Updates on Class Arrangements for Fall 2020/21
Updated: July 14, 2020. This page will be updated as needed based on the latest situation.

Dear Students,

We hope you are keeping well. Our email to all HKUST members dated 29 May 2020 announced that the Fall term will commence on 7 September with real-time online classes for the first two weeks (i.e., during the Add/Drop period) before switching to mainly face-to-face ("f2f") classes starting from 21 September 2020 while some TPG programs may have other arrangements.

In light of the current pandemic situation and restrictions on international travel, _some returning or new students who are still abroad may not be able to come to Hong Kong for the whole Fall term._ Moreover, as the situation in Hong Kong can evolve within a short period of time_, the University has planned ahead for multiple contingency plans so that we can respond to sudden changes in a timely manner_. Meanwhile, we still plan to start the Fall term with the first two weeks of real-time online followed by mostly f2f classes, and we have special teaching arrangements to help facilitate social distancing and students who cannot come to HKUST for the whole Fall Term.

To support students who cannot come to HK, these special teaching arrangements will be made:
1. ALL Large classes and some sections of every multi-section class will adopt real-time online mode for the whole Fall term and will be marked as such in the course schedule. [The preliminary class schedule and modes of offering can be found _here_.]
2. ALL Classes will be video-recorded and the recordings will be made available to enrolled students.
3. When feasible, f2f classes will also use video-conferencing tools (such as Zoom or Teams) to enable students joining remotely in real-time to watch the lectures, even though they may not be able to participate in in-class activities.
4. Online proctored exams will be arranged for students who are not in Hong Kong.

So if you CANNOT come to HK in Fall 2020, what is to be expected?

- **New UG students:** We hope you can come to Hong Kong. If not, we will help you to register for the needed courses for your first term at HKUST. We expect that all courses specifically for first-year students will have online sections.
- **Year 2 and 3 UG students:** You may not be able to take all your desired courses. However, we will provide you with some online courses and/or help you to register for some f2f courses via recording so that you can take at least 12 credits and therefore will not waste the whole term.
- **Final Year UG students:** If you are on track to graduate by the end of 2020-21, we will help you to take the needed online courses or specific f2f courses via recording in Fall so that you will still be on track to graduate on time under the assumption that you could come back to campus in the Spring Term 2020-21.
- **All Students:** You are urged to contact responsible offices (see contact points below) as soon as possible to work out your study plan and course registration process.

Returning UGs	UG Coordinator of Major Program or School Office (for those without a major)
New UGs	Office of the School or Department
RPG	Thesis Supervisor or PG Coordinator
TPG	Office or Director of the TPG Program

We hope that these measures will help us face the current challenges together and look forward to welcoming you back to the campus in Fall. The University will closely monitor the situation as it evolves and you will be informed immediately if we need to put in place temporarily any of the contingency plans during the Fall term. Also, we have set up an FAQ page for your reference. Take care and stay healthy!

Warm regards,

Roger Cheng
Associate Provost (Teaching and Learning)

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