

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

07 August 2023

Dear staff and students

UPDATE ON CAMPUS OPERATIONS

The Executive Management Committee (EMC) and the Senate Executive Committee (Senex) met this morning, to receive reports and updates on the implementation of the interim, online learning that commences today.

As per the [EMC-Senex statement](#) that we issued on Saturday; following the recent protests and taking your safety and security into account, the university decided to commence with temporary online learning, until further notice.

EMC-Senex will continue to assess the situation daily, so that we can return to in-person, face to face learning and to our normal schedules and routines, as soon as possible.

INTERIM ONLINE LEARNING

Colleagues from Teaching & Learning and from Research, Innovation and Engagement met over the weekend to work on the operational plan for the interim, online learning and to help mitigate against the related risks. The meeting confirmed that mobile data will be provided for all students during this temporary, online learning phase. On Saturday evening, a statement was published to all students and posted onto the website: [Announcement on mobile data](#). All DUT students should have updated their cell phone details on the ITS system before 12H00 (midday) today.

Later this afternoon, Information and Communication Technologies Services (ICTS) will submit the cell phone numbers to the Mobile Network Operators (MNO), so that the mobile data can be loaded onto the relevant cell phone numbers.

Whilst lectures will be temporarily taking place online, there is an interim moratorium on tests, assessments and practicals meaning, that no tests, assessments and practicals will be scheduled until further notice.

The Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) at DUT has provided teaching staff with a technical guide on how to manage disruptions during online teaching. CELT will also directly communicate with academics about the guidelines for lecturers to conduct teaching and learning practices. Staff requiring support for online learning must liaise with CELT as soon as possible.

Postgraduate students using the university laboratories for research purposes, will be provided access to campus. The faculties will submit the names of the relevant postgraduate students to Protection Services, so that the specific postgraduate students can be granted access to campus.

NSFAS ISSUES

NSFAS has informed DUT that they have made progress regarding the defunding revisions and delayed allowances for the affected applicants and recipients. NSFAS have confirmed that they are completing the outstanding eZaga payments that were previously delayed. From the original list of 1051 students who were excluded by NSFAS, 575 students have received their allowances since last Friday. This means that 476 students still require their allowances from NSFAS.

The total of 332 students who were initially defunded by NSFAS has now decreased to 166 students. NSFAS has agreed to fund an extra 166 students. We will have continuous engagement with NSFAS to help resolve the issues between the funder and their recipients.

DUT has asked NSFAS to urgently provide permanent eZaga representatives on campus, so that the funding recipients can liaise directly with the NSFAS eZaga representatives. We await feedback from NSFAS regarding this request.

SECURITY AND ACCESS CONTROL

A revised security plan has already been implemented, due to the current protest action. Protection Services at DUT are in constant contact with the various law enforcement authorities via the Provincial Joint Operations Command Centre.



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

The university is grateful to all staff and students for the transition to the interim online learning. We want to reiterate that the temporary online learning is only until further notice. The university will update you on developments, as we work towards a return to our normal schedules.

EMC-Senex wants to reiterate that the university is not closed. Our offices remain open and staff are working on campus. Our various teams are deeply committed to provide the relevant services that are required.

Finally, please remember to only access official university statements via:

- DUT PinBoard (staff email system).
- DUT4life (student email account).
- www.dut.ac.za (Highlights, on the homepage).

Sincerely

DUT Management team



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE