

Academic arrangements for the Winter and Spring Terms 2020-21

Friday, Nov 13, 2020, 11:56AM

To: All Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students
cc: All Faculty and Teaching Staff

Dear Students,

I hope the semester is going well for you, and you have settled into the rhythm of the online and mixed-mode classes. The purpose of this email is to give you a heads-up about the academic arrangements for the Winter and Spring terms, to help you with your planning.

Mode of Delivery

Class arrangements for the Winter and Spring terms will be almost identical to what we have had in the Fall term. Specifically,

1. **During the Winter term**, all classes will be held in **mixed-mode** (i.e., students participate in a class either in-person or online), while still observing the social distancing measures and other relevant guidelines, with the exceptions laid out in point 4 below.
2. **During the Add-Drop period of the Spring term**, all classes will be held in **real-time online mode**, with the possible exceptions mentioned in points 4d and 4e below.
3. **After the Add-Drop period of the Spring term**, all classes will be held in **mixed-mode** (i.e., students participate in a class either in-person or online) while still observing the social distancing measures and other relevant guidelines, with the exceptions laid out in point 4 below.
4. The following exceptions to points 1 and 3 will apply in the Winter and Spring terms:
 - a. All classes with enrolments greater than 75 will only be held in real-time online mode.
 - b. All Language classes will only be held in real-time online mode.
 - c. Some UG classes may remain online in the interest of educational quality, e.g., due to the nature of class interactions, group work, etc. The details for specific classes will be announced by instructors later.
 - d. Lab classes will make their own arrangements.
 - e. TPg programs may make their own arrangements.

General Thoughts about Planning

Please note again that the mixed-mode arrangements are for selected classes and are auxiliary to the real-time online mode. These arrangements will not disadvantage students who are

physically outside Hong Kong or feel uncomfortable in coming to campus. Students, regardless of local or non-local, are not required to be physically on campus to complete the class and examination arrangements. If you are not in Hong Kong, please do not make travel plans just because of the optional mixed-mode arrangements. Indeed, based on the experience of some students who changed their plans in the middle of the Fall term, we suggest that you contact your academic advisor if needed and then make a firm decision well in time for the entire Winter/Spring term, rather than changing plans on the basis of the fluctuating pandemic situation in the middle of the term. Opportunities for face to face interactions and mixed-mode delivery in classes will depend on the pandemic situation and restrictions may need to be imposed at any time.

FAQs on Academic Arrangements

To address some common inquiries on the academic arrangements, we have recently updated the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on academic arrangements](#) for your reference.

Finally, please continue to use the [one-stop feedback system](#), which everyone can use to give quick input if something is not functioning properly. This is monitored continuously and we are happy to note that several recent comments on the system have been positive. We will continue to use this to hear your feedback and try and respond as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your attention, and all the very best for the final few weeks of the Fall term!

Best,

Prof. Anirban Mukhopadhyay
Associate Provost (Teaching & 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

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