

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

10 March 2022

Dear staff and students

UPDATE ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMME AND UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

Earlier this week, members of the Executive Management Committee (EMC) and the Senate Executive Committee (Senex) met to discuss the potential reopening of on-site activities and the 2022 Back to Campus Teaching & Learning Plan, amongst other important matters.

It also needs to be noted that whilst the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided, South Africa's low rate of vaccinations, unfortunately fuels the threat of a fifth wave of the pandemic, which must be taken seriously. Therefore, we urge all staff and students to get fully vaccinated. Last month, the DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team provided you with a "Visit campus safely" guide. If you missed it, please click on the link below:

<https://dut-cdn2.azureedge.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Everyone-coming-to-campus-must-...-2022.pdf>

If you have any questions related to the pandemic and/or vaccinations, kindly email: covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za. Please read below for a summary of the relevant points, following the joint EMC-Senex meeting.

DISRUPTION OF ONLINE LEARNING

EMC and Senex strongly condemns the intentional disruption of some online lectures on Monday. The Chief Information Officer (CIO) and the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) have already issued updated guidelines, advising lecturers and the Heads of Academic Departments on how to better secure the online teaching and learning space. Students are advised to not share the lecture channel links with people who are not meant to be in the online lecture.

DATA PROVISION

A total of more than 28000 student's cell phone numbers – just about the total number of students registered by 28 February 2022 - have been shared with the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and data has been and will be allocated to this group of registered students. The details of the students who had registered last week, was sent to the MNOs on Tuesday and data will be allocated by the MNOs in the days ahead. The first-year students who complete their registration by this Friday, will have their cell phone numbers submitted to the MNOs next week.

GUIDELINES FOR WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAFF WORKING ON-SITE, HYBRID OR REMOTELY - 2022

It is the intention of the university that staff return to normality in terms of work arrangements. However, this is subject to the announcement about the National State of Disaster, which the President is expected to make later this month. Therefore, Line Managers should prepare for staff returns. In the interim, where deemed necessary as a result of our revised Teaching and Learning Plan and other work requirements, employees will be required to return to work, in line with the choices as stipulated in the Council approved Vaccination Policy.

Please note that you must be logged in to your DUT profile to view the links on the Staff and Student Portals:

Staff can access the document via the portal: [Back to Campus Allocations 1.pdf](#)

Students can access the document via the portal: [Back to Campus Allocations 1.pdf](#)

You can view the statement which highlights the Vaccination Policy that was published on our website and circulated to all staff and students in December 2021:

<https://dut-cdn2.azureedge.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/DUT.Statement.Council.091221-1.pdf>

Staff members who have not yet uploaded their vaccine certificates should click this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=0TAZS_QStUC0jL2GEXOp2NIWhREnYERMiTuzKIX5yPBURTNCUzM4NzRRUFBBTkczNEZTVjjPMkM3VC4u

DUT
DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
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IMPLEMENTATION OF DUT VACCINATION POLICY WITH RESPECT TO STUDENTS AND PROTOCOL FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Please note that you must be logged in to your DUT profile to view the links on the Staff and Student Portals:

Staff can access the document via the portal: [Implementation of Vaccination Policy.pdf](#)

Students can access the document via the portal: [Implementation of Vaccination Policy.pdf](#)

The guidelines could be revised in the weeks ahead, depending on government's position on the National State of Disaster, the adjusted Alert Lockdown Levels and the potential of a fifth wave of the pandemic. Student Services will keep the student body updated on further developments. We urge all students to regularly monitor their DUT4life email accounts for updated information. Based on our Teaching and Learning Plan, we expect the specific categories of students who could return to campus to be ready for a potential return.

Therefore, students are advised to get fully vaccinated and submit their vaccination certificate. All students must upload their vaccination certificate on this secure link: <https://bit.ly/3tHPukM>.

Please visit the Department of Health's website to access your vaccination certificate: <https://vaccine.certificate.health.gov.za>. If you are unable to download your vaccination certificate, please contact the national COVID-19 Hotline on 0800 029 999 for further assistance.

REVISED TEACHING & LEARNING PLAN

The focus is to provide a safe and stable teaching and learning environment for first-year students and third year students once they have been invited back on campus. The plan also considers students who require access to laboratories for practical purposes.

EMC-Senex adopted the following provisions:

- First year and third year students will be invited back to campus for mask-to-mask lectures by Faculties that are able to manage class sizes required, within the COVID-19 protocols.
- Laboratory access will be granted for all students (first years to postgraduates) requiring such to complete their practicals and laboratory work, which will be managed by the six faculties.
- Students are advised to monitor their DUT4life email accounts for important announcements in this regard. Remember, do not arrive on campus unless you have been specifically invited by your faculty to attend on-site activities.

Please note that you must be logged in to your DUT profile to view the SharePoint links:

Staff can access the document via the portal: [Back to Campus Allocations I.pdf](#)

Students can access the document via the portal: [Back to Campus Allocations I.pdf](#)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Please click on the link for the revised term dates and skeletal academic calendar for 2022.

Staff can access the calendar via the portal:

[Request For Amendments To The Approved 2022 Term Dates and Skeletal Academic Calendar.pdf](#)

Student can access the calendar via the portal:

[Request For Amendments To The Approved 2022 Term Dates and Skeletal Academic Calendar.pdf](#)

COMPLIANCE WITH COUNCIL APPROVED VACCINATION POLICY

Staff can access the document via the portal: [COVID TT FRAMEWORK.pdf](#)

Students can access the document via the portal: [COVID TT FRAMEWORK.pdf](#)

READINESS OF THE CAMPUSES

EMC and Senex received an update on the campus preparedness in relation to:

- Cleaning and sanitisation.
- Social distancing.
- Personal protective equipment.

Staff can access the document via the portal: [CLEANING AND SANITIZATION COVID 19 READINESS REPORT March 2022.pdf](#)

Students can access the document via the portal: [CLEANING AND SANITIZATION COVID 19 READINESS REPORT March 2022.pdf](#)

CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly changed our world and as we get closer to a more familiar routine that will see our spaces open up in a controlled and planned process, we continue to urge all staff and students to please get fully vaccinated - and to upload their vaccine certificates as requested. We remind members of the university community that the use of face masks is still compulsory on all university properties. Please also ensure that **before** you arrive on campus, you use the **HealthCheck** online screening form. You can access HealthCheck in three ways:

- Dial HealthCheck on *134*832*2# (*This is a free call*).
- Go to: <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za>
- Add 0600 110 000 - <https://wa.me/27600110000?text=hi> to your WhatsApp contacts.

Late registration for first year students will conclude on Friday, 11 March 2022. Registration remains online and DUT is not accepting any walk ins, as previously communicated.

We wish you a safe and successful first semester.

Sincerely

DUT Management Team