

## **Quarantine arrangements in the 2020-21 Academic Year**

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 6:24 PM

Dear Members of HKUST,

Following the message of 29th May 2020 from the Provost and the Associate Provost (Teaching & Learning) on the teaching arrangements for the Summer and Fall Terms, the University is preparing for the resumption of normal teaching arrangements for this Fall.

The University makes health and safety our top priority. While we cannot predict how the pandemic will develop, we are making our best efforts to address campus-wide health concerns, and will continue the necessary social distancing and hygiene measures on campus.

All students, staff and faculty must complete a Hong Kong Government mandated 14-day compulsory quarantine when entering Hong Kong. To assist our students and faculty, the University has arranged to use our own managed facilities; i.e., Conference Lodge, Tower C, designated student halls as well as off-campus hotel rooms for quarantine and post-quarantine purposes (before some dormitories are available).

The University will prioritise quarantine support to those students who need to fulfil quarantine requirements and are assigned a hall place in 2020-21 residential year, as well as new faculty. The quarantine will be arranged in 2-weekly batches with the first large batch starting in mid-July. While the University will bear the majority of the financial burden, members accepting quarantine support are expected to pay part of the cost.

Efforts are being made to expedite the admission offers and visa applications for newly admitted UG and PG students. For new students who are assigned hall places in the 2020-21 residential year, as soon as the admissions are confirmed and visa granted, Undergraduate Recruitment & Admissions Office (URAO) or Office of Postgraduate Studies (PGSO) will inform new students about their quarantine arrangement in the University managed facilities either on or off campus. After completion of the quarantine, the University will arrange check-in to their designated hall or a transitional hall as necessary.

For continuing UG and PG students with a confirmed hall place, Student Housing & Residential Life Office (SHRLO) will advise and facilitate quarantine arrangements and subsequent check-in to their designated hall or a transitional hall.

For students without on-campus hall places, while the University, due to capacity limitations, can't make quarantine arrangements for everyone individually, a list of hotels in Hong Kong offering quarantine packages will be uploaded to the University's Covid-19 webpage (<https://covid19info.ust.hk/>). In addition, students can contact their academic department or program office who may help connect them with student networks to identify quarantine venues or longer-term apartments. If the University has any surplus places available in one of its quarantine batches, this surplus will be announced and offered to students in this group on a first come first served basis.

The epidemic has imposed unprecedented challenges for all people in Hong Kong as well as around the world. With the expectation that COVID-19 cases will surface intermittently for some time into the Fall, the University is not ready to relax our safety measures any time soon. We have been trying our best to prepare for resumption of normal teaching and operations in mid-September. We will closely monitor the situation and will keep you posted of any development. Your patience, understanding and bearing potential inconveniences are much appreciated.

If you have any questions about this quarantine arrangement, please contact the relevant offices as below:

New RPg: PGSO <https://pg.ust.hk/enquiry>

New UG: URAO [ugadmit@ust.hk](mailto:ugadmit@ust.hk)

Continuing students: Student Housing [shrloinfo@ust.hk](mailto:shrloinfo@ust.hk)

Taught PG: respective Program Offices

Faculty and staff: VPABO [vpabo@ust.hk](mailto:vpabo@ust.hk)

We look forward to seeing you on campus soon!

Sincerely,

Lionel Ni, Provost

Mark Hodgson, Vice-President for Administration and Business

King Chow, Acting Dean of Students