



## PROVOST'S MESSAGE



Dear Students

As many universities around the world grapple with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, I know many of you are anxious over how the coming Academic Year will be conducted and I want to reassure you that SMU's first priority will always be your health and wellbeing. We are working hard across the whole of the university, and actively consulting with the Ministry of Education (MOE), on plans that will allow you to continue with your studies safely in August. With this in mind, I would like to share with you some important updates on what to expect for the upcoming academic year.

### Resuming Operations on Campus

We plan to start AY2020/21 on time. Please be assured that when SMU resumes operations in August, we will do this in a controlled and methodical approach through these ways:

- Managing on-campus class sizes through appropriate social distancing
- Moving the majority of our classes online
- Utilising campus spaces and facilities in ways that will maximise your safety

The finer details are being carefully mapped out, but I wanted you to be updated on our broad plans.

### For Academic Year 2020/21 Term 1:

- **The majority of courses will be conducted fully online.** Our faculty are committed to ensuring that you receive a high-quality learning experience through our signature interactive pedagogy, and you can be assured that our faculty, known for the quality of their teaching, will deliver courses that facilitate effective and engaged online learning.
- **A small proportion of courses will adopt a mixed approach.** For these courses, around half of the class will attend in person, and the other half through online means via live-streaming and/or other online tools.

- For the mixed approach, **SMU will decide on a rotation cycle** so that students alternate between attending classes in person and classes online on a one-week or two-week cycle. We will weigh various factors and provide an update on the rotation cycle in due time.
- **Courses that are conducted using the mixed approach will be clearly indicated before the bidding exercise** for Term 1, so that you may take this information into consideration when bidding for courses.
- **All students will be able to receive instruction wherever they are.** This is because online learning will be made available for all undergraduate courses.

We are committed to minimising disruptions to your learning. If the outbreak situation improves considerably, we will conduct a review in September in consultation with MOE and communicate any changes at least three weeks in advance of their introduction. Barring any worsening of the outbreak in Singapore that requires us to move courses to a fully online mode, we do not anticipate other changes in instruction mode for Term 1.

For international students who are not in Singapore, please be aware that under current border control regulations, you will need both an In-Principle Approval (issued by the Immigration & Checkpoint Authority) and an entry approval permit (issued by the Ministry of Education) to enter Singapore. Currently, all international arrivals are also required to serve a Stay-Home Notice (SHN) for 14 days at government-appointed facilities. The costs of your stay will be covered by the Singapore government and SMU, excluding your personal expenses during the SHN.

In the coming weeks, I will write again to share with you more details on campus-wide safety measures. The University is also making exciting plans for this year's freshmen orientation (with a tongue-in-cheek name of [FOMO \(Freshmen Orientation Moves Online\)](#)) and VIVACE events; do watch out for invitations to these events where you can meet and interact with your peers and new students.

In the meanwhile, I hope you will all stay safe, and stay well.

Kindest regards

Timothy Clark  
Provost