



## PROVOST'S MESSAGE



Dear students

We are entering the final weeks of the term, and have also recently crossed the one-year mark since Covid-19 forced Singapore into a circuit breaker. I very much hope that you have kept safe and stayed healthy during this time. Singapore has emerged well from the circuit breaker, with only a small number of community cases being reported a week. The government's vaccination plans are also proceeding smoothly. Unfortunately, the situation is not the same in many other places in the world. Some countries continue to report thousands of new cases a day as new waves emerge.

### **Continued suspension of university-sanctioned travel for students**

In my message to you on 16 September 2020, I informed you that the University had taken the very difficult decision to extend the suspension of all exchange programmes until at least end of April 2021, in line with MOE's guideline to "continue to suspend overseas exchanges that are shorter than one year, to all countries". Over the past few weeks, we have been in active consultation with MOE and our partner universities. Given the high level of uncertainty with new waves emerging and border control measures imposed with little or no notice, as well as taking into consideration the availability of partner universities, the University has decided to continue with the suspension of all university-sanctioned travel for students until further notice.

#### Outbound exchange

Therefore, all in-person overseas exchange programmes and other short-term overseas programmes (including community service projects, internships and international segments of programmes, etc.) will continue to remain suspended. Specifically, all in-person ISEP and self-arranged external study programmes for Term 1 AY2020/21 will be suspended. Other forms of university-sanctioned overseas travel e.g. conferences, research seminars etc. also remain suspended until the situation improves significantly and the authorities have relaxed the measures on our travel activities.

Inbound exchange

The University has been receiving requests from partner universities to resume inbound exchange for their students. In consultation with MOE who in principle has no issues with resuming inbound exchange programmes, the authorities would assist to facilitate the entry of the students into Singapore. Hence inbound exchange may be resumed (pending ongoing discussions with the partner universities) though there will be no reciprocal outbound exchange until the travel restrictions have been lifted by MOE and the University may resume SMU-sanctioned travel for students.

**New global exposure framework**

The University is steadfast in our belief that our students will benefit greatly from gaining global perspectives. The global exposure graduation requirement will remain, and we will be introducing a new framework for students to develop these global exposure learning outcomes even without physical travel. In this new framework, three categories of Global Exposure activities have been established as follows:

Category A	Category B	Category C
Immersive overseas activity with physical travel. Examples: - ISEP - SMU-XO - OSM - OCSP - Overseas internships	Remote activity involving considerable two- or multi-way engagement, conducted over at least a few days per activity. Examples: - Virtual Student Exchange* - Collaborative Online International Learning* - Virtual SMU-XO* - Virtual Overseas Study Mission* - Virtual Overseas Community Service Programme* - Overseas Virtual Internship Programme* - SMU Global Summer Programme - Ishikawa Japanese Studies Online Program - SIGMA Global Virtual Course	Individual remote activity with limited two- or multi-way engagement, or which may be completed in a single sitting/day. Examples: - Country Immersion Modules (on eLearn) - Ambassador-series talks - Workshops at Diverse-City

Students may fulfil the global exposure graduation requirement by completing either:

- 1 Category A activity (*currently not permitted*); or
- 2 Category B activities; or
- 1 Category B activity and 1 Category C activity; or
- 6 Category C activities

Category B activities marked with an asterisk (\*) already incorporate Category C elements and students who successfully complete these activities will be considered as having met the global exposure graduation requirement.

The Schools and Offices are getting the various activities ready and more information on the activities under this new global exposure framework will be shared within the next few weeks. For example, the first set of Country Immersion Modules will be launched during the upcoming summer vacation period.

Some students have indicated interest in pursuing virtual summer programmes. All self-arranged external study applications may be made to your Schools and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. There is a higher chance of approval for programmes organised by leading universities (e.g. Top 100 in QS World University Ranking). Do note that successful applicants will be required to pay a non-refundable administrative fee of S\$214 (inclusive of GST) before embarking on the self-arranged external study programme.

### **Travelling over the summer vacation**

With the end-of-term break coming up, we understand some students may be making travel plans to return to their home countries. We would like to remind students that cross-border regulations are subject to changes and may be imposed with little to no notice, for example new restrictions have been placed on travellers from India earlier this week. Students who are travelling to Singapore will also need to submit applications to seek entry into Singapore. Please note that [the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority has introduced a new application process](#). Students are reminded to make travel plans early, so as to arrive in Singapore in good time for classes in Term 1. All classes will be conducted on-campus only, and no arrangements will be made for remote online teaching/learning. In your travel plans, please take into consideration possible delays due to entry approval, flights availability and SHN (and additional 7 days enforced leave after SHN, where applicable). Please note that SMU will not be reimbursing any expenses associated with travel, entry to Singapore, SHN/QO (Quarantine Order), etc. Measures on SHN/QO, vaccination, etc. are governed by national policies, which are strictly enforced. Please check ICA's website for more information.

For students who have been allocated ISEP placement for Term 1 AY2021/22, International Office will be writing to you shortly with more information. If you have further questions, please contact [isep.outbound@smu.edu.sg](mailto:isep.outbound@smu.edu.sg) or [provost@smu.edu.sg](mailto:provost@smu.edu.sg). I wish you all the best for the final exams.

Kindest regards

Timothy Clark  
Provost