



COVID-19 UPDATES (15TH MARCH 2020): Important Announcement - Suspension of all Scheduled Classes At APU & APIIT

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – SUSPENSION OF ALL SCHEDULED CLASSES AT APU AND APIIT

The Prime Minister on Friday, 13th March 2020 announced new measures to manage the spread, including the treatment of COVID-19. The measures announced reflect the steps to be taken to slow down the spread of the virus and in particular supporting the notion of social distancing.

The Ministry of Health has in its daily briefings provided updates on the current state and has also periodically issued Advisories and Directives which APU has been fully compliant with.

In addition, the Ministry of Higher Education under which APU is regulated has similarly provided directives to all Institutions in regards to what we ought to be doing and planning which again APU has been in compliance with.

However, the latest directive from the Ministry of Education dated Saturday, 14th March 2020 which was just received, has encouraged Institutions with the capability to now specifically to move away from the face-to-face teaching to remote learning to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus, again supporting the notion of social distancing.

As has been stated in previous communications, APU has dedicatedly responded to all Advisories and Directives of Government Authorities and based on the abovementioned new advisories announced up to a few hours ago and in the interest of our students and staff, APU management has decided to suspend all face to face lecture and tutorial sessions immediately, effectively commencing Monday, 16th March 2020 until such time we are notified otherwise.

As such, classes will not be held on campus from Monday, 16th March 2020 onwards. This also includes time-tabled laboratory sessions and presentations scheduled from this date.

All examinations will continue as scheduled. Any absence will need to be supported by applications for Extenuating Circumstances as per standard EC procedures.

However, all Intensive English Language Programme classes conducted at the Asia Pacific Language Centre will proceed as scheduled until further notice.

Further announcements will be made latest by 6 pm on Tuesday, 17th March 2020 with information on the deployment of APU's Online Digital Learning platform where course modules will be rolled out in phases beginning Wednesday, 18th March 2020. You will be notified of how this will operate and schedule.

In the meantime, APU's services including all administrative functions will continue to function as normal. Student facilities such as laboratories and the library will remain open should you wish to avail yourself of these facilities. Shuttle services from the various pick up locations will continue to be provided based on a revised schedule that will be published in due course.

As you are aware, since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak we had instituted various measures aimed at preventing any occurrences involving staff and students.

Apart from imposing travel and arrival restrictions to/from affected regions, we had put in place comprehensive cleaning and sanitization of all learning and social spaces and offices on campus with increasing intensity and frequency as described in the series of communications issued over the past few weeks. These are proactive measures to keep you and the staff safe and will continue with the same intensity.

In the meantime, we wish to remind you to continue to:

1. Practice strong personal hygiene by washing your hands and sanitizing them regularly.
2. Avoid unnecessary personal contact with other persons - we suggest placing your hand to your chest as an alternative to customary forms of greetings such as handshakes and hugging.
3. Avoid attending any mass events.
4. Should you display any symptoms commonly identified with COVID-19, please seek immediate medical attention.

We do fully realise that this is a stressful time for all our students, their parents and all staff of APU and this notification to be effective immediately may cause varying degrees of difficulty to a number of students who may be travelling or may have to make other arrangements, we hope the APU community will all cope with this difficult situation in a calm and mutually supportive way.

APU/APIIT Group Communications