

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

17 February 2026

Dear staff and students

UPDATE ON CAMPUS OPERATIONS

Members of the Executive Management Committee (EMC) and the Senate Executive Committee (Senex) convened to review campus operations following incidents of violent protest, disruption and intimidation on most Durban campuses today. At an outset, the University Management wishes to profusely apologise to our students and members of staff who have been directly or otherwise affected by this misconduct which betrays our Living Values Framework.

A group of protestors engaged in unlawful and violent conduct, including the carrying of weapons and projectiles, damaged university property, disrupted academic activities and threatened and intimidated non-protesting students and staff. DUT Protection Services is currently identifying those involved. Disciplinary action will be instituted against students found to have participated in these violent acts and where appropriate, criminal charges will be laid with the South African Police Service. The university also has a court interdict in place, which will be enforced.

DUT is aware that misinformation is being circulated by certain protest leaders regarding registration, student housing and allowances. EMC and Senex wish to clarify that there is no institutional crisis or justifiable reason that warrants this protest action. The violence, intimidation and criminal behaviour will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

The safety and security of students and staff remain paramount. Accordingly, EMC and Senex has resolved that, from Wednesday, 18 February 2026 and until further notice, all lectures across the university's seven campuses in Durban and the Midlands, will transition from face-to-face classes to online teaching and learning.

The university remains open and operational. All staff are required to report to their workstations and continue with their duties on campus. Laboratories and libraries will remain open.

ICTS will make data available to students to support access to interim online teaching and learning. Students must ensure that an updated cell number and email address is saved on their student profile.



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The university reminds all staff and students to rely only on official statements and communiqués issued via the DUT website and internal communication platforms, including DUT PinBoard (staff email system) and DUT4Life (student email accounts).

Once again, we apologise for any inconvenience caused and thank you for your cooperation and support, as the university manages this serious and regrettable situation. The university will continue to act decisively to safeguard our community and to ensure the uninterrupted continuation of teaching and learning.

Issued by:

Durban University of Technology



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