

Commencement of Spring Term 2020-21

Thursday, Jan 28, 2021, 17:20PM

Dear Members of the University community,

Spring classes will commence on Monday, 1 February 2021. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the Spring Term 2020-21. At the start of the new term, I am writing to wish you all the best and provide a few important reminders.

Academic Arrangements

As stated in my previous email dated 13 November 2020, on the subject of *Academic arrangements for the Winter and Spring Terms 2020-21*, the class arrangements for the Spring will be almost identical to those in the Fall. During the add/drop period (1 to 17 February), all classes will be held in real-time online mode. Afterwards, when the situation allows, those classes that satisfy certain criteria will be held in mixed-mode while observing the social distancing measures and other relevant guidelines. For more details, please refer to <https://covid19info.ust.hk/teaching-arrangement-spring-term-202021>

Access to Research Facilities and Laboratories

Faculty members and laboratory supervisors should restrict laboratory operations to time-critical work only, and follow restriction and prevention measures contained in the [announcement dated 30 March 2020](#). Undergraduate students taking lab courses should contact the relevant instructors if they need any clarification.

Preventive Measures in Using On-campus Facilities and Catering Services

While our beautiful campus is not as busy and bustling as in the past, there are currently over 3,000 students in residence on campus, and several thousand others have been visiting daily. The population density might increase when the term begins. Hence, a kind reminder to all members to please be vigilant in observing the relevant preventive measures while using the different on-campus facilities--not just classrooms, but also laboratories, Library, and other spaces. More details are provided at <https://covid19info.ust.hk/campus-facilities>. Please also remember that under the existing restrictions imposed by the government, the on-campus catering services cannot provide dine-in service from 6pm to 4:59am, and a maximum of 2 people are allowed per table.

Social Connections Despite Social Distancing

We have all been challenged with the strict social distancing regulations in place for a full year now. It has been exhausting and many members of our community may feel alone and disconnected from others. Following some initiatives started in the Fall, the Dean of Students' Office, the Center for Language Education, and the Schools, IPO, Departments, and Divisions will organize different kinds of virtual extracurricular and social gathering activities. Let's all join these activities, reach out to each other, and help ourselves by just connecting with others.

I wish you all a rewarding Spring term. Take care!

Best,

Prof. Anirban Mukhopadhyay
Associate Provost (Teaching & Learning)

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Enquiries:

Student records, registration, examinations and graduation:

ARO <https://arr.ust.hk/reg/index.html>

Specific programs and courses including laboratory courses:

Respective Schools/Departments and Program Directors

Student Housing: SHRLO shrloinfo@ust.hk

<https://covid19info.ust.hk/faq-student-housing>

Quarantine Arrangements: <https://covid19info.ust.hk/quarantine-arrangements>

Campus Health and Safety: HSEO safety@ust.hk

Counseling and Wellness Center, DSTO: <https://counsel.ust.hk/>