

To all the students of Graduate School of (Science) and Engineering,

Announcements regarding events affected by the Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak

① Regarding the Start of Classes for the AY2020

The AY2020 Spring semester classes were scheduled to begin from Thursday, April 2, however, due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the start of in-person classes on campus has been postponed and will begin from Tuesday, April 21. Some of the classes will be held online starting from Monday, April 13th. Depending on the situation, we may delay the start of in-person classes. In such cases, classes will be conducted online.

Please check the student portal site for detailed information. (Incoming students will be able to use the student portal site from March 30th)

② Regarding the AY2020 Spring Semester Orientation Schedule

The Spring Semester orientation, originally scheduled to start from Saturday, March 28, will be held in the format of videos and in-class. The videos will mainly explain about course registration, student life, and applying for scholarships. In-class orientations are scheduled on Sunday, April 19th and Monday, April 20th. Details will be frequently updated on the student portal site, so please check it for the latest information.

③ Regarding the Onsite Research Activities

All non-essential research activities should be stopped until 18th April 2020.

Research activities in laboratory can be categorized into four levels. Essential research may continue if your research is approved to have at least level 3 and above.

Level 1: Activity can be conducted remotely

Level 2: Activity can be delayed or stopped, but requires onsite presence to continue

Level 3: Long-term experiments and activities require onsite presence that would generate significant financial and data loss if not completed

Level 4: Essential activities that must continue (e.g. vivarium, replenishment of liquid nitrogen, samples that requires maintenance and cannot be recovered, etc.).

For the essential activities that have been approved, the safety measures below are mandatory for continuing the research in laboratory:

1. Conducts temperature measurements every morning and report to advisor. For those who exceeded 37.3 or have cold symptoms, are not allowed to attend.
2. Disinfect your hands with sanitary solution while entering or exiting the Engineering building.
3. Avoid heavy contact by maintaining distance at least 1 meter between people.
4. Room ventilation for 5 -10 minutes every hour.
5. Wear the mask during your research activities and avoid conversation in close distance.
6. Approved activities in laboratory is from 9am to 5pm. For unavoidable activity that exceeding the time, the approval of your advisor and Dean are necessary.

④For Students Under Entry Restrictions by the Japanese Government

For the time being, the Japanese Government has imposed restrictions on entry to the following countries listed below. Also, visas already issued to people in those countries have been suspended. The Soka University International Affairs Office will be contacting those who apply to these restrictions individually. If you do not hear from the office, please contact the Soka University International Affairs Office (+81-42-691-8230).

⑤Regarding Students Who Have Symptoms of Cold or Any Other Illness During the In-Class Period (during Spring Semester, as of now)

• If you or anyone in your household is suspected infection or diagnosed with the novel coronavirus disease, please contact the Soka University Health Center (+81-42-691-9373). Please refrain from coming to the university as well as contact with people.

Please stay at home and get plenty of rest to recover.

• If you are absent due to suspected infection of the novel coronavirus disease for you or anyone in your household, after recovering completely, please apply for authorized absence at the Academic Affairs Office (+81-42-691-9400). In such case, medical certificate etc. are not required.

• If you or anyone in your household is diagnosed as having the novel coronavirus disease, you will be suspended from attending classes until complete recovery. After getting permission from the doctor, please apply for authorized absence with certificates such as a medical certificate or school attendance permission certificate.