

## Report on students' views on the method of course delivery and performance evaluation in the Faculty of Natural Sciences (once normalcy returns in the country after CORONA pandemic)

640 responses from all students registered in FNSc in 2020/21 (an SMS was sent once)

### Delivering day-schools under the normal situation in the country

1. Preference for the delivery mode of day schools in the future
  - Physical mode only – 7.0%
  - **Online with uploading of zoom recordings – 93.0%**
2. Your attendance for the physically conducted introductory day schools at the regional centres
  - **Very likely - 19.4%**
  - **Somewhat likely - 36.4%**
  - } **Total - 55.8%**
3. Convenience for participating zoom day-schools from 6 pm – 8 pm
  - **Very convenient /somewhat convenient - 79.4%**
4. Preferred delivery mode for revision day-schools in the future is
  - Physical mode only - 7.2%
  - **Online with uploading of zoom recordings - 92.8%**

### Conducting practical classes under normal situation in the country

5. Preference in the delivery mode of practical classes in the future
  - Physical mode only - 26.3%
  - Online mode only - 26.9%
  - **Partially online mode with the rest onsite - 46.9%**
6. Components that are best suited to be delivered via online in a partially online practical (Tick all that are appropriate)
  - **Theoretical background of experiments/ exercises - 69.1%**
  - Planning the experiments/exercises - 55%
  - Instructions for the experiments/exercises - 62.7%
  - Instructions for home assignments/field studies/ field trips/project work - 59.2%
  - **Video recordings related to the practical work - 75.6%**
7. The online component should be conducted
  - well ahead of the physical practical giving time to prepare for it - 23.4%
  - just before conducting the physical practical - 18.6%
  - within the scheduled practical time in the Master Timetable - 19.2%
  - **academic coordinator should decide the best time - 38.7%**

### Conducting CA Tests under normal situation in the country

8. Preferred method for conducting CA Tests in the future is
  - only physical mode, at the regional centres - 13.4%
  - one CAT online and the rest in physical mode - 23.9%
  - **online mode only - 62.7%**

9. Preferred method to have online CA Tests

- by using the computer facilities at the regional centres under supervision - 5.5%
- by using any accessible facility under supervision - 14.8%
- **as home-based assignments, uploaded via LearnOUSL - 79.7%**

10. Preferred types of questions for an online test (tick all that are appropriate)

- **MCQs - 79.7%**
- Short-answer questions to answer on the question paper - 34.1%
- Long-answer questions to answer on a separate paper, scanned, and uploaded to a drop box - 15.2%
- Any question types - 18%

11. Any other suggestions:

Online day-schools

- Zoom day-schools with uploading of recording is good for employed students.
- University can create videos-based theory (like UK open university, Coursera, Edexcel) and upload to Moodle. Then conduct discussion session via zoom or onsite.
- Prefer to have online day schools by internal staff rather than physical lectures by visiting staff.

Online Practical

- Do not cutdown practicals to save time.
- Practical sessions should be onsite as we are not familiar to do practicals alone.
- It is better if you can do both onsite and online for practicals.
- Since TRF facilities are given only for 5 days continuously we need to go home in-between wasting our time on travelling. Better if consider having some practicals and CATs online under the distance education concept.
- TRF facilities outside Colombo are not good.

Online CATs

- Better to conduct online CATs after 6pm on weekdays.
- Power cuts and disconnections make online CATs difficult and stressful.
- Please give adequate upload time in case of unexpected power cuts, laptop stuck and other human reasons
- Individual question loading takes a long time, therefore, need to give more time for the paper. Better if the whole paper is given at once.
- In online CATs, make the 'back' button enabled to try the previously misjudged or unsure answers.
- In the online MCQ tests, please confirm us whether all answers are saved.
- Login to LMS and Zoom at the same time is difficult.