

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN, POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES



Dear SMU Postgraduate Research Students,

In view of the [announcement](#) made by the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on Friday 14 May on the tightening of safe management measures from 16 May 2021 to 13 June 2021, the University will like to update you on the following arrangements, which will be effective 17 May 2021.

1. **Classes & Exams:** Classes are generally small, which allow for physical classes to be taught within the new safe management measures. Where Postgraduate Research (PGR) programme exams have been scheduled, they will continue as planned with in-person exams on campus as the safe management measures in place more than exceed the new guidelines. Please attend the exams as scheduled unless you have a valid reason (for example, you are feeling unwell and have been given a medical certificate or have been issued health orders by relevant orders), in which case a makeup exam will be given at a later date. Students are to be mindful of an evolving situation and should be prepared, if required, to move to online alternatives for both classes and exams between now and end of June.
2. **Milestone-based Assessments:** These refer to PhD Qualifying Exams (presentation or in-person written components) and Master thesis or PhD dissertation defences (proposal or final). Such sessions, which are generally small, would similarly be continued on campus. Open-door sessions for final thesis/dissertation defences or pre-conference talks should be conducted online.
3. **Student Services:** Please note that all student services provided by ODOS units (including Mrs Wong Kwok Leong Student Wellness Centre and Student Services Hub) will be offered online where appropriate.
4. **Work Arrangement for PGR Students:** For selected groups of PGR students who are working on campus as part of their scholarship requirements, they should work from home during this period. The University is mindful that there may be a need for these students to return to the campus from time to time because the work cannot be done from home or

virtually. This should be done judiciously with approval by the Supervisor or Programme Director, and be guided by the broad need to:

- (i) complete research milestones to meet graduation requirements (as indicated under point 2) or grants/donation obligations;
- (ii) perform key functions (e.g. teaching support, graduate assistantship duties, etc.); or
- (iii) access specialised research systems/equipment that are not accessible from home.

5. For students coming to campus, kindly observe the following **safe management measures**:

- a. Wearing of masks while on campus;
- b. Minimising physical contact and practising safe distancing;
- c. Social gatherings and dining-in at food and beverage outlets on campus are disallowed. Only takeaway food and beverage can be sold. Meals breaks can be taken on campus individually or at most with one other person, in line with the community rules;
- d. Temperature screening (thermal scanners are installed at every building) and Safe Entry check-in via TraceTogether app or token when entering buildings;
- e. Students who are feeling unwell are advised to seek medical treatment and refrain from coming onto campus; and
- f. Cooperating with the Safe Management Officers, who will continue to patrol the campus to ensure adherence to safe management measures.

6. We make these changes to ensure your health and safety, which are of paramount importance to the University. I wish you the very best for your upcoming courses and exams.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

**Professor WANG Heli**  
**Dean, Postgraduate Research Programmes**  
**Janice Bellace Professor of Strategic Management**  
**Singapore Management University**