



PROVOST'S MESSAGE



Dear students

1. I hope the term is progressing well for you and you are keeping well. I am writing to share with you the plans for the academic term starting January 2021 and updates on the upcoming final examinations. It is important that you read through the details.

Mode of instruction for Academic Term starting January 2021

2. At this point, MOE guidelines allow sections with enrolment of up to 50 (inclusive of instructor and TA, if any) to be held fully on campus. Given that that majority of our classes are below this size, as a default, our classes will be conducted face-to-face on campus. For the small number of sections with enrolment exceeding the safe capacity of their allocated room, and sections with enrolment exceeding 50, instructors will be given the option of holding the lessons fully online or in mixed mode. All other sections will be held fully on campus, except the sections pre-identified to support the Virtual Student Exchange programme, and no options will be made available for attending lessons remotely, although instructors may incorporate some online components in their teaching for a more blended learning experience.
3. The Singapore Multi-Ministry Taskforce has announced that cluster sizes may be enlarged from 5 to 8 when Singapore moves into Phase 3 post-circuit breaker. This will increase the safe capacities of our seminar rooms. If the safety guidelines are relaxed between now and the start of Term 2, we will bring more classes back on campus. If the safe management measures are relaxed after the start of the term, we may request that the instructors of fully online or mixed mode classes revert these classes to fully on-campus with a few weeks' notice. Given the emergence of Singapore into Phase 3, we will be periodically reviewing our mode of learning in order to optimise teaching and learning for instructors and students. As such, we seek your cooperation to always take guidance from the instructors with regard to the mode of learning for your respective courses.

4. In view that the majority of our classes will be conducted face-to-face on campus with no provision for online classes, international students who are currently not in Singapore are advised to make travel plans to arrive in Singapore before the start of term on 11 January 2021. Please refer to the advisory titled 'Updates on SHN and subsidies' dated 7 Oct 2020 for important information on subsidies.

Final Examinations

5. With the final exams for the current term scheduled in a few weeks, I would also like to share more on the mode of exams for students. Student who are in Singapore are expected to take scheduled exams on campus, which will be conducted in accordance with safe distancing measures. Only students who are unable to take the exams on campus due to special circumstances such as SHN or QO, and students who are overseas will be allowed to take exams remotely. For exams that are taken remotely, RO will arrange invigilators to assist with the proctoring. We will require all students taking remote exams to prepare a second device to connect to a web-conference so that monitoring of their exam conduct can be enforced. This will also allow flexibility in terms of the platform being used for the exam. RO/eLearn Team will be sharing more information closer to the final exams.

Extended Operating Hours at SMU Libraries

6. We will be extending the operating hours at the SMU Libraries over the final weeks of the term.

5 November 2020 to 15 November 2020

- Li Ka Shing Library (including Learning Commons):
Mon to Fri: 8 am to 12 midnight
Sat: 10 am to 9 pm
Sun: 1 pm to 9 pm
- Kwa Geok Choo Library (including Learning Commons):
Mon to Fri: 8 am to 10 pm
Sat: 10 am to 9 pm
Sun: 1 pm to 9 pm

16 November 2020 to 4 December 2020

- Li Ka Shing Library (including Learning Commons):
Mon to Fri: 8 am to 12 midnight
Sat: 10 am to 12 midnight
Sun: 1 pm to 12 midnight
- Kwa Geok Choo Library (including Learning Commons):
Mon to Fri: 8 am to 12 midnight

Sat: 10 am to 12 midnight
Sun: 1 pm to 12 midnight

7. We are in discussions with MOE to explore further extension of the operating hours at the SMU Libraries, in particular the Learning Commons.

Overseas Travel

8. With the end-of-term break coming up, we understand some students may be making travel plans for a vacation or back to their home countries in the case of international students. We would like to remind you that cross-border regulations are subject to changes. Please ensure that you return safely in time for the academic term, which starts on 11 January 2021.
9. Hope the term ends well for all of you and every success in your exams!

Kindest regards

Timothy Clark
Provost