



MESSAGE FROM VICE PROVOST (UNDERGRADUATE MATTERS)



Dear Students

On 23 July, around 500 of you joined the web session where Provost addressed questions that you had contributed prior to the session. The recording of the session may be accessed [here](#). Many of you contributed questions prior to and during the 23 July session, and my team has compiled a list of FAQ [here](#). We will update this FAQ regularly during the course of the term. Based on your inputs, we identified a few areas of concern and over the past few weeks we have engaged in active discussions with MOE on how we can alleviate your concerns while continuing to adhere to the national safety guidelines.

Cohorting plan for on-campus lessons and Campus access

One of your key concerns, evident from the large majority of questions, is the ability to access and use campus facilities. As Provost shared on 23 July, the University needs to implement a cohorting plan for on-campus instruction. Most of our instructional venues can take up to only between 25 and 33 students if we are to provide sufficient safe separation between students during lessons as part of MOE's requirements.

At the same time, the cohorting plan is necessary as a mechanism for the University to manage the footfall on campus so that we keep within the allowable limits prescribed by MOE. Based on your campus IDs, students will be authorised to access the campus for two consecutive weeks out of every four weeks, even if they are not enrolled in the mixed mode F2F classes, although some facilities (e.g. gym and swimming pool) will require additional booking. The broad cohorting plan, as shared by [Registrar's Office on 22 June \(non-freshmen\) and 20 July \(freshmen\)](#), is appended below. RO's circulars lay out the current plan for Weeks 8 and 14, but we are actively working to allow students a greater level of access to campus during these weeks.

Academic Calendar (Week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday)	Designated for campus access and to attend mixed mode classes on campus	Designated to attend mixed mode classes remotely
Week 1 and Week 2	odd -numbered Campus ID (e.g. 01234567)	even -numbered Campus ID (e.g. 76543210)
Week 3 and Week 4	even -numbered Campus ID	odd -numbered Campus ID
Week 5 and Week 6	odd -numbered Campus ID	even -numbered Campus ID
Week 7	even -numbered Campus ID	odd -numbered Campus ID
Week 8	Recess Week (more details will be released)	
Week 9	even -numbered Campus ID	odd -numbered Campus ID
Week 10 and Week 11	odd -numbered Campus ID	even -numbered Campus ID
Week 12 and Week 13	even -numbered Campus ID	odd -numbered Campus ID
Week 14	Reading Week (more details will be released)	

With the start of the Academic Term, facilities such as GSRs and SSLs will be available for use from 8.30am to 10.30pm on weekdays and from 8:30am to 5.30pm on Saturdays. The Li Ka Shing Library and Kwa Geok Choo Law Library will be open from 8am to 10pm on weekdays, 10am to 9pm on Saturdays, and 1pm to 9pm on Sundays. SMUSA will also be communicating the operating hours of the various facilities on campus and we will work closely with SMUSA to review and communicate changes to the opening hours as the term progresses.

Day Pass Entry Registration System

After further planning and discussions across offices and with MOE, we are now able to afford a greater level of flexibility to students in terms of campus access outside of physical lessons. Many of you responded positively to a survey conducted by SMUSA and indicated your support for a day pass system to gain campus access during the weeks you are not designated to return to campus. This will allow you to continue to have access to study spaces on campus, printing facilities, and meet instructors. We are rolling out this day pass system with immediate effect. You may access this system on OASIS ([link](#); also available on OASIS landing page). Students who successfully register for day passes may gain access to campus facilities by showing the day pass and their SMU student card at the entry points of buildings (i.e. turnstile points).

The day pass system will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Day passes will be released two days ahead of time (e.g. day passes for Wednesdays will be made available from Monday). Day passes for the coming Monday are already available. For a start, each student may register for up to 2 passes per week. We will review the usage rates on a weekly basis and make adjustments to optimise the usage of these passes. Students who obtained a day pass but decide they do not require the pass may cancel their day pass registration anytime before the day that the pass is valid. For instance, on Monday, a student may start to book a pass for Wednesday. The student may cancel the pass any time on Monday and Tuesday if they decided that they do not need the pass afterall. However, the student will not be able to cancel the pass on Wednesday.

Therefore, cohorting continues for mixed mode lessons, but students will have more flexible access to campus.

Course availability and mid-term review

We hear your concerns that a larger supply of courses is needed for the upcoming term. During the web session, the Registrar's Office shared that we noticed the exceptional bidding patterns for the term and have added more than 1,300 seats since the start of BOSS bidding. We have not stopped our efforts to increase course availability and another close to 1,500 seats have been made available over the past two weeks. If you are in your final term and face issues enrolling in compulsory programme courses for your final term in BOSS Bidding Round 2, please reach out to your Schools for assistance with your degree progress report.

We want to maintain continuity and provide certainty in terms of your instruction. Therefore, we do not intend to change the mode of instruction drastically even after the September review. Nevertheless, as part of the review, SMUSA will be conducting a survey to seek your inputs in a few weeks' time.

SMU Resilience Fund

Some of you joined us only in the recent weeks and would not have received Provost's email on 4 May announcing the SMU Resilience Fund. To help undergraduate students who are facing financial hardship because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the University has set up a \$2.5 million SMU Resilience Fund that comprises three components - SMU CARES (comprising funds from the University's own resources), SMU GIVES (made up of contributions from the SMU Community), and SMU HELPS (assistance supported by donors). More information on the fund is available in [this circular](#).

As we strive to make our campus a safe environment for you to learn in, we are keen to afford you flexibility in orchestrating your learning. I wish you a good start to the Academic Year.

Best regards,
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