

Important Message on the Commencement of July – December 2020 Semester

Dear Students,

As the health situation in the country is gradually returning to normalcy, we would like to provide you with several updates. First, we are delighted that with your strong support and the untiring efforts of academic and non-academic staff, SLIIT completed the first-semester teaching, and the final examinations will be over by the end of 3rd week of June. We have become the most successful higher education institution in the country to achieve this milestone and join the leading international universities that have completed the semester without any delay.

Next, we want to update you on the plans for the second semester. It will start on July 6th and the second-semester registration is already open. We are working on a plan to gradually bring students back to campus and have taken various measures to enhance campus hygiene and safety as per the guidelines of government health authorities. We expect the large classes to be delivered initially online until the government clearance is given for classes over 100 while small- and mid-size classes will be held on-campus. Besides, we plan to bring students back to campus for all labs, essential project work, selected tutorials, etc. Further details of the modes of delivery for modules, timetables, campus access, etc. will be provided by Academic Affairs before the semester begins.

As a responsible institution, SLIIT has been doing its best to fulfill all our obligations. We continue to keep our staff on payroll while heavily investing in improving IT infrastructure to support online teaching and examinations. We have allocated over Rs. 35 million on IT facilities and fees to support online teaching and exams since March. We are also committed to all ongoing infrastructure enhancement projects (athletic field, swimming pool, the second stage of the new academic building, student recreational area, etc.) to strengthen the student experience. The additional expenses for IT and bandwidth expansion together with unchanged major recurring expenses have resulted in no significant changes to our expenditures, although our utility bills are lower since March. SLIIT is also an exception in keeping semester fee fixed during the four years of study to protect students from annual inflationary increases. We recognize that these facts are not very visible from the outside and may lead to an erroneous perception of savings due to campus closure and online delivery of education.

The Senior Management Team has been in discussion since April to evaluate the best approaches for the second semester. We have been regularly consulting student representatives on online delivery, final examinations, and other matters. We thank the student representatives for their cooperation during this challenging time, keeping us informed of students' concerns and making valuable suggestions to support your education. SLIIT is very much committed to addressing the challenges arising from the pandemic. The Senior Management Team is therefore pleased to announce several relief measures to support your studies. These are summarized below.

1. The deadline for the payment of second-semester fees has been extended to July 27th without any penalty.
2. For students with genuine financial hardships, appropriate concessions for the second-semester fee may be considered on a case by case basis. The concessions will be decided by a panel following a one-to-one meeting with each student and his/her parents. Those who are facing financial difficulties should contact the Director of Academic Affairs by June 26th to make an appointment with the panel.

3. To make the proposed concession scheme possible, all staff members of SLIIT are making a contribution from their salaries during this financial year. This sincere and generous action has made it possible for SLIIT to support students with genuine financial challenges. As a community, we are delighted to come together to support each other and set an example for others.

We thank you for your cooperation and will continue to do our best to ensure your academic success and timely graduation.

Director Academic Affairs

15th June 2020