

August 7, 2020

To: Undergraduate students
Graduate students

Conduct of face-to-face classes and online classes in the fall semester

In response to the spread of COVID-19 in Japan and around the world, for the spring semester, access to the university campus was restricted and classes were conducted mostly online. In this period, everybody is having a hard time with the inability to perform activities as undergraduate students and graduate students.

To improve the situation as a university based on feedback from everybody, for those possible among classes in the fall semester which starts on October 1, we are proceeding with preparations to enable students to study and conduct research in classrooms, laboratories, etc. with attention to the “Three Cs” of closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings. There are also lectures, etc. that will become online classes in relation to the size of the classroom, etc. so we would like to ask you to participate in class in the fall semester by keeping in mind the following points.

1. Conduct of face-to-face classes in the fall semester

On the university website as of May 29 and June 10, you have been advised that classes of the spring semester (until August 7) will only be conducted online, experiments, practical training, practical skill, etc. could be conducted from late August to September, and for the timing and method of the opening of courses, messages and instructions from your educational organization or class instructor should be followed. **【Notes】**

Face-to-face classes (lectures, experiments, practical trainings, and exercises; including final exams) in the fall semester will be conducted subject to thorough infection control as long as COVID-19 does not spread and comprise a major obstacle to the course of action of our university.

Furthermore, research guidance involving experiments and practical training and seminar activities may be conducted in small groups (less than 20 students) in all years and not only graduate students and 4th year undergraduate students.

When entering the university for classes together with research guidance involving experiments and practical training and seminar activities, we would like to request students to continue keeping a health observation report for the last 14 days nearest to the date that they would enter the campus and to take this report along for them to show to the faculty member in charge (class instructor, academic advisor, etc.).

Moreover, if face-to-face classes cannot be conducted according to plan including in the event of the issuance of the declaration of a state of emergency and travel restriction for the areas around Tokyo and within Ibaraki Prefecture in the days to come, the implementation of face-to-face classes may be discontinued.

2. Online classes in the fall semester

From the viewpoint of preventing the spread of COVID-19, it's necessary to conduct face-to-face classes in the fall semester by social distancing of over 1 meter from front to back and from side to side between students. For this purpose, if the seat configuration is to avoid the "Three Cs", we have little choice but to conduct classes having about 100 students online. Furthermore, as a result of the coordination of classrooms made in view of the number of students taking the class and classroom size, if we fail in securing classrooms with ample space to avoid the "Three Cs", the class is to be conducted online.

The timetable and class types (face-to-face class or online class) in the fall semester is under discussion now so students should examine their course plan while checking the remarks column in the KdB, syllabus, etc. (classes in the fall semester are scheduled to be decided by the middle of September). Here are the types in the remarks column in the KdB.

- Online (Asynchronous)
- Online (Synchronous)
- Face-to-face
- Hybrid or Others

3. Considerations to students who do not wish to participate or unable to participate in face-to-face classes

In regard to participation in face-to-face classes, if the student has reasons including fear of infection by commuting to the university and through classes, living with relatives with health concerns under one roof, and inability to come to Japan for those residing overseas, classes will be conducted online or a combination of face-to-face classes and online classes (online classes will be conducted for students who will not participate in face-to-face classes) will be conducted.

Furthermore, we will confirm the intention of each student to participate in face-to-face courses later so if you do not wish to or are unable to participate, consult with the class instructor.

4. Opening of student space

Now, places to be opened including satellite computer rooms, lounges (student common rooms), study space, large classrooms, etc. within each educational organization and center will be released in the TWINS bulletin board. The information will be updated so check TWINS.

Moreover, the opening of the satellite rooms is released in the following URL.
https://www.u.tsukuba.ac.jp/satellites_status/

5. Questions or feedback on classes

Classes in the fall semester will be a combination of courses with face-to-face classes and courses with online classes. While also considering the contents, etc. of the responses (ongoing analysis) to the survey on online classes conducted in the spring semester, we are in the process of asking each faculty member to seek lesson improvements and we would like to request students to present questions or feedback on classes to class instructors without hesitation and as they think fit. The university is going to undertake further improvements from now on based on the questionnaire results.

Furthermore, we are adjusting the academic calendar for next year so that classes will not be conducted on Saturdays.

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【Notes】

For the “Preparation for the Learning Environment under the Change in Policy for Mode of Operation Based on the COVID-19 Situation” was posted on the university website on May 29

(<http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/about/antidisaster/covid-19-20200529.html>) and the “Change in the Mode of Operations Based on the COVID-19 Situation” was released on June 10 (<http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/about/antidisaster/covid-19-20200610.html>).

The mode of operation for classes and research guidance involving experiments and practical training and seminar activities in the fall semester is based on this notice, however, it is subject to change as needed due to the spread of COVID-19 from here on. In this case, we will keep you informed on the website.

【Contact information】

For classes, etc., wait for instructions from the homeroom teacher, academic advisor, class instructor, etc. Furthermore, let your homeroom teacher, academic advisor, etc. know if there are any unclear points or if you have any anxieties. If you don't know how to contact the above, etc., consult the following regarding studies.

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