



MESSAGE FROM VICE PROVOST (EDUCATION)



Dear students

I hope you are all staying safe and found time to recharge over the past few weeks as we gear up for the new academic year which commences in August 2021.

Instructional plan between now and 5 September 2021

In recent weeks, SMU has been in active discussions with Ministry of Education regarding our instructional plans for the weeks ahead. We were planning for a resumption of on-campus classes but were not able to implement the plan in light of the new clusters of Covid-19 cases emerging across Singapore.

Earlier this week, the Singapore Multi-Ministry Task Force announced the reinstatement of Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) safe management measures from 22 July 2021 to 18 August 2021. Key measures that affect our ability to resume on-campus instruction include the permissible group sizes in classrooms, as well as dine-in restrictions at food and beverage outlets on campus. In addition, some international students have not been able to obtain entry approvals to enter Singapore because of the prevailing border restrictions.

With these factors in mind, **the University will conduct all Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate Professional (PGP) classes online between now and at least 5 September 2021.** We hope to revert to on-campus face-to-face classes from 6 September 2021 onwards, at least for classes involving no more than 50 persons, including instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s). However, considering the fluidity of the Covid-19 situation and for the continued safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff, I will write to you again in mid-August to provide an update on these plans.

Plans for examinations

Final exams at the end of the semester will continue as planned with in-person exams on campus, given that the safe management measures we have put in place exceed the new safety guidelines.

[For PGP students] 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 with health orders by the relevant authorities or international students who are unable to enter Singapore etc.), in which case a makeup exam will be arranged at a later date.

[For UG students] The usual exam policies will apply. Students who have been issued health orders from the relevant authorities (e.g. Quarantine Order, Covid-19-related Leave of Absence) and international students who are unable to enter Singapore are expected to inform their Schools and instructors so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Although classes will be conducted online, students will be allowed to enter the campus and libraries. For your safety and well-being, please continue to observe all safe management measures, which include safe distancing, wearing of masks at all times and the use of TraceTogether. If you are unwell, please be socially responsible and see a doctor immediately.

Support for international students

The University is committed to providing support for international students. We are aware that there are a number of students who are still unable to obtain entry approval to travel to Singapore at the moment. Some students will also be required to serve Stay Home Notice or Leave of Absence upon arrival in Singapore. **Hence, should classes revert to on-campus instruction after 5 September 2021, we will continue to make provisions to ensure you can continue to receive instruction.** These provisions may include class recordings, selected online classes for UG freshmen, and online assessments. More information about these provisions will be provided at a later date.

Meanwhile, I encourage students who are able to secure entry approval to Singapore to make arrangements to travel to Singapore as soon as you can. You may find the information available [at this link](#) useful.

Thank you and please continue to stay safe and well.

Best regards,
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