



## COMMUNIQUE: VIRTUAL AUTUMN GRADUATION AND FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS

09 June 2020

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.

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.

In April/May every year, the University traditionally hosts in excess of 20 graduation ceremonies and during this time, approximately 7500 graduands and their families from all over South Africa and beyond our borders descend upon the University.

After due consideration of inputs from the University's Executive Management Team, the Executive Committee of Senate, the DUT COVID-19 Task Team, AND national developments, a decision has been taken to cancel the physical 2020 April/May 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 assist you in having your qualification conferred on you ceremonially as well as legally, and will also enable you, thereafter, to receive your actual certificate.

The virtual ceremony, where all qualifications will be conferred to graduands whose names appear in the 2020 April/May graduation booklets, will be held on **Wednesday 10 June 2020 at 12pm**. The ceremony can be viewed on YouTube as well as on the DUT website. There shall be links created on both these platforms where the graduation booklets can be accessed with your name and qualification.

For further information, please find attached a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" with regard to the cancellation of the physical graduation ceremony and please check the DUT graduation webpage for further updates.

**ISSUED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR**  
**DR T S PILLAY**  
**REGISTRAR**