



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN, POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES



Dear PGR Students,

On 9 September 2021, in view of the tightened national advisories which disallowed social gatherings and interactions at workplaces and the rising number of Covid-19 cases in Singapore, I announced that PGR students will be informed by your instructor should there be a change in the mode of instruction between 13 September to 10 October 2021. I understand that a number of PGR classes had since been held online during the prescribed period.

The number of Covid-19 cases has continued to rise and placed increasing demand on the national healthcare system. Nationwide safe management measures have been tightened, resulting in the further shrinking of the safe capacities of our instructional rooms. Consequently, a large majority of our instructional rooms are not permitted to hold more than 30 students under the prevailing measures. In addition, the group size limit for dining-in at F&B outlets of two vaccinated people means that we have limited capacity on campus for people to dine in.

Instructional Plans (11 October 2021 to the end of the current term)

As a result of these measures and to provide greater certainty on instructional plans, **we will conduct all classes online by default for the remainder of the current term for all PGR programmes.** Milestone-based assessments (such as PhD Qualifying Exams and proposal/final defences) for PGRP students will similarly be conducted online.

Under certain circumstances, a small number of classes may be conducted on campus depending on the nature and enrolment size of the course. In such cases, your instructor or School/programme office will inform you of the mode of instruction ahead of time, as well as the provisions being made for students who are not able to attend classes on campus. Faculty will ensure that students have equitable access to classes, materials and assessments.

Final Exams

We are closely monitoring the outbreak situation and are in discussion with various agencies and offices on the conduct of the final examinations. While our intention remains to hold final exams on campus, we want to ensure we put in place measures to ensure the safety of the SMU community. My office will write to you again soon with detailed plans regarding the final exams.

For your information, all SMU employees are required to test negative for Covid-19 via an ART self-test before they return to campus. We will continue to do our best to ensure the safety of our community.

We intend to bring most, if not all, classes back on campus starting January 2022. I will write to you again to provide an update on the plans in December. Thank you for your forbearance and patience.

Yours sincerely,

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