

## **COMMUNIQUE: 2021 VIRTUAL AUTUMN GRADUATION AND FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS**

**11 May 2021**

**Dear Graduand,**

The DUT congratulates you on your academic achievement!

The culmination of a student's studies is a graduation ceremony. Students look forward to this day when they can share their achievement with loved ones and receive their certificates proudly. Every year, the University traditionally hosts in excess of 26 graduation ceremonies and during this time, approximately 9000 graduands and their families from all over South Africa and beyond our borders descend upon the University.

The current global crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic has, unfortunately, cast a shadow on this milestone. We realise the importance of graduation in the lives of our students, parents, family and friends and it is regrettable that we find ourselves in this situation. The World Health Organisation has emphasised that the pandemic is a global, but also an 'individual' responsibility, referring to the precautionary measures that need to be taken by governments, companies, institutions, organisations and all citizens.

After due consideration of inputs from the University's Executive Management Team, the Executive Committee of Senate, the DUT COVID-19 Task Team, and taking into account national developments, a decision has been taken to cancel the physical 2021 Autumn graduation ceremonies in its traditional format and instead to hold a VIRTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY, in keeping with global trends during the pandemic. The decision has been extremely difficult, but the University considers it to be the most responsible course of action. It is the responsible decision to protect the campus community and to limit the possibility of the spread of the virus into the general population. We appreciate your support and understanding for these decisions that have been taken in your best interest.

The virtual ceremony referred to above will enable us to confer the qualification on you both ceremonially and legally, which will enable you, thereafter to receive your actual certificate (**subject to all arrear fees being settled and outstanding documents being submitted**).

The virtual ceremony, where all qualifications will be conferred to graduands whose names appear in the 2021 Autumn graduation booklets, will be held on **Thursday 27 May and Friday 28 May 2021 at 12:00**. The ceremony may be viewed on YouTube as well as on the DUT website. Links will be created on both these platforms where the graduation booklets can be accessed with your name and qualification.

For further information and updates with regard to the virtual graduation ceremony, please check the DUT graduation webpage **CLICK HERE**

**ISSUED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR**

Dr T S Pillay  
Registrar