

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

09 April 2021

Dear staff and students

### **UPDATE: REGISTRATION, FIRST-YEAR ACADEMIC PROGRAMME, DATA FOR STUDENTS AND CLOSURE OF DURBAN CAMPUSES.**

Last weekend's fake social media posts falsely inviting applicants to come to our campuses to register in person, created chaotic scenes this week. This not only compromised the health, safety and security of those who invaded the Steve Biko campus, but it also compromised the wellbeing of our staff who were assisting the first time entry (FTEN) applicants who had firm offers but were experiencing challenges to complete their online registration. DUT will not allow itself to be turned into a super-spreader space that could end the lives of many South Africans. As if the invasion alone had not been enough, the protestors engaged in extremely violent behaviour, resulting in the law enforcement authorities having to intervene and arrest some of those who were allegedly breaking the law.

Earlier today, members of the Executive Management Committee (EMC) and the Senate Executive Committee (Senex) met to discuss registration, the first year academic programme, data for students and the closure of the Durban campuses. We would like to share the following important announcements with you.

### **REMOTE ONLINE REGISTRATION**

The **online registration** period for **first time applicants** and **returning students** has been extended to **Friday, 16 April 2021**. [https://www.dut.ac.za/student\\_portal/student\\_registration/](https://www.dut.ac.za/student_portal/student_registration/)

The University reminds all first time applicants who may be experiencing challenges related to online registration to please report them to Student Admissions via WhatsApp, using one of these numbers: **0834451282, 0834460459, 0834541495, 0834543477, 0834516751** or **0834413766**.

The University reiterates that **walk-in applications will not be allowed**.

If you are a first time entering (FTEN) applicant interested in contacting a specific Faculty regarding any available space in an academic programme, please note the Faculty email addresses below. Submit your details, including your ID number and a statement of NSC results, together with your contact details, as well as the name of the programme that you are interested in:

- Faculty of Accounting and Informatics - [faireg@dut.ac.za](mailto:faireg@dut.ac.za)
- Faculty of Applied Sciences – [fas@dut.ac.za](mailto:fas@dut.ac.za)
- Faculty of Arts and Design – [FADreg@dut.ac.za](mailto:FADreg@dut.ac.za)
- Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment – [feberereg@dut.ac.za](mailto:feberereg@dut.ac.za)
- Faculty of Health Sciences – [FHSReg@dut.ac.za](mailto:FHSReg@dut.ac.za)
- Faculty of Management Sciences – [FMSreg@dut.ac.za](mailto:FMSreg@dut.ac.za)

## THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

Please note that **remote, online learning** for **FTEN students** will commence on **Monday, 12 April 2021**. This will ensure that the academic calendar can successfully conclude within this calendar year. It needs to be noted that the majority of FTEN students have already registered. Just like we had in 2020 when not all students could resume their academic programme due to lockdown, catch-up plans and programmes will be in place for the minority of FTEN students that will register during the week ending on Friday, 16 April 2021.

As previously announced and noted above, returning students started with their remote, online learning on 29 March 2021. This has proceeded and will proceed as scheduled. Given that the Durban campuses are still closed, especially for students, practical and laboratory sessions will not take place until further notice.

## MASTERS AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Masters and doctoral students are expected to continue with their research work. Those needing access to the laboratory to continue carrying out their experimental work must get the relevant permission through their respective Departments and Faculties. However, those who do not require access to laboratories must continue to work remotely and online. They do not deserve to be issued permits.

## **CONTINUED CLOSURE OF THE DURBAN CAMPUSES**

As a result of what happened on Tuesday and Wednesday, the University suspended mask-to-mask on-campus assistance in Durban, for online registration of FTEN students with firm offers. On Wednesday morning, following the violent protests outside Steve Biko campus, Management decided to close all five DUT campuses in Durban.

Despite the closure of the Durban campuses, as announced already, online functions and activities of the University, including online teaching and learning for returning students and unassisted off-campus online registration have continued as planned. Closure of the Durban campuses, especially for students, will continue until further notice. This will allow the University to consider and assess many pre-requisites for re-opening and for allowing students, albeit in a restricted way still, to return to campus.

## **STUDENT RESIDENCES REMAIN OPEN**

Closure of the Durban campuses under the conditions provided, does not mean student residences will be closed to those who have registered and taken occupation thereof. As was the case in 2020, restricted access to our campuses does not mean academic functions and activities stop. Remote online learning will still continue from student residences and private accommodation.

In this respect, it should be remembered that provision of data to all registered students is meant to facilitate their access to online learning even as they may not have physical access to the university.

## **FRONTLINE AND ESSENTIAL WORK BY STAFF DURING CLOSURE**

Due to the continuing security concerns following the violent protests this week, the five Durban campuses will remain closed until further notice, except for frontline, essential services and other service Divisions, Units, Departments and Faculties determine as absolutely necessary to continue with. For example, staff who have to assist with online registration and other associated services like NSFAS funding queries or financial clearance will still continue to provide such services on campus. Other staff members in both teaching-learning and support services who can work remotely and online should continue to do so.

Staff members in the special categories mentioned above will be given permits by their Executives, accordingly, as we have been doing since 2020. As indicated above, online teaching and learning will continue remotely, so the continued “closure” is only about physical presence and mask-to-mask engagements. It does not equate to suspension of the academic programme, as announced previously.

## DATA FOR STUDENTS

All registered students will be provided with mobile data to facilitate remote, online learning. This will be loaded onto your cell phone/mobile device that you had detailed on your profile at the time of registration. The University shares the mobile device numbers of registered students with the various Mobile Network Operators (MNO) and the MNOs then load the data directly to the student’s registered device/number.

In fact, data loading agreed with MNOs for April is today, 9 April 2021. Thus data will have been loaded before Monday, 12 April 2021 when FTEN students start their remote, online learning. If you have any issues with data secured via DUT, please click on this link: <https://bit.ly/3rYU3FEa>.

## DATA FOR STAFF

The next cycle for staff mobile data applications to assist with remote working, will commence next week. The Chief Information Officer will inform all staff via the DUT PinBoard once the electronic application process is open.

## CONCLUSION

The University reminds you that we only distribute official statements via our DUT platforms:

1. **DUT PinBoard** staff email system
2. **DUT4life** student email accounts
3. **DUT website** – [www.dut.ac.za](http://www.dut.ac.za)

Do not take other social media posts on registration-related matters as official statements from the University.

We remain extremely concerned with the blatant violation of the COVID-19 protocols by a large number of people who invaded the Steve Biko campus this week. The University once again reiterates that South Africa is still in a national “State of Disaster” and we all need to act responsibly to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 and to avoid a third wave of the pandemic in our country.

Sincerely

DUT Management team



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY  
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE