

16 March 2020

Dear Staff and Students,

As you are aware, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national disaster on 15 March 2020. 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. Please refer to the attached Statement.

In line with the national directives, the EMC has today resolved the following:

Recess to start on 17 March 2020

The March recess will be brought forward to Tuesday, 17 March 2020 and extended to after the Easter weekend (until 13 April 2020). Students are urged to vacate all residences by Friday, 20 March 2020 to mitigate against the spread of the virus and for the sake of their own health. International students should contact their local SAED office for guidance. The University will extend the academic year to ensure that the integrity of academic programmes will not be compromised.

Graduations

The Autumn Graduation Ceremonies will be postponed until further notice. Enquiries may be made at the Certification Office on (012) 382-4818 or on graduations@tut.ac.za.

International and national travel

There will be a moratorium on all official international travel until further notice with immediate effect. Those who have travelled internationally for official or private purposes, or persons that have come into contact with individuals from high-risk countries are referred to the attached guidelines. The President has also advised in the national directive that all people who have travelled to affected areas since 15 February 2020 should present themselves for testing.

Staff are further advised that all official non-essential domestic travel is prohibited until further notice.

Large University gatherings and meetings

All large University gatherings, including conferences and seminars, as well as official meetings are cancelled with immediate effect until further notice. Staff members and other stakeholders are encouraged to utilise Skype for urgent meetings that cannot be postponed at this time.

Staff members

Non-essential staff members may work from home on 17 and 18 March 2020. However, essential services will continue. Staff members are obliged to verify specific arrangements directly with their line managers. Further arrangements for staff will be communicated based on a daily risk assessment by the EMC Emergency Response Team.

Staff and students are requested to adhere to the precautionary measures, including the regular washing of hands and keeping a 1,5m social distance at all times.

For more information on precautionary and other measures related to COVID-19 visit the NICD's website at www.nicd.ac.za. Staff and students are also advised to make use of the national hotline on 0800 029 999 or the official WhatsApp service on 0600 123 456.

Those requiring counselling may contact the SA Depression and Anxiety Group on 0800 687 888.

Further details will be provided for enquiries specifically related to TUT in due course.

The University will keep all our stakeholders informed as to any further arrangements during this crisis time.

Kind regards



PROF LOURENS VAN STADEN
VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL