STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM

You are assigned to a specific academic mentor. Academic mentors will be able to advise on study progress, future career, learning skills, etc. Email to your mentor if you face any difficulties.

Prof Tey Beng Ti is ready to support you whenever you meet problems during your study of CHE in Monash University Malaysia. He can be reached by: tey.beng.ti@monash.edu

Dr. Tan Jully will be able to advise you if you have any query related to course progression and study plan. She can be reached by: tan.jully@monash.edu

Talk to your unit coordinator whenever you face challenge(s) during the semester. Unit coordinators will be the best person to guide your learning progression in the unit.

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Peer mentors aim to provide you better insight into the online learning. They will be able to guide you on how to venture through the hard time about online learning. Contact them if you need some guidance.

Family and friendships are two of the greatest facilitators during this hard time. Keep in touch with them.

Meet the campus counsellors whenever you are in dilemmas and anxieties.

Updated: 04 April 2021
What Your Peers Say About Online Learning...

Initially, it was difficult to adapt to academic changes. It became really frustrating to not be able to accomplish as much. Slowly, things started getting better, clearer academic goals and path. Now, I have adapted and learnt that I can only do my best in my roles and not give myself unnecessary stress. While I step out of my comfort zone to grow in all aspects, I must also allow myself some space to breathe.

**Message to all:**
- Have a rough plan for the week so you know how busy you can get through the week.
- When the day ends, write down plan for the next day so you are prepared.
- Have breaks through the day (so you won’t be too tired and dread doing work).
- If you cannot allocate time for family responsibility, speak to your family so that they can help you.
- Drop me a line via email to get more helps if needed.

Online learning during MCO is truly different in terms of flexibility. The most attractive part is I can rewatch the recordings at my own pace and catch up with the part I missed. I also have more freedom to reschedule my learning sequence and break time without the need of following a tight timetabling schedule. I personally feel that this is a motivational approach for myself where I can increase my productivity and efficiency rather than following a pre-assigned timetable which often forced me to put down what I am having in my hand or forced me out of my bed.

**Message to all:**
- Utilise the flexibility to plan the learning schedule that suits yourself rather than feeling guilty not attending classes. It is better to follow your own pace and get things done properly than rushing to classes.
- Go through pre-recorded videos and try to finish them during weekends so that you have more flexibility in planning work for the week.
- Attend consultation session to ask your questions. Email me if you need any advice.
Tips to work together with Online Learning

Brought to you by: Student Mentoring Program MUM-CHE

What Your Peers Say About Online Learning…

Ong Yi Hui
Year 4 CHE
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It is a refreshing experience for me to study online. To experience a different way of learning without physical interaction may be challenging at first, but lecturers and peers are always open for discussion. I also realise the importance of maintaining self-motivation and commitment in my studies. The greatest challenge I find during online learning is to stay motivated throughout the semester. I also miss the opportunity to conduct a lab based FYP. However, online learning does provide the opportunity to learn at my own pace and review the recorded materials whenever I need to.

Message to all:
• Do not be shy or feel embarrassed to ask questions during online classes, interaction with the lecturers or peers will help you to learn more and maintain motivation in your studies
• Plan ahead and keep track of things needed to be done so you won’t fall behind
• Always take care of your mental health
• Online study groups may be helpful if you prefer to study with friends
• Do email me if you need advice on coping with online learning"

It is undeniable that the MCO has greatly affected the learning experience of the students. However, I was able to dedicate more time to my studies and building interpersonal relationships from the time saved from long commutes to campus. Furthermore, with the recorded lectures due to online learning, I am better able to backtrack on key information I missed during the lectures. Being able to rewatch the lectures allowed me to better interpret and absorb the information provided and gain a better understanding of the topics. Personally, this unique experience has improved me in many ways. However, I still lean towards physical classes as the socializing and networking aspects of face-to-face classes are important skills to develop which the online learning experience is unable to provide.

