



MESSAGE FROM VICE PROVOST (EDUCATION)



Dear Students,

I hope you had a good break and are geared up for the new academic year. It is wonderful to see all the activities taking place on our campus in-person, such as Freshmen Orientation, after a long hiatus. Student exchanges, overseas study missions, as well as overseas community service have also resumed.

To students who have just joined us, a very warm welcome to you! We invite you to take full advantage of the opportunities that SMU provides for a holistic development.

Wearing of face masks in class

While in the classroom, please be reminded that the wearing of face masks is mandatory. You are permitted to remove your mask only for a quick drink of water. Food should not be consumed in the classroom. Your instructors will also be required to wear face masks. They may wear a face shield in place of a face mask if they have a health condition that presents breathing difficulties, or if they maintain a sufficient safe distance from students for the duration of a class.

Steps to take if you feel unwell

If you feel unwell at any point and have COVID-19 symptoms, you should take an ART test prior to coming to campus. If your test result is positive, please isolate immediately, follow the [prevailing national protocols](#) and inform your instructors as well as the Office of Safety & Security (oss@smu.edu.sg).

Your absence will be treated the same as any absence due to illness and should be supported by a Medical Certificate (MC) or a certified supervised ART test result. For information on how you can get a supervised ART test at a test centre, please click [here](#). Alternatively, you may choose to have your test conducted via teleconsultation with a doctor. For a list of clinics that provide this service, please click [here](#). Please note that instruction will be conducted in-person this term and there will be no live streaming of classes.

Plans for final examinations

The final exams this term will be on campus and in-person and there are no plans to provide remote online exams. We urge students not to travel in the weeks leading up to the final exams, given that changes to border restrictions may still be unpredictable and there may be unforeseen delays to your return.

Students with plans to go to China after the final exams may be required by the Chinese authorities to self-quarantine in Singapore for at least a week prior to departure. Such students should plan their departure for China well after the final exams are over, so that they do not find themselves in a situation where they have to go into quarantine and miss an exam.

Thank you for demonstrating such fortitude and resilience in the last two years, and for your support navigating the pandemic situation with us. Stay well and I wish you a fun and rewarding academic year ahead!

Best regards,

Professor Venky Shankararaman
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