

Updates on Learning, Teaching and Assessment Arrangements for Semester 1, 2020/21

Academic Registry

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Dear Students

Updates on Learning, Teaching and Assessment Arrangements for Semester 1, 2020/21

In response to the drastic changes of the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Hong Kong over the past week, the University has revisited the arrangements for Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LTA) for Semester 1, 2020/21 so as to reduce the further spread of the coronavirus as far as possible, and to minimize the chance of massive local outbreak on campus. I plead for your understanding on new LTA arrangements for Semester 1, 2020/21 regardless of the class size arrangements as previously announced on 9 July 2020. Details are as follows:

1. Delivery mode of general teaching and learning

In order to minimize public health risks and person to person contact, all lectures, seminars, tutorials, etc. [except for essential face-to-face learning and teaching activities as outlined in (2) below] will be conducted via the **online mode** throughout Semester 1, 2020/21, using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, MS Teams, or Zoom as appropriate. All online lectures, seminars and tutorials, etc. will also be video-taped and uploaded to the Learning Management System (LMS) for students' reference.

2. Essential face-to-face learning and teaching activities

For students in Hong Kong, essential learning and teaching activities, such as practicums, clinical skills training, laboratory and studio sessions as deemed mandatory by Faculties/Departments to meet professional accreditation or programme graduation requirements will be conducted in small groups with appropriate social distances and protection measures as scheduled via the face-to-face mode. Meanwhile, Departments will try to provide alternative arrangements for essential face-to-face activities for students who are currently residing outside Hong Kong. If alternative arrangements to fully achieve the learning outcomes cannot be made for these students, students will be advised in advance not to register for subjects with these activities. Students should also take note that face-to-

face activities may be suspended/deferred if the COVID-19 pandemic situation further worsens.

3. Assessment methods

Alternative assessments or take-home examinations will replace on-campus and online invigilated examinations in Semester 1, 2020/21 where appropriate. On-campus invigilated examinations can be adopted if they are to fulfill the professional accreditation requirements, subject to the availability of examination venues. Online invigilated examinations may be adopted, subject to a rigorous approval process by the University. For approved on-campus invigilated examinations, alternative arrangements will be made available for students currently residing outside HK.

4. Subject registration

To facilitate the subject registration decision making, you will be provided with more LTA information about the subjects (i.e. whether the subject consists of essential face-to-face learning and teaching activities, and whether the subject will adopt on-campus invigilated examination) by 24 July 2020 (Friday).

Students currently residing outside Hong Kong

For students (returning and new) who are currently residing outside Hong Kong, please note that in principle there is no need for you to return to Hong Kong for Semester 1, as LTA will be conducted online. Departments will consider providing alternative arrangements for students to take part in essential face-to-face learning and teaching activities so as not to affect your progression of study or graduation. However, if alternative arrangements are not feasible, the University will critically assess your need to return to Hong Kong on a case-by-case basis.

A list of Questions and Answers on the updated LTA arrangements for Semester 1 of 2020/21 is available to ALL students for information. The list will also be updated from time to time. If you have any questions on the above arrangements, please contact the Academic Registry [hotline: (852) 2333 0600 or email: ar.dept@polyu.edu.hk].

Again, we appreciate your feedback and your kind understanding and support of the above changes. Please stay alert and healthy.

The University will continue to monitor and assess the situation closely and will provide updates as and when necessary.

Best regards,

Alex Wai
Deputy President and Provost