Message to all:
We must tackle online learning with discipline and determination. Consistency is the key to success. Furthermore, we must improvise, adapt and overcome. Never give up on the challenges but embrace them and give the best of yourself. Please do not hesitate to email me if you need more advice.
Tips to work together with Online Learning

What Your Peers Say About Online Learning...

One of the greatest challenges that I have faced during online learning is losing focus very easily especially during lectures. Procrastination is also a major issue which caused me unable to follow my own schedules to complete assignments. Another issue that comes from studying online is the inability to discuss face to face with lecturers or friends which greatly affects the ease of understanding a certain topic. On the other hand, the benefits of online learning are the recorded lectures which students can review as many times as they need. Online learning also forces students to have self-discipline while also allows them to adapt to the new norm with the help of online platforms such as Moodle.

Lee Jiun Hong
Year 3 CHE
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Message to all:

My advice to others would be to put away any possible sources of distraction until it is time to rest (according to your own schedule). It is also very important to stick to your own schedule and not compare yourself to others as everyone has their own pace. I am willing to help others that have the same struggle as me as best as I could.

The greatest challenge of all was separating studies from personal/family time as there was no fine line between the two. Despite the challenges, I realised that there were quite a number of advantages one could benefit from online learning. One of the most important was being able to plan and study at my own pace and time without having to worry about travelling to campus back and forth every day. Additionally, I was able to access recorded lectures/tutorials any time or re-watch them in order to prepare for tests which are highly unlikely without online learning. This definitely took some time to get used to however, online learning has shaped me into being a more diligent and organised student. It has also allowed me to adapt more easily to unforeseen circumstances and study more efficiently through effective planning.

Lavanya Sreekumar
Year 3 CHE
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Message to all:

Make a To-Do list at the start of the day with a reasonable number of tasks you want to accomplish by the end. Consistency is key so try your best to discipline yourself by allocating your time efficiently.
- Award yourself with breaks daily and keep in touch with your family and friends as a way to release stress.
- Do not hesitate to ask your lecturers for help if you are struggling as they are there to offer guidance.
- Email me for more advice or tips if required, I will gladly help out.
What Your Peers Say About Online Learning…

The greatest challenge I had was spending too much time in front of the laptop. My eyes and ears were tired from the long hours of lecture videos thus I was easily distracted. I have spent too much time watching them because of frequent breaks which led to the piling up of weekly tasks. Also, since I was living in my country the time difference confused me to miss the deadlines of some assessments. And I was not able to understand the laboratory work as usual because watching the recorded videos was not the same as experiencing them by ourselves. In contrast, I had the benefit of learning at my own pace. I found that creating a timetable and doing the work when it’s suitable for me was productive.

As an international student, previously I had to do all the cooking and cleaning by myself but staying with my mom saved me a lot of time and I was never home sick because I was in my comfort zone with my family. The privilege of re-watching lecture and tutorial content for revision was another benefit. Also, lecturers and demonstrators were quick to reply whenever I had doubts.

From 2020, there was a massive change in the trend of learning and also working experience. The technology is advancing rapidly, we also need to adapt to the changing environment. As a student, the greatest drawback of studying online is the motivation and the technical difficulties which will happen often. On the other hand, the greatest benefit is you can control your own time to get things done where we can save a lot of travelling time. During MCO, at first I was struggling to manage my time. Over the time I adapted to it. The best advice here is prioritise your task and schedule your time. This is because all the lectures might be recorded, we might need to manage the time well to prevent any backlog in progress. We all have the same time, it’s just a matter of enjoy first or work hard first. Why not achieve both together?

Message to all:
- Just do it today, there is no tomorrow.
- Don’t stress too much, how hard it can be
- Be happy and active, physically and mentally

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Kireshwen Maran  Year 4 CHE
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Message to all:
- Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.
  — Thomas A. Edison

Contact Us If You Need Guidance About Online Learning.....