

March 8, 2021

To all students
To students starting school in April and their parents

Executive Director and Vice President, Education and
International Affairs
Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology

Classes in the 2021 Academic Year

University classes this academic year will generally be held on campus as we continue to take adequate precautions against infection, just as second-semester classes in the 2020 academic year were held. As before, to support containment, we will also use remote learning for classes that can be taught online, or in cases where this method is likely to be highly effective educationally.

First-semester classes in the 2020 academic year at TUMSAT were generally held online to help prevent the spread of coronavirus infection. Second-semester undergraduate classes were generally held on campus while guarding against infection, with remote learning used in cases where we deemed it quite effective educationally, as mentioned. Although some faculty members and students have been infected by the virus, to date no outbreaks have been confirmed to have occurred on campus.

A state of emergency initially declared based on the coronavirus special measures law on January 7, which restricted eating or drinking out and nonessential activities, was later extended to March 7 and recently for another two weeks in the metropolitan area of Tokyo and the prefectures of Kanagawa, Saitama, and Chiba. Under the circumstances, it may be unsettling that classes will be held on campus (especially to students who live some distance from the university), but we believe that taking classes on campus and interacting with other students and faculty members is meaningful not only academically but also in cultivating character. This decision forms the basis to how we are responding to the obligation of universities and other schools to maintain thorough measures against infection while also ensuring educational opportunities, as mentioned in press comments by Koichi Hagiuda, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and in [a MEXT notice](#) on considerations in holding classes and taking measures against infection at universities and elsewhere in 2021.

To reiterate, sufficient measures against infection will be in place at the university, and we ask that you take the president's advice of "don't get infected and don't allow others to get infected" to heart and remain very careful both on and off campus by wearing a mask, frequently washing your hands and using sanitizer, avoiding the three Cs, keeping a safe distance from others, and taking other steps to prevent infection, as by avoiding crowds and dining in groups. We hope that by working together, we can overcome this difficult situation.

The university will continue to respond as needed to changing conditions. This includes switching to remote learning, restricting campus access, or introducing other measures in response to widespread infection by the novel coronavirus or variants.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.