

A HANDY GUIDE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE POST SCHOOL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTOR



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET Colleges)

- All TVET colleges have closed for early recess on 18 March 2020 and are expected to reopen on 15 April 2020.
- Examinations for NATED (Engineering Studies) which were scheduled to commence on 30 March 2020 have been postponed. The examination timetable will be revised and communicated to Trimester 1 students and staff after consultation with Umalusi.
- The postponement of the Trimester 1 examinations will impact the remaining trimesters for 2020.
- Students have been advised to continue preparing for examinations. Lecturers have been requested to issue assignments or tasks for students to complete during the recess to equip them for the exams upon their return.
- The TVET Branch will engage with colleges on pursuing online learning modalities where possible, while looking at the possibility of using readily available study guides for the trimester and semester programmes, and a structured catch-up programme for the annual National Curriculum (Vocational) programmes.
- The normal procedures applicable for college residences during recess are being applied and students are expected to vacate residences by 20 March 2020.

Universities

- All institutions have implemented early recess and given students until 20 March 2020 to vacate residences.
- International students are being treated on a case-by-case basis. All students who cannot return home are being accommodated in residences.
- NSFAS allowances are being paid to students.
- Preparations for short to medium strategies, including online study are underway, at most institutions.
- Business continuity plans are being put in place at all institutions.
- Research continuity is being attempted at most institutions.
- Most academic staff are working from home and only essential service staff are in place on campuses. Support staff are at work on a rotational basis to limit contact and the spread of the virus.
- Some universities are allowing students with exceptional circumstances to stay on campus together with international students who cannot vacate.



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HIGHER EDUCATION IN A TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Universities (continued)...

- Some universities are assisting students with financial difficulties to get home.
- All universities will assess the situation at the end of the month and make decisions on when students may return to campuses.

National Development of Learnerships, Employment Skills and Labour Assessment (INDLELA)

- Indlela has suspended all hostel accommodation to all trade test and ARPL candidates.
- All other functions at this stage such as ARPL, trade test registration and trade testing continues as usual while management monitors the local infection rate and considers further suspension of activities.

National Skills Fund (NSF)

- NSF-funded private Skills Development Providers (SDPs) have been requested to suspend all contact classroom and contact workshop training from 19 March 2020.
- All onsite invoice verifications have been suspended until further notice. SDPs will be requested to submit reports (including supporting documents) via e-mail and NSF project managers will be limited to desktop invoice verification.

Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) staff

- The biometric system has been deactivated in all buildings.
- The Department has ordered sanitisers, masks and gloves, and is awaiting delivery. There are challenges with supply however some bottles of sanitiser have been procured for use for now.
- All non-essential meetings, interviews and travel have been cancelled.



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