

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

27 March 2021

Dear staff and students

UPDATE ON THE REGISTRATION PERIOD, COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2021 ACADEMIC PROGRAMME AND RETURN TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

We once again take this opportunity to welcome all students and staff to the 2021 academic year. The University is aware of the challenges that some students have faced in relation to NSFAS funding and registration. It is worrying though, that while there are a significant number (over 5000) of first time entering (FTEN) applicants who have been cleared by NSFAS for funding, and have already been contacted by our Admissions Office to register by prescribed dates, they have simply not done so.

It is not clear whether their non-registration is due to any technical challenge or whether they are considering other options to study. Further, there is a group of 4687 FTEN students who have still not accepted their offers to study at DUT.

Obviously, the University has to take steps to ensure that it meets its enrolment targets, especially considering the fact that the number of applicants has significantly exceeded the number of students we can actually admit. Hence our Admissions Office has contacted the applicants who have been cleared by NSFAS and those who may not have been NSFAS applicants (self-payers) but have been given an offer to study, to enquire whether they still wish to register, considering that the deadline for acceptance has now passed.

Should these applicants not respond or indicate that they will not register, their spaces will then be offered to other applicants on the waiting list and to those on the list of late applications that we received via the Central Applications Office (CAO).

The Executive Management Committee (EMC) and the Senate Executive Committee (Senex) met on Friday afternoon, 26 March 2021, to consider ways of dealing with the shortfall in FTEN enrolments, in order to give FTEN applicants a further opportunity to register and at the same time, to provide direction on the continuation of the 2021 academic programme at the DUT.

Please take note of the important announcements that follow:

1. We hereby announce a further extension of one week for the commencement of lectures for **first year students**; with lectures now starting on **Tuesday, 06 April 2021**, as opposed to the initial date of Monday, 29 March 2021. Please note that this is only for first year students. This delay will not result in a change in the academic calendar and academic departments will have to make up the teaching and learning time during the course of the first semester.
2. There will be a further **extension of the registration period for all students**. This has been extended to **Thursday, 01 April 2021**.
3. Lectures for **all returning students** will commence on **Monday, 29 March 2021**, as previously approved and published.

RETURN OF STUDENTS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Due to the ongoing pandemic and taking into account the serious threat of a third wave of COVID-19 infections in South Africa, the University would like to confirm:

1. Returning students

- As from Monday, 29 March 2021, lectures will be offered online for all returning students.
- Permits to access campus will be granted only to students who require access to the practical laboratories, as well as those students whose conditions at home are not conducive for learning. This group of students will have to follow the process that was implemented last year.
- The Student Housing Department will begin to receive these students, who are registered and allocated to residences, as from today, Saturday, 27 March 2021.

2. First time entering (FTEN) students

- The orientation programme for the FTEN students concludes today, Saturday, 27 March 2021.
- As from 06 April 2021, the University will start to offer blended teaching and learning to FTEN students so that they will have exposure to both mask-to-mask and online lectures.
- The University will accommodate all FTEN students who are eligible to be at residences when lectures resume on 06 April 2021. Residences will begin to receive this group of students from Monday, 05 April 2021. This will be after the Easter weekend.

- Faculties will issue permits to all eligible students.
- The University reminds all FTEN students who may be experiencing challenges related to online registration to report them to the Department of Student Admissions on **0313735005**. Alternatively, you can contact Student Admissions via WhatsApp using one of these numbers: **0834451282, 0834460459, 0834541495, 0834543477, 0834516751** or **0834413766**.
- First year students can email: 1styrstudentreg@dut.ac.za and visit the DUT website for guidance related to online off-campus registration: https://www.dut.ac.za/student_portal/student_registration/.
- On the merits of their declared challenges, the relevant university officers will grant permits to those students who will then gain access to registration facilities.
- As a result of COVID-19 restrictions and protocols DUT will not allow any unannounced visits and access, without permits having been granted in advance.

3. Health and Safety Measures

- The cleaning of residences will be done before the arrival of students.
- The HealthCheck online form will be used as a screening tool for COVID-19. Please use this link to access the HealthCheck online form **before** arriving on campus: <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za/login/?next=/>

PROVISION OF DATA FOR STUDENTS AND CAMPUS WIFI IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

DUT
DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

The University will continue to provide data for all registered students for the months of April 2021 and May 2021. Following a meeting with the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), the University submitted a list of 26000 cell phone numbers of returning students and newly registered students, to the MNOs on Tuesday 23 March 2021. The MNO's have confirmed that the data will be loaded onto the numbers as per the list received.

For students who have registered during the course of this week, those cell phone numbers will be submitted to the MNOs on Monday, 29 March 2021 and the data will be loaded by the MNOs at the end of next week.

Until further notice, the University will continue to provide data for qualifying staff who are working remotely.

The University has undertaken a WiFi improvement project. The procurement process has already commenced and the supplier is expected to commence with the improvement project in April 2021.



CONCLUSION

We take this opportunity to wish all students and staff a safe and successful academic year. Please remember to abide by the COVID-19 regulations and guidelines. You must wear your mask, wash your hands regularly with soap and water, use a minimum of 70% alcohol-based hand sanitiser and please observe physical and social distancing of a minimum of 1.5 metres from the person next to you. This fight against the coronavirus is not over. On Tuesday this week, South Africa reported 510 new cases of COVID-19. By Thursday, just two days later, that number had escalated to 1554. The new cases had tripled in 48 hours. The bottom line is that we all have a responsibility to limit the further spread of COVID-19. Please stay safe.

Sincerely

DUT Management team



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE