



Office of  
Postgraduate Research  
Programmes

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN, POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES



Dear PGR students,

As communicated earlier in my email dated 8 Oct 2021, I am now writing to you to apprise you of the plans for the final examinations.

### **Default mode applicable to PGR programmes**

The default mode for PGR exams will be in-person on campus. The on campus exams will be conducted with safe management measures exceeding the prevailing guidelines provided by the relevant authorities. In addition to ensuring each exam venue contains no more than 50 people and safe distancing of at least one-metre between individuals, all SMU faculty, staff and exam invigilators are allowed to be present on campus only after submitting proof of negative ART results.

### **ART requirement for final exams on campus**

All students who are taking final exams on campus are also required to take an ART prior to returning to campus for final exams. You should take the test and submit your test results 24 to 48 hours before your first exam through this webpage: <https://smu.sg/ART2021T1>. Each test is valid for 7 days and students who have exams spanning more than 7 days should test again and submit the second test result using the same webpage. Each submission should include a digital photo of the ART result taken together with your student matriculation card.

Upon submission of your ART result, you will receive an acknowledgment email that has to be presented to the Invigilators / Staff / Security Officers on duty upon request. Backend checks will also be conducted and disciplinary action may be taken against students who did not submit their ART results before attending on-campus exams and for tampering of ART results.

In the event that you test positive, please submit your results and inform the following offices immediately for them to reach out to you. You should not travel to campus if your ART result is positive.

- a. Your Graduate Programme Office (GPO)
- b. Office of Safety & Security via [oss@smu.edu.sg](mailto:oss@smu.edu.sg)

Separately, students who are on Health Risk Warning (HRW) orders must follow the HRW protocols: Isolate and not leave home unless you have a negative ART within the last 24 hours. Therefore, students on HRW can either take their exam remotely at home or in-person on campus with a negative ART result within the last 24 hours. If you are on a HRW and test positive, a make-up exam will be arranged for you.

### **Issuance of ART test kits for students taking final exams on campus**

You may test using ART kits that you procure on your own, but the University has also procured sufficient ART kits for those taking final exams on campus. If you have a final exam on campus, you may collect 2 ART kits from vending machines deployed across campus (Level 1 of Li Ka Shing Library and all School buildings), starting from 5 November 2021. Please refer to the following instructions on the collection of ART kits:

- a. Scan your student matriculation card using the scanner on the machine OR key in your campus student ID using the keyboard available on the machine
- b. The machine will dispense 1 ART kit
- c. Repeat step (a) for the second ART kit

In the event that the machine is unable to dispense your ART Kit, please contact OCIS Facilities Management at 6828 0343 for assistance. Please note that it is a punishable offence to use someone else's credentials without authorisation and this applies to the collection of these ART kits.

### **Provision of remote online examinations**

I am aware that the following groups of students would not be able to come to campus for their exams and hence remote online examinations or alternative assessment will be arranged for these students. Please contact your respective GPOs for further instructions.

1. Students with chronic medical conditions that put them at higher risk of infection and severe illness (with doctor certification)
2. International students who are in their home countries and have valid reasons for not being able to come to Singapore
3. Students who test positive for COVID-19 or are issued Health Risk Warning orders

Subject to authorised exceptions, instructors may offer remote online examinations or alternative assessment for your course. Please refer to instructions from your respective GPO.

### **Adherence to safe management measures**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students that the implementation of safe management measures are to protect the well-being of our SMU community through mitigating the risk of COVID-19 transmission. We seek the cooperation of all students to do their part in adhering to the measures to create a safe environment for all. Disciplinary action will be taken against students who do not comply with the safe management measures.

## **Instructional plan for January 2022 Term**

The University has been in active discussions with MOE on our instructional plans, and MOE is supportive of SMU reverting to on-campus instruction from January 2022. We are pleased to note the relaxation of national border restrictions, which allows SMU students to return to Singapore for classes. We expect to bring instruction back on campus for the January 2022 term, with no further online provisions made for these classes. Therefore, I urge students who are currently overseas to start planning early for your travel to Singapore. I will write again in a few weeks to share more about the plans for the January 2022 Term.

Thank you for being patient and adapting along with us. All the best to you in your final assessments!

Yours sincerely,

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