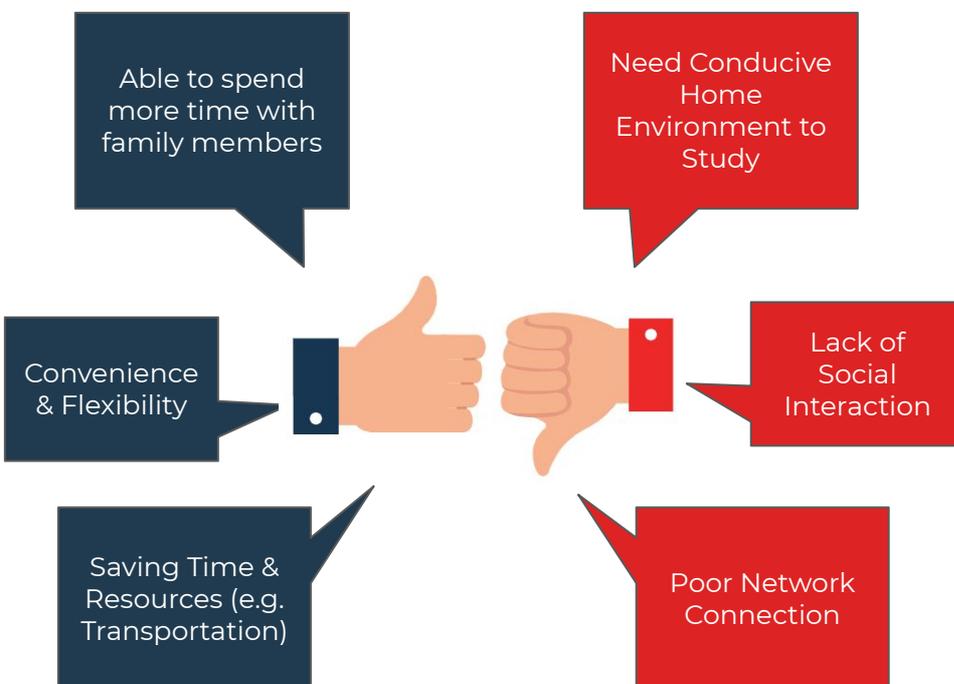


COVID-19 has affected our lives in the last few months, and perhaps will for many more months to come. We, as students, are no exception to this as most of us have to study and/or work from home. Some of us may find it hard to concentrate at home and often procrastinate, and some of us may even experience difficulties communicating with our fellow group mates when it comes to group-based assignments.

Here are just some of the pros & cons of studying from home which may vary among individuals (in SUSS).



1) How COVID-19 affects Singapore's Education System

The pandemic has no doubt affected the different supporting pillars of education in Singapore and has put e-learning in the fast lane. In our opinion, the e-learning days that we had when we were in our primary school have certainly helped us to be more hands-on and tech-savvy.

The pandemic has sped up the transformation of various sectors, in particular, education, in different ways. Recently, the National Institute of Education announced that a personal tablet will be provided to all secondary school students by 2021. Negative reactions have been shown from the netizens — some felt that it might be a distraction for students; others felt that the government is using taxpayers' money and it is just a waste of resources. Whether the issuance of personal tablets to secondary students will serve as a support or distraction remains in the minds of many.

THE COVID-19 EDITION

PROS & CONS OF COVID-19

GET TO KNOW MORE ON COVID-19 IMPACTS

Digitising education might uplift education in certain ways. Firstly, digitalisation in education offers students of all ages a radically new way of learning, whereby knowledge can be acquired through various technological devices such as tablets. This, in turn, enables students to access learning on the go through their preferred choice of devices. In addition, it is beneficial to students with different learning paces as it allows them to review resources remotely and at their own pace.

Subsequently, it improves understanding of the learning content. The different forms of digitalising, such as Virtual Reality (VR) tools and videos, can aid students' learning. The use of Augmented Reality (AR) also helps teachers to explain content and perform teaching tasks too. In SUSS, almost every course that we take come with an e-copy of the Study Guide along with the e-textbook. The knowledge awaiting us has all been compiled into digitised format (e.g. pdf, word, epub), accessible by many devices making it more convenient for us.

Despite the positive effects of digitising education, there are some pitfalls to consider. In this era, students rely heavily on computers and other devices to access online learning materials, among others. This leads to higher expenditure as some of these devices are not cheap.

Students can easily access information online, but at the same time, information available on the internet may not be accurate. As a result, students might be misguided.

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Lastly, students may get disconnected from the real world. For example, most of the courses do not require the students to turn on their web camera. This means that instructors will not know if the students are engaged during lessons. Therefore, it is important to find a balance between being tech savvy and face-to-face interactions.

This pandemic has left many thinking if intensive and extensive online learning will continue even after the pandemic is over.

