

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

05 March 2021

Dear students

UPDATE ON 2021 REGISTRATIONS

Since the commencement of registrations as per the 2021 University Calendar, the SRC, on behalf of students in execution of its statutory mandate, has reported a number of registration related challenges, which include among others:

- Delayed NSFAS confirmation of funding for both prospective and returning students.
- Online registration system errors.
- Articulation from Higher Certificates to mainstream Diploma programmes.

This statement seeks to provide an update and perspective following a constructive engagement session with the SRC on Thursday, 04 February 2021, as follows:

NSFAS Delays

While funding confirmation is the sole responsibility of NSFAS in terms of their business processes, the university and many others in the sector have the responsibility to administer and disburse these funds to confirmed, funded students. To date, NSFAS has not yet circulated the complete funded lists to universities, nor have they published the 2021 Guidelines as they normally do on annual basis. Our Financial Aid Department is in daily contact with relevant NSFAS officials, to follow up on outstanding funding confirmations for qualifying returning students, for whom the 2020 results templates have been duly submitted, as well as for prospective first year students, who have firm offers from the university.

To date, funding confirmation of almost 11 000 returning students has been received and these have been unblocked to proceed with registration. However, we continue to be faced with a national delay of funding confirmation for the prospective cohort of students. In this respect, national engagements with NSFAS via Universities South Africa (USAF- a national body representing all public universities) are being initiated and further feedback will be provided in due course.

Online Registration System Errors

At yesterday's engagement with the SRC, our ITSS section has undertaken to expedite resolution of system errors, especially the QG17 error through increased technical capacity. The speedy resolution of this technical glitch will go a long way to ensuring that deserving and qualifying returning students who have been erroneously excluded are able to secure continued NSFAS funding for the 2021 academic year.

Higher Certificate Articulation to Diploma Programmes

Admission to any programme at DUT is based on Senate approved rules and criteria, including consideration of the university's Enrolment Planning, as determined by Senate and approved by DHET. The First-Time Entering (FTEN) enrolment target applies to new first-year students and does not include Higher Certificate students.

Higher Certificates are by their nature exit qualifications and admission to Diploma programmes is also contingent on the Senate approved rules and criteria including the university's Enrolment Planning. While Faculties are currently considering applications, it must be noted that they are bound by the need to comply with Senate admission rules and thus, admission to Diploma programmes is not automatic for the Higher Certificate cohort, as may be perceived.

Conclusion

A special appeal is made for patience, calm, and restraint, while university officials continue to give matters the deserved urgency to assure a smooth 2021 registration. Through the Office of the Deputy Registrar, the Registration Monitoring Team that includes the SRC, has been set up and monitoring meetings continue to be held on a regular basis.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding. Please stay safe and remember to wear your face mask, to observe social distancing guidelines, to wash your hands regularly with water and soap for a minimum of 20 seconds, to sanitize frequently touched surface areas and to avoid gathering in groups – as these interventions will help limit and prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in our country.

Sincerely

DUT Management team