

UON SINGAPORE NEWS



Message by the Pro Vice-Chancellor

I hope this message finds you well. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many unprecedented challenges globally. UON Singapore is progressing well amidst the pandemic with the concerted efforts of our colleagues, partners and students.

I am happy to share good news about the global ranking of The University of Newcastle, Australia (UON). Within just a year, UON has climbed up ten places to sit amongst the world's Top 200 universities in the prestigious 2021 QS World University Rankings. Professor Alex Zelinsky AO, Vice Chancellor of UON expresses his appreciation for everyone's hard work. I am sure all students and colleagues of UON Singapore will be encouraged by this news.

Soon after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of all schools in Singapore, we made a swift transition of all teaching to online mode. Thanks to the great efforts of our faculty members in modifying the way of teaching to ensure students continue their study while staying at home. We are keeping regular contact with students to make sure they remain positive and motivated. Thanks also to our partners, PSB academy and BCA Academy, for supporting our students in their progression. I admire the full cooperation from our partners in making the essential adjustments in accordance to the contact restriction requirements. I like to thank all our students for their understanding of this overnight change as a response to the fast-emerging pandemic. Their excellent adjustment to changes demonstrates their admirable resilience.

In the office of the UON Singapore, the work-from-home arrangement was effectively implemented when Singapore entered a circuit breaker on 3 April 2020. I deeply appreciate the commitment of our colleagues to ensure efficiency of work during the crisis. All their efforts enable smooth and effective operations of UON Singapore during the pandemic.

Singapore has entered Phase 2 of its reopening and most activities can resume with safety measures in place. Given there is still existing risk of infection, we must remain vigilant even when pandemic-related restrictions are relaxed. While we wait for a thorough understanding of the coronavirus especially the vaccine for it, there remains a lot of uncertainties of the pandemic development. Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat said on 20 June 2020 that 'Singapore will emerge from the COVID-19 crisis a stronger society, with a renewed sense of identity and values'. We will not return to what life was like before the pandemic, but there is hope to use this experience, these hard times, and turn it into opportunities.

Established since 2006, UON Singapore has been the international footprint of the UON in the Asian-pacific region. The COVID-19 crisis presents opportunities for us to explore new initiatives. Innovative programs like sustainability, e-commerce, and edutech would be important; and shorter courses for upskill or reskill purposes would be much needed. Our accessibility to education technology keeps the teaching and learning going during the pandemic. There will be a move to a

greater use of technology to enhance student learning and experience. We are certainly able to find new strengths and skills to work towards our goals amid the many challenges. I trust that the UON Singapore has huge potential in contributing much more to the socio-economic recovery of Singapore and the Region.

We're all in this together – and we will get through this together. Let us hold on to our dream, and value the support from each other. Please continue to stay connected with us and we look forward to hearing from you.

PROFESSOR SALLY CHAN

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Singapore) and Chief Executive Officer (UON Singapore)

E: Sally.Chan@newcastle.edu.au



World Day for Safety and Health

Recognizing the great challenge that governments, employers, workers and whole societies are facing worldwide to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, our Bachelor of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (BEnvOHS) alumni community created encouraging notes to support and show their appreciation to all the frontline and essential workers for keeping Singapore and all of us safe.

As we celebrated Labour Day on 1 May, our colleague, and academic, Dr. Charles Lee purchased and delivered supplies of Vitamin C and food to our migrant workers, some of whom are students and alumni from our BEnvOHS degree. We thank them for their hard work and contribution to our nation.

We will also be working with the BEnvOHS alumni to arrange more support for the migrant workers community in Singapore as part of our CSR initiative for 2020.

[Follow the BEnvOHS Alumni on Facebook](#)



Transition to Online Teaching, Learning and Assessments

Due to COVID-19 situation, UON Singapore teaching and learning delivery for all the courses in 2020 were changed to online mode from 23rd March 2020. All our full-time lecturers and sessional lecturers were provided with Blackboard Collaborate Ultra training, to facilitate online teaching. Adequate support was provided to maintain students' learning at their own place and pace of time.

We had to move to online assessment for the final examination and we ensured that adequate support, mock examinations and guidelines were provided to students. Students who required mental and emotional support were taken care of through our partner institutions' qualified counsellors.

[View our announcements](#)

Q&A FOR NEW STUDENTS



MEET & GREET SESSIONS



TEACHING & LEARNING WORKSHOPS



Supporting Our Students

Interesting activities such as Faculty Meet and Greet, Question and Answer sessions together with Online workshops were organized for students during welcome-back week for Trimester 2. This was to ensure that students stayed connected with their faculty and peers and participated in some meaningful discussions.

The meet and greet was a one-hour online session that allowed students to meet their Program coordinators and Academic team. This session was a good chance for students to get all the information they needed about their respective programs and administrative issues. The Q&A was facilitated by the Student and Academic Services (SAS) team from UON Singapore for new students who commenced studies with us in Trimester 2, 2020. The Teaching and learning advisor was also present so that students could use this meeting to raise any questions they have about issues related to enrolment, learning support, admissions and many more.

3 online workshops were conducted by the Teaching and Learning advisor Ms. Devi to highlight the importance of email etiquette, presentation skills and academic integrity in higher education. Students were given a chance to ask questions at the end of the workshop to clarify any doubts they had with regards to these topics.



Top 200 University in the World

In just one year, the University of Newcastle has climbed ten places to sit among the world's Top 200 universities in the prestigious 2021 QS World University Rankings, results released last month.

The Top 200 result continues the University's year-on-year improvement in these rankings since 2014. The 2021 QS World University Rankings considered 1604 institutions and contained 47 new entrants.

Maintaining a positive trajectory is testament to our University's sustained emphasis on quality of output, as well as a strong and growing network of industry relationships.

[Read more...](#)

Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025: Asia Pacific Focus

With a proud history of global collaboration and success, UON continues to pursue opportunities for partnerships and engagement in the Asia Pacific Region across business and government.

As a globally and socially committed institution, we will invest the capabilities of our students and staff to drive solutions to significant global issues.

[Read more...](#)

New appointed Chairman of UONS Board of Directors

Professor Kevin Hall, Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President Global Engagement and Partnerships has been appointed as the Chairman of UON Singapore Board of Directors. His appointment started from January 2020.

[Find out more about Kevin and the team of appointed members](#)



Partnership renewal with PSB Academy

UONS and PSB Academy successfully renewed its collaboration agreement for another five years and will continue to offer selected undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Singapore.

"Our shared values with PSB Academy have allowed us to be steadfast and effective in developing industry-ready graduates for Singapore and across the region for close to 15 years now."

[Read the Yahoo! article](#)

RESEARCH SEMINAR

The Art and Science of Publishing:
Sharing of Experience and Recommendations

Date: 17 July 2020
Time: 10:00am - 11.30am
Zoom Webinar

Moderator:  Dr. Tan Kim-Lin
Speaker:  Dr. Yeong Siew-Wei
Speaker:  Dr. Hiram Ting

[Register Now](#)



**INDUSTRY
ADVISORY**

Research Seminar

This sharing session aims to provide an overview of the publishing journey and highlight some of the important instances and lessons in the process which authors can use to improve their publishing success. Publishing is both an art and a science and it requires planning and learning.

Aside from writing as an author, this session will also discuss publishing from the editor and reviewer's perspectives. Recommendations will be given at the end, including special issues in SSCI indexed journals which the authors can potentially target.

[Register now](#)

Industry Advisory Committees

Set up in 2020, UONS Industry Advisory Committees comprise practising professionals from industry and government. Members of the committees meet regularly with our academic staff to offer advices related to curriculum development and suggest improvements.

A key aim of the committees is to discuss current professional practices and emerging trends in the workplace. This ensures our course content, professional practices, laboratory equipment and software meet the latest industry standards.

[Find out more](#)



Inside the Circle Singapore Business Circle Online Series *The Platform for Connectivity*



Bruce Gosper,
Australian
High Commissioner
to Singapore



Jo Tyndall,
New Zealand
High Commissioner
to Singapore



Resilience in Leadership

UON Singapore sponsored an event on 19 May 2020 organized by the Singapore Business Circle which featured the Australian and New Zealand High Commissioner to Singapore as guest speakers and was attended by many high-profile participants.

The guest speakers shared on the topic of Resilience in Leadership and provided updates on the development of Covid-19 issues in Australia and New Zealand and how the High Commission are working closely with the government to support businesses and residents in Singapore.

Through this event sponsorship, UONS had the opportunity to be introduced to all participants and it enabled us to enhance our linkage with

Xaltius Academy Partnership

UON Singapore and Xaltius Academy – a tech and data driven company that provides training in the areas of programming and data science are in discussion to provide complimentary introductory sessions for all UON students and alumni over the next few months.

Do keep a look out for the upcoming workshops:

- Unveiled the Power of Data Science
- Big Data Analytics and its Impact on the Business
- Data Storytelling: The Power of Data Insight

There will also be mentoring opportunities by Xaltius for students who are interested in a career in data science or business analytics.

the industry and increase our visibility of our Singapore campus.

[Find out more about Xaltius](#)

[Find out more about](#)

Heartiest Congratulations!

Dr. Charles CC Lee, our Program Convenor and Senior Lecturer for the Bachelor of Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (BEnvOHS) celebrated his 10 years of service with UON Singapore in April 2020.



Besides his academic involvement in the BEnvOHS degree, he is also very active in research and completed an interesting project titled, "Rehabilitation and Conservation of the Endangered Proboscis Monkey in Curiak Island, Kalimantan, Indonesia", in collaboration with an excellent Indonesian university, Universitas Lambung Mangkurat (ULM), and Emeritus Professor Tim Roberts (UON).

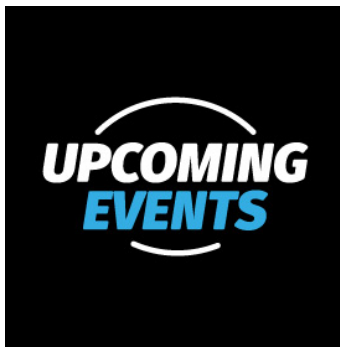
The proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) is endangered and only found in the island of Borneo. It's survival is threatened by habitat destruction from logging, forest fires, mining, swamp reclamation, and plantation agriculture. Only a few thousand proboscis remain in fragmented communities in the wild. At the rapid rate of biodiversity destruction, it is predicted that the proboscis will be "extinct" in 2030. Tragically, if that happens, our future generations will only have digital images to view of this majestic species.

Leveraging UON's extensive environmental experience on rehabilitation of ecosystems, this research project focuses on: (a) rehabilitating the proboscis' mangrove habitat in Curiak island; and (b) monitoring the vulnerable proboscis population. The outcomes of this research collaboration are to develop best practices to revive damaged mangrove ecosystems in neighbouring coastal regions and to bring a fresh international perspective to the conservation of the proboscis monkey in South Kalimantan.

Throughout his career with UONS, Dr. Charles CC Lee has consistently received numerous commendation letters for his excellent teaching and high satisfaction scores from his students. He is also very close to the BEnvOHS alumni community which has produced more than 1300 successful graduates and will go the extra mile to support them even during the circuit breaker.

As shared by Nazrul Islam who graduated in 2018, *"I'm grateful to you dear Dr Charles C Lee. I could not imagine that you will come to visit me to show your appreciation during this pandemic situation. I could not forget the love and respect from The University of Newcastle, Australia teaching staff and UON BenvOHS Alumni during my student life at UON and now in this pandemic situation. My roommates and I would like to express our gratitude to say Thank you Dr Charles for your generosity towards us."*

[View the profile of Dr. Charles CC Lee](#)



Stay Tuned.

Join us for our upcoming events such as our Junior Achievement workshops, Xaltius introductory sessions in data science, IPRS Student Chapter webinar, 2020 Awards & Appreciation etc

[What's Happening](#)

Your Feedback Matters



Suggestions.

Tell us what you would like to hear from us or share with us your stories so that we can feature you in the next issue. If there are areas which we can improve, please let us know too.

[Drop us an email](#)



Stay Connected.

Find us on social media:

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[YouTube](#)

For urgent matters:
+65 9370 6052

[Contact Us](#)



TOP 200

in the world¹

1. QSWorld University Rankings 2021



5 Stars

maximum rating for student retention and social equity²

2. 2019 Good Universities Guide



10 in the TOP 200

10 subjects ranked in the top 200 in the world³

3. QSWorld University Rankings by Subject 2019

More Information

For more information about these articles please visit www.newcastle.edu.au/singapore

* Visit [website](#) for rankings references

CRICOS Provider Number 00109J

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

UNSUBSCRIBE

KEEP IN TOUCH

