



## PROVOST'S MESSAGE



Dear Students

Following my message to you on 15 May on the class arrangements between 17 May and 13 June, I am writing to share with you the plans for the remainder of the summer, up to the start of the new Academic Year in August 2021:

- 1. Postgraduate Professional Programme Classes and Exams:** Postgraduate professional programme classes will continue to be taught online until the end of current PG terms (July/August as appropriate). Where postgraduate professional programme exams have been scheduled, they will continue as planned on campus, as the safe management measures presently in place more than exceed the prevailing national safety guidelines. Please attend the exams as scheduled unless you have a valid reason not to do so (for example, you are feeling unwell and have been given a medical certificate or have been issued health orders by relevant authorities etc.), in which case a makeup exam will be arranged at a later date.
- 2. Undergraduate Classes and Exams:** Teaching and continuous assessment of all undergraduate classes, including those for Modified Term 2, Term 3A and Term 3B will be conducted online. As the safe management measures presently in place more than exceed the prevailing national safety guidelines, undergraduate exams will continue as planned on campus. Students should attend the exams as scheduled unless they have a valid reason not to do so. Students who are feeling unwell and have been issued a medical certificate should not attend the exam and should instead take the exam when the course is next conducted. Students who miss exams with a valid medical certificate and are in their final term of study should inform their Schools and instructors so that alternative arrangements can be made. Similarly, students who have been issued health orders (e.g. Quarantine Order, Covid-19-related Leave of Absence) from relevant authorities should inform their Schools and instructors so that alternative arrangements can be catered.

3. **Contingency Planning for Exams:** In the event that the situation evolves rapidly, with further tightening of the existing measures, remote online exams or home-based assessments will be conducted. Your instructors will inform you of these arrangements should these be activated.

4. **Plans for new Academic Year:** We will confirm the teaching and assessment plans of the new Academic Year by early July, after consultation with the Ministry of Education and in line with prevailing safe management measures.

5. **Overseas Travel**

(i) **Entry Approval:** In view of the tightened border measures for travellers with recent travel history to higher risk countries/regions, the Ministry of Education is strongly encouraging students who are currently in Singapore to remain in Singapore as far as possible. Those who travel overseas must obtain entry approval via the [SafeTravel application portal](#) before they can return to Singapore. Students who are unable to find an entry date in the portal will have to defer their return to Singapore until the next available date. During this period of heightened alert, MOE has advised us that students travelling from higher risk countries/regions may not be able to readily secure entry approvals to travel to Singapore.

(ii) **Border/Health Control Measures:** Border/health control measures may change at short notice, depending on the COVID-19 situation abroad and the assessed risk of importation from arriving travellers. Students should note that even travellers with prior entry approval may have their approvals rescinded according to the prevailing COVID-19 situation. Students wishing to travel for personal reasons should make an informed decision and bear the risks accordingly (e.g. entry approval process, associated travel quarantine, medical costs).

6. I understand these developments may have affected your travel plans and some of you may also be experiencing worry and anxiety for family and friends in your home countries. I want to make sure that, in this extraordinarily demanding and stressful time, you are taking care of yourself, specifically as it relates to your emotional well-being. To help all students navigate the days ahead, I would like to share with you the following resources:

(i) Support for Emotional Wellbeing

The Mrs Wong Kwok Leong Student Wellness Centre offers professional counselling and other support services and programmes that promote intellectual and emotional wellbeing. Apart from counselling, crisis intervention and medical referrals, the Wellness Centre offers a series of workshops and seminars aimed at imparting useful skills and resources to cope with personal anxieties. All students are welcome to sign up for these useful workshops and seminars. The Wellness Centre is committed to helping students secure a counselling appointment at the soonest available opportunity. For urgent appointments, please inform the staff accordingly so that arrangements for immediate care can be made. Please visit this link to book an appointment or to learn more: <https://www.smu.edu.sg/campus-life/student-wellness/make-an-appointment>.

(ii) Assistance/Advice on Academic Matters

If you would like to seek assistance/advice on academic matters or for the application of Leave of Absence, please contact your respective School offices.

Thank you and please continue to stay safe and well.

Kindest regards

Timothy Clark  
Provost