead? |
| Answer | Since 15 th March 2020, MOE and SMU have adopted a universal approach to our suspension of overseas programmes because of the global nature of the Covid-19 pandemic and the risk of the virus spreading to countries deemed to be “safe”. This approach will continue until the end of the extended suspension period on 31 st January 2021. Further, do know that national policies may not permit us to accept inbound students from countries where our students intend to study in, thereby impacting on the reciprocal nature of the ISEP with our partner universities. |
| Question 4 | Since ISEP has been suspended and we have to study in SMU next term, do we have priority during course bidding? How can I ensure that I can get the courses that I need and/or have planned to take in my host university? |
| Answer | In response to the suspension of the ISEP, schools will be providing additional courses and/or additional sections to meet additional student demand. This is on top of SMU not receiving inbound ISEP students during the term. |
| Question 5 | We have been advised to defer our ISEP if we are still keen to go in future terms. Will there be sufficient exchange placements for all SMU students affected by the ISEP suspension? |
| Answer | There are sufficient exchange places for affected students to go on the ISEP in the following Term 2 AY20/21 and subsequent Term 1 AY21/22 – this is based on ISEP opportunities at all PUs around the world. We would also negotiate with PUs for more billets at more popular PUs. You would however, need to submit a new application for participation in a future ISEP. |
| Question 6 | When is the deadline for course bidding for Term 1 AY 20/21? Will I be in time to bid for courses now that I have to stay in SMU? |
| Answer | Course bidding will begin on 29 June and you will have sufficient time to bid for courses for Term 1 AY 20/21. |