



5 May 2020

Dear colleagues and students,

In his address on Thursday, 30 April 2020, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, announced that no campus-based academic activity would resume throughout the post-school education and training sector, including all universities and TVET colleges, both public and private, during Level 4 of the lockdown period.

The only exception to this is the controlled return of final-year clinical training, in particular medical students, under strict conditions to assist with the health management campaign of the Department of Health for COVID-19.

This means that no students will be allowed on any off TUT's campuses during Level 4 of the lockdown period.

The University has also received enquiries from staff members about the return to campuses. Staff members rendering essential services, who have been working during Level 5 of the lockdown, as well as staff members who have been working remotely, will continue to do so under Level 4. Staff members who require access to any of our campuses may apply for permits through their line managers and HR&T.

As Minister Nzimande described it, we are all in "unchartered territory" and I would once again like to express my gratitude to our staff members who are working behind the scenes to finalise strategies, plans, systems and more to ensure the continuation of the University's operations.

Aligned with the Minister's announcement, the University is utilising the month of May to finalise plans for multi-modal remote teaching and learning; data and connectivity to support remote learning; the acquisition and delivery of devices and, where relevant, learning material, for our students. The aim is to commence with emergency remote teaching and learning on 1 June 2020.

The University will issue a request to all students to supply contact and other information in order to enable delivery of devices and learning materials soon.

The EMC members are also developing plans in each of their respective portfolios for the eventual return of staff and students once the level of the national lockdown allows for this.

The University is working closely with the Department of Higher Education and Training and the sector to save the academic year, while ensuring at the same time that we save lives.

Until we talk again, please stay safe and healthy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. van Staden', is positioned above the printed name.

**PROF LOURENS VAN STADEN**  
**VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL**