

Update on the 2021 Academic Year

#2021AY

Dear Students

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the start of the academic year on **15 March 2021**. You probably have many questions about whether you need to attend all your classes, tutorials, lab and studio work, etc. on campus, or if some of this can be done online.

We are committed to ensuring a safe and successful academic year amid the coronavirus pandemic. National alert level regulations require everyone to **mask-up, practice physical distancing and to sanitise our hands**. Likewise, the University must adhere to **COVID-19 compliance regulations**, which includes ensuring our **venues conform to ventilation protocols, physical distancing and do not exceed 50 people**.

Limiting Numbers

Consequently, we need to **limit** the number of **on-campus activities** for students and staff. This means that only a **limited number of students** will be **returning to our campuses** during the first semester. In June, we will decide whether more students can return to campus for academic activities in the second semester, starting on 01 August 2021.

Study Delivery Differs from Programme to Programme

In general, some programmes will be **fully online**, while others will be a blend of content taught online and experiential learning (e.g. lab and studio work, practical sessions, and clinical training) being mask-to-mask on campus or in the workplace. Where a programme delivers learning online, students do not have to come onto campus for the first semester. This means that these students can **learn remotely** (e.g. from home or a student residence) and they will be provided with learning and psychosocial support.



Your **faculty** will notify you if you are required to attend **on-campus activities** in the first semester or if you can learn remotely online. You can also **check** this yourself by **clicking on your faculty below** and then finding your programme to see if you must attend on-campus mask-to-mask activities or if you can learn online.

Find your Programme

by selecting the appropriate faculty from the list below:



Online Learning Requirements & Support

Students who learn **online** will need a:

- Laptop or desktop computer
- A smartphone
- Reasonably stable connectivity
- Place to study to effectively learn online from home (remotely).

Students who do not have access to all of the above will need to be in Port Elizabeth or George to access the University's general and specialised computer labs and Wi-Fi on campus and in on- or accredited off-campus student residences, so that they can engage in online learning.

E-permits

Students who need to access **mask-to-mask academic activities** or the **general computer labs** or **Wi-Fi for online learning purposes** in Port Elizabeth and George **require an e-permit** to access campus. Students will be notified how to access an e-permit through academic administration.

As some students will participate in academic activities on campus and others online, it is important that students plan accordingly in terms of **accommodation**.

As part of our shared commitment to ensuring a safe, successful semester, students will be asked to **accept the COVID-19-related conditions before returning to campus**. In accepting the conditions, students commit to behaving in safe ways and adhering to COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Once a student has **accepted the conditions, an e-permit will be issued**. To access campus, students need to be notified to do so by their lecturers or to have booked a slot in a computer lab or the library.

Return-to-Campus Protocols

Reminder for students returning to campus:

- Wear your mask
- Show and scan your student card, which will show proof of e-permit
- Show results of online COVID-19 self-screening
- Your temperature will be