

Commencement of Spring Term 2022-23

Tuesday, 31 January 2023

Dear Members of the University community,

Happy Year of the Rabbit, and welcome back! As we begin the Spring Term, there is nothing better than seeing our members back on campus, learning together, and engaging with each other. We are also very excited to see that the community continues to return to normalcy according to the latest government announcement. Following the government's arrangements, the University will relax our anti-epidemic measures accordingly, with operation and practices returning to pre-pandemic normal. More details are available at [Return to Normalcy | COVID-19 Info@HKUST](#). We are writing to provide a few important reminders:

Academic Arrangements

As stated in [our email before \(29 November 2022\)](#), all the courses, including undergraduate (UG) and research postgraduate (RPg) levels, will be continuously offered in regular face-to-face (f2f) teaching mode. Proctored examinations including mid-terms, if needed, will be held on campus. Taught postgraduate programs may make their own arrangements, (i.e., f2f or mixed-mode/mixed-mode lite).

Contingency Plan for Class Arrangements

If an instructor holding f2f classes has tested positive for COVID-19 and **has developed obvious symptoms** (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting and diarrhea), then classes in the following week will either be online or alternative arrangements (e.g., make-up classes, etc.) will be made.

If a student has tested positive and **has developed obvious symptoms**, he/she should not return to campus and should seek medical attention as soon as possible. There will be no change in the class arrangements of the f2f class(es) he/she had attended given the low risk of attending class while wearing a mask.

RVC Recordings

All UG and RPg classes will do RVC recordings by default for the whole Spring Term with some exceptions. Instructors have the discretion to release the recordings for students in need. For instance, infected students with symptoms should provide valid medical proof to their instructors for the RVC recordings and/or alternative arrangements for any short-term absences from class. However, viewing class recordings is not a substitute for attendance. Students should not expect to get "attendance" credit by viewing recordings.

Illness or Other Circumstances Affecting Assessment (Academic Regulations: UG Regulation 7.5; PG Regulation 7.4)

The University will not accept any results from COVID-19 Nucleic Acid Tests / Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) alone as valid documentary proof for students to apply for any make-up examinations including mid-terms. If students wish the University to take into account illness or some other

extenuating circumstances that have affected their performance in an examination, or ability to attend an examination, or to complete other assessment activities, the normal procedures at <https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/extenuating-circumstances-affecting-assessment> should be observed.

This has been a long-awaited moment as many of the f2f activities and events will be resumed gradually, you are encouraged to participate actively and enjoy our campus life to the fullest, at the same time, remain vigilant and observe personal hygiene and government's mask-wearing requirement.

We wish you all a rewarding Spring Term.

Best regards,

Yike Guo, Provost
TC Pong, Vice-President for Administration & Business
Jimmy Fung, Associate Provost (Teaching & Learning)