



SUNDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2021

1.00 PM

LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) is cognizant of the latest announcement by the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) regarding the permission for the **six (6) categories of students with the need to return to the campus physically** as early as 1 March 2021 to attend the hybrid teaching and learning (PdP) session, via face-to-face as well as online sessions. Students under the six categories who will be allowed to return to the campus as early as 1 March 2021 are as listed below:

- I. Students who study at the level of a Certificate, Diploma, Undergraduate and Postgraduate Degrees who require practical, laboratory, clinical, hands-on training, studio, workshop sessions and special equipment;
- II. Students who lack the access and a conducive environment to attend online teaching and learning sessions;
- III. Current students who are undergoing Foundation or similar and Diploma programmes on campus can continue to attend the hybrid learning sessions;
- IV. All current and new international students except those from the United Kingdom;
- V. Students with Special Needs (OKU); and
- VI. Students who will be sitting for examinations such as Malaysia University English Test (MUET), or other international assessments and from professional bodies.

In relation to this matter, USM has drawn up several initiatives to support the move and would like to inform on the decision of the University regarding several matters as listed below:

1. STUDENT ADMISSION TO BE CONDUCTED IN STAGES BEGINNING 4 MARCH 2021

1.1 Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) will be allowing students from the six categories mentioned above to return to the campus for **Semester Two** Academic Session 2020/2021 which will begin on **22 March 2021**.

1.2 Nevertheless, admission of students will be subject to the earlier determined standard operating procedure (SOP) which is:

- ✓ **Fill in 'Borang A' (Special Permission to Return to the Campus)** and also the **COVID-19 Risk Screening Declaration** which can be obtained via the student portal <https://campusonline.usm.my>

1.3 For category I, Schools/Excellence Centres have identified the courses that require face-to-face PdP sessions. Kindly contact the respective Schools/Excellence Centres to obtain detailed information on how the face-to-face courses are going to be conducted.

1.4 Admission of students into the campus will be done in stages as listed in the table below:

STAGES OF ADMISSION	SPECIFIC DATES WHEN LEARNING SESSION BEGINS	SPECIFIC DATES FOR ADMISSION TO UNDERGO ISOLATION
First Session	22 March 2021	4-12 March 2021
Second Session	5 April 2021	21-23 March 2021
Third Session	13/19 April 2021	31 March 2021

- **Specific dates when learning session begins** refers to the dates designated by the Academic Schools for students to be on campus to attend face-to-face learning session.
- **Specific dates for admission to undergo isolation** refers to the dates that students are required to reach the campus to undergo surveillance period for 10 days.

1.5 Additional information relating to admission will be disseminated from time to time when the need arises.

1.6 For category II, please fill in Borang A and obtain the consent/approval from your respective School's Dean/Centre's Director.

1.7 A cross-state permission letter will be issued by the University to students from the six categories mentioned above who are residing outside Penang, who will return to campus to continue their studies for semester 2 (subject to the need for such permit letter at that point of time).

2. RETRIEVAL OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS AT THE DESASISWA FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT NEED TO RETURN TO THE CAMPUS FOR SEMESTER TWO

2.1 Students who do not need to return to the campus for semester two who still have personal belongings in their rooms at the desasiswa, are asked to retrieve their belongings and vacate the room on **27 and 28 February 2021**.

2.2 Students who have difficulty vacating their rooms can contact their respective desasiswa and request for assistance (give consent) to help them put their personal belongings in the desasiswa storerooms, without incurring any charges/fees.

2.3 A cross-state permission letter will be issued by the University to students residing outside Penang who need to come to campus to retrieve their belongings from the desasiswa (subject to whether or not cross-state permission is necessary at that point of time).

2.4 Students coming to campus must use their own vehicles, and avoid using public transport to minimize the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 outbreak.

2.5 Students who come to campus to retrieve their belongings are not allowed to stay at the desasiswa. Upon arrival on campus, students will need to go straight to the desasiswa to pack and upload their belongings into their own vehicles, and then leave the campus. Desasiswa staff are on hand to assist should any student needs help.

3. EXEMPTION OF DESASISWA RENTAL FEES FOR STUDENTS STAYING OFF-CAMPUS (PETAS) WHO NEED TO STAY ON CAMPUS FOR SEMESTER 2

3.1 The university is also concerned and aware that there are students staying off-campus (PETAS) who need to come in and stay on campus for semester 2, and at the same time have a commitment to continue paying the monthly rental of the room/house/apartment/flat outside campus.

3.2 For this group, the University will provide exemption of the desasiswa fees during the period of their required stay on campus in order to ease their financial burden, provided that they show **proof of legal contract/rental agreement for the room/house/apartment/flat they rented outside campus.**

4. REMINDER

Being on campus, students need to abide by the decisions made by the University. If the University implements measures to limit the entry-exit (restriction of movement for entry-exit into and out of the campus), students are required to adhere to the efforts of the University in taking measures to control the risks and to ensure that the campus is free of cases relating to COVID-19.

Courteous practices are highly encouraged. Any misdemeanour **need to be avoided**, more so towards the frontliners of the University who are working tirelessly to ensure that level of safety of the campus residents is at its highest.

Throughout this MCO period, all students are urged to always practice self-monitoring including physical distancing, wearing a face mask, frequent washing of hands with soap and water or using a hand sanitiser, in addition to taking care of their health as preventive measures against being infected.

If there are symptoms of COVID-19, a student needs to seek treatment at the nearest medical facility. Early treatment can reduce the risk of the illness from becoming more critical.

USM always strives to ensure that all its campuses are free of COVID-19 (“green bubbles”) for the safety and wellbeing of all its residents.

For further information, please contact the USM operations centre hotline numbers listed below:

- 1) Main Campus: - 04-6532267 / 04-6536124 (Nerve Centre)
- 2) Health Campus: - 09-7671306
- 3) Engineering Campus: - 04-5995530 / 5531/5532/5533
- 4) Advanced Medical and Dental Institute (IPPT): - 04-5622999

Email:- nerve_centre_usm@usm.my

PROFESSOR DR. MD ROSLAN HASHIM

Chairperson, USM COVID-19 Nerve Centre
and

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability and Institutional Development)
Universiti Sains Malaysia

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