

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

25 January 2023

Dear staff and students

AMENDMENTS TO THE APPROVED 2023 TERM DATES AND SKELETAL ACADEMIC CALENDAR

We take this opportunity to wish you a safe and successful 2023. DUT is excited to embrace the year ahead and we look forward to our journey with you as we ENVISION2030.

Earlier today, members of the Executive Management Committee (EMC) and the Senate Executive Committee (Senex) met to discuss the proposed amendments to the approved 2023 Term Dates and Skeletal Academic Calendar.

To remind you, the 2023 Term Dates and Skeletal Academic Calendar for DUT was approved by EMC-Senex at its meeting dated 08 July 2022. This was ratified by Senate on 31 August 2022 and noted by Council, at its meeting dated 17 September 2022. As per the approved academic calendar, registration was scheduled from 16 January 2023 to 03 February 2023 and lectures for First Semester and Annual students were planned to commence from 06 February 2023.

Following the approval of the 2023 academic calendar, DUT received a NSFAS circular (Circular Notice No.1 of 2023 - For All Institutions) dated 18 January 2023. The purpose of this circular was to share the readiness of NSFAS, on key deliverables for student funding that are imperative for the successful start of the academic year at universities and TVET Colleges in South Africa. The circular highlighted the following important information that has a direct impact on DUT's approved 2023 academic calendar.

NSFAS New Application Funding Decisions

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) has made funding eligibility decisions for first time entering (FTEN), South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) applicants. Students in this category are immediately informed by NSFAS, of their funding eligibility status.

Institutions were provided with a FTEN, SASSA funding eligibility list by NSFAS on 23 January 2023.

- Funding eligibility lists for non-SASSA applicants and for returning students require financial and/or academic eligibility verification and NSFAS uses third party sources to confirm funding.

- Decisions and the funding eligibility list for non-SASSA applicants and returning students will only be released by NSFAS on 06 February 2023.

2023 Funding Decisions for Continuing students

- The funding eligibility list for continuing students at universities was published for institutions, where results had been received, on 20 January 2023.

2023 Appeals

- Appeals for new and continuing students opened on 20 January 2023 and will close on 20 February 2023.

Therefore, taking the above into account and in the best interests of the entire university community, EMC-Senex decided to amend the approved 2023 Term Dates and Skeletal Academic Calendar. As a result, the academic programme will now commence on **20 February 2023**. Registration at DUT will be extended by two additional weeks, from 06 February to 20 February 2023. Before the end of this week, the Registry will circulate the updated 2023 Term Dates and Skeletal Academic Calendar with all staff and students via the official email platforms:

- DUT PinBoard (staff email system).
- DUT4life (student email accounts).

Further, please take note that Orientation and Welcoming of First Year Students which was originally scheduled for Monday, 30 January and Tuesday, 31 January 2023, have been postponed to a later date which will be communicated in due course.

INSTITUTIONAL AUDIT SELF-EVALUATION REPORT (SER)

EMC-Senex was updated on the progress of finalising the SER. The Report is currently in the final edit phase and the final Self-Evaluation Report will be submitted to the Council on Higher Education (CHE) on 30 January 2023.

CONCLUSION

We remind all staff and students to only access official university statements and announcements via the formal university platforms listed above and to not only rely on social media posts, which could be nefarious.

Sincerely

DUT Management team