



Office of
Postgraduate Research
Programmes

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN, POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES



Dear PGR Students,

With effect from 15 March 2022, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce has streamlined the national Safe Management Measures (SMMs). In particular:

- (a) A one-metre safe distance is no longer required in mask-on settings;
- (b) The cap of 50 persons per class is lifted; and
- (c) All mask-on classes, lectures and exams can be conducted without any zoning, as long as these are conducted in accordance with national capacity limits (1,000 or more depending on venue capacity).

In light of these updates to the SMMs, we will update our campus teaching and exams safety measures as follows:

Instructional Plans

- Current restrictions on class sizes and safe distancing in classes will be lifted **from 28 March 2022 onwards**, as long as the classes are conducted with masks on. This means that we will no longer restrict classes to a cap of 50 persons and will no longer block seats in the seminar rooms.
- Students who contract COVID-19, or are symptomatic, and cannot attend classes on campus should approach your instructors to seek alternative arrangements.

Exams and Milestone-based Assessments

- Exams for the current term will take place on campus by default, with no requirement to restrict each exam venue to a cap of 50 persons.
- Milestone-based assessments (e.g., PhD Qualifying Exams and Master thesis or PhD dissertation proposal and final defences) will be conducted following the same arrangement as exams. Open-door sessions for final thesis/dissertation defences can take place on campus and external attendees will be subject to Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS)¹.
- There will be no requirement for faculty, staff and students to conduct ART self-tests before they attend exams or milestone-based assessments on campus, except in cases where they are under a national health order (e.g. Health Risk Notice). We also urge all students who have been in close contact with a COVID-positive person, or are experiencing COVID symptoms to conduct ART self-tests for the safety of the community.
- For students who cannot attend exams on campus for health reasons, the following will apply:

Scenario	Student to provide:	Arrangements
Student not feeling well (COVID or otherwise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medical certificate - Proof of positive ART or PCR test conducted under supervised conditions 	Make-up exams
Student feeling well but tests positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proof of positive ART or PCR test conducted under supervised conditions 	<p><i>At least 24 hours' notice:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote online exams <p><i>Less than 24 hours' notice:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make-up exams

- Students who show proof of a positive ART or PCR test conducted under supervised conditions and provide at least 24 hours' notice may request for remote online exams. They will be accorded such arrangements for up to 7 days, but may return to campus for on-campus exams during this period if they test negative at least 72 hours after the time of their positive test. In accordance with current MOH rules, students do not need to submit proof of a negative test, but they will need to inform their Programme so that arrangements for their on-campus exams may be made.

¹All visitors entering SMU campus will need to be vaccinated, medically ineligible for vaccination, or have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 180 days. Entry checks shall be put in place at all access control points to identify and turn away individuals who are not in the three above-mentioned categories.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. We wish you all the best for the remaining few weeks of the term and hope you have a very fulfilling summer ahead!

Yours Sincerely,

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