

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

31 March 2021

Dear staff and students

### REGISTRATION UPDATE

Yesterday, the Executive Management Committee (EMC) met as a result of the challenges faced by some students during the current online registration period. A large number of mainly first time entering (FTEN) students have experienced problems with remote online registration and they require physical help to complete their online registration.

With COVID-19 regulations and protocols that are in place, the University had to implement measures to control the flow of an increasingly large number of prospective students and returning students who required physical on-campus assistance. The long queues that were witnessed especially on Monday could not be substantially reduced. Taking this administrative hiccup into account, EMC agreed that there was an urgent need to review our administrative arrangements about registration.

Due to a number of challenges, including late confirmation of NSFAS funding, online registration hiccups and having a number of students with firm offers who have not yet accepted and registered, EMC has decided to further extend the registration period for ALL students.

In accordance with COVID-19 regulations and protocols, the University has also decided to decentralise registration and has provided more venues for on-campus online registration support. Decentralised venues in both Durban and Pietermaritzburg will include all available computer laboratories. Further announcements in this regard will be made and directions to the venues will be provided.

In addition, the University will be appointing more temporary staff at Student Admissions, to assist with the influx of on-campus, assisted, online registrations. The Student Recruitment Department and Orientation Helpers will be assisting, too. In particular, DUT Finance will deploy more staff at particular venues to assist with financial clearance.

All of the above will help to alleviate the long queues of FTEN students, expedite online registration but also ensure we adhere to COVID-19 regulations and protocols in place.

Please take note of these important dates:

1. **Registration for ALL students** will be further extended to **Friday, 09 April 2021** for **on campus online** assistance and **11 April 2021**, for **remote registrations**.
2. **First time entering (FTEN) students ONLY - lectures** for **first year programmes** will now commence on **Monday, 12 April 2021**.
3. The academic programme, as per the joint EMC/Senex meeting that was held on 26 March 2021 is still in place. In particular, online/blended learning for returning students started on 29 March 2021 and will continue as planned. Please note that there is no need at this stage to revise the academic calendar. An overwhelming majority of returning students have registered and we cannot stop the academic programme from continuing. Like in 2020 and the previous years, academic departments will offer catch-up programmes to the minority of returning students who will register late for various reasons.

Finally, we wish our students and staff a safe and successful 2021 academic year. Please remember to wear your mask, wash your hands regularly, observe the social and physical distancing guidelines and avoid gathering in groups. Remember, we all have a responsibility to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in the DUT community and please stay safe over the Easter weekend.

Sincerely

DUT Management team

DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY  
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