



TUT update: 18 March 2020

Dear Colleagues and students,

On 15 March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national disaster. A number of drastic national measures, including travel bans, the closure of schools and certain borders, as well as bans on large gatherings have been instituted.

On 17 March 2020, Minister of Higher Education, Science & Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, announced a number of measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the post-school sector. One of the key announcements was that all universities and colleges would be closed for an extended recess from today, 18 March to 15 April 2020 based on the assessment of the spread of the virus. However, certain activities such as postgraduate and research work, among others, will continue.

Following the Minister's announcement, the Executive Management Committee today reflected on the Ministerial statement and resolved the following:

- That the University is currently closed for staff and students.
- Essential staff members, as determined by their line managers will be required to report for duty and will be compensated in line with the *Policy on Overtime*.
- Staff members may contact their line managers, should they require further clarification.
- The EMC will meet on 30 March 2020 to conduct a risk assessment and arrangements for the return of staff will then be communicated.
- Postgraduate (Master's and Doctoral) studies and research work will continue in line with the Minister's statement and as per Faculty arrangements.
- Undergraduate students will be on an extended recess until 15 April 2020. Students are encouraged to self-study during this time.

The management would like to thank staff and students for their patience during these extraordinary times.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. van Staden', written over a white background.

PROF LOURENS VAN STADEN
VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL