

PROVOST'S MESSAGE



Dear students,

1. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy new year. I would like to welcome everyone back to SMU for Term 2. For new students commencing your academic studies in this January term, a warm welcome to you as well.

Information on instruction starting from 11 January 2021

2. Singapore has now entered into Phase 3 post-circuit breaker and the following is a summary of the measures based on the latest advisory received from the Ministry of Education earlier this week:
 - With increased student campus footfall limits, all students will be able to access campus buildings using your student passes. There is no need for cohortisation and day passes.
 - Within each class, a separation of at least 1m must be observed for each group of 8 students.
 - Default to face-to-face classes on campus with no provision for online classes (as per my email dated 4 Nov 2020). Exceptions have been made as follows:
 - 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, in mixed mode, or fully in-person with the adherence to additional zoning measures which include cohorting, partitioning (e.g. physical distance of 3m) and staggered or planned ingress/egress from the room etc.
 - Students who have applied to enter Singapore (and to serve SHN where applicable) in time for start of Term 2, but whose applications are yet to be approved by the authorities, or have been approved but pending arrival & SHN in Singapore, or have recently arrived in Singapore but serving SHN currently.
 - Students affected by other travel restrictions (e.g. between the United Kingdom and Singapore).

The respective programme offices have reached out to the affected students in (b) and (c) above.

3. We are in active discussions with MOE to determine alternative approaches to the conduct of classes with more than 50 persons on campus. More information will be provided upon the completion of these discussions.
4. Safe management measures involving safe distancing, wearing of masks, SafeEntry, encouraging the use of TraceTogether app/tokens, etc. continue to apply.
5. All users of the campus should take note of and adhere to the safe distancing markers in the instructional venues and on campus in general.
6. Please note that Instructors have been asked to note the seating arrangements in class by taking a photo at each lesson to facilitate contact tracing should the need arise.

Travel Restriction for Students

7. Overseas activities e.g. exchange programmes and internships continue to be suspended at the moment. Programmes that have a shorter planning horizon (e.g. overseas internships or course projects) also remain suspended until further notice. As advised by MOE, programmes that are at least a year long and part of the curriculum and/or graduation requirements, such as the SMU-CMU Fast-Track Programme or the SMU-UCL Integrated Programme, may proceed as planned.
8. In view of the uncertainty and volatility of the COVID-19 pandemic leading to international travel restrictions, overseas travel is strongly discouraged. We will write to inform everyone when the situation improves significantly, and the authorities have relaxed the measures on our travel activities.
9. All the best for a successful and fulfilling term ahead.

Kindest regards

Timothy Clark
Provost