2) Here is what SUSS students have to say about online learning post-pandemic.



"I like online learning because I am able to skip the commute to school and be able to listen to lectures right at home. I faced difficulty when participating in Zoom session. If there is no change in it, I would rather commute" - Kit Yan, Year 2

"Online learning has brought about the good and bad. Though it is much more convenient now, it is tougher to communicate between my peers in class" - Wen Xuan, Year 2

"Lacking in the need to travel to school for lessons have saved me time to do my revision or a quick exercise. However, it is much more difficult to ask questions during online learning because my questions gets misinterpreted which prevented me in getting my questions answered" - Rebecca, Year 4

3) <DidYouKnow>



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Alibaba Cloud launched 100,000 new cloud servers in just 2 months, which sets a new record!

Recently, DBS Bank launched a national facial identification service that allows users to secure mobile sign-ups. It is the first private-sector entity to pilot it!

4 ways COVID-19 could change how we educate future generations by *World Economic Forum*

- 1 Educating people in an interconnected world
- 2 Redefining the role of an educator
- 3 Teaching life skills needed for the future
- 4 Unlocking technology to deliver technology

4 science-backed ways towards better learning by *Harvard Health*

Quiz yourself frequently on the materials you read

Space out your studying and quizzes

Quiz yourself on different topics in each study session

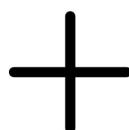
Ask yourself questions while you are reading

Working Towards Education 4.0

Former Minister for Education Ong Ye Kung highlighted that the reformatting of higher education is essential and requires pivoting the experience to one where students can embark on a journey of self-discovery that encompasses real life exposure. This statement summarises the Education 4.0 initiative.

See More:
<https://www.weforum.org/projects/learning-4-0>

Universities need to align their teaching and technological processes. Staying relevant with technological advancement is imperative to prepare graduates for work as the world continues to advance. Hi-tech cyber systems are gradually being integrated into countless industries, inevitably changing the skill sets required for existing jobs and creating new jobs. However, it is also important for Universities to maintain its educational relevance through the use of these technologies. Regardless, COVID-19 has paved the way to a new mode of learning and teaching, such that it propels the education system further into the digital age.



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Indulge in Free Courses to Upskill Yourself!

LinkedIn Learning

Enhance your soft skills with LinkedIn Learning for SUSS students.

You can find out more from the SUSS library:
FAQs: <https://libanswers.suss.edu.sg/faq/262397>

edX

There are free online courses from Ivy League schools like Harvard.

You might find these courses interesting: Data Science R Basics, Machine Learning, Contract Law, Exercising Leadership, The Path to Happiness, Cell Biology, etc.

Udemy

Here are some free courses from Udemy: Code Your First Game, Excel Pivot Table Basics, HTML5 and CSS3 Fundamentals, How to Speak to Anyone and Be Fearless, etc.

Coursera

Some free courses that you can choose by its level of difficulty: Introduction to Psychology, Psychological First Aid, Brand Management, First Step Korean, Management of Luxury and Fashion Companies, etc.



Short Interviews with Students on Work Attachment

How has your internship or work attachment been affected by the pandemic?

Due to the circuit breaker lockdown, work has to be done from home. However, working at home leads to many distractions because of the comfort of my own home. I think my biggest issue is communication. Although we can video-call our colleagues and conduct online screen sharing, it is tough to communicate the details virtually in comparison to working in the office.

How did you overcome this obstacle?

I try to speak slower so as to be clearer and be more concise. Also, I plan a checklist and "layout" the flow before a video meeting is conducted. When it comes to working from home, it helps when there is a designated area/corner for work, e.g., a corner of the living room. The area ought to be not so comfortable because it may lead to "unproductivity".

Are there any tips and/or advice you wish to share?

Communication skills play an essential role in any given job. Always think through and be clear of the message you want to deliver.

By Year 4 Pernilla



How has your internship or work attachment been affected by the pandemic?

With the circuit breaker imposed, my office has to be closed. I am lucky that my work is not affected much apart from working from home since April this year. The only difference is that meetings are conducted online and I miss the physical interaction with my colleagues. My company, IBC Asia Pte Ltd (part of Informa Group), constantly enquires whether employees require any equipment to make work at home more conducive. There are also bi-weekly meetings for anyone to give feedback on their challenges of working from home during this pandemic.

How did you overcome this obstacle?

With the lack of physical interaction, the Singapore office sets up weekly coffee chat sessions via video for about 30 minutes. I feel that this is helpful for social networking, while ensuring that everyone is getting the necessary support to perform their jobs.

Are there any tips and/or advice you wish to share?

Personally, I feel that one should not be too rigid, and should adapt to changes. This way, you will make your life happier and easier.

By Year 4 Rebecca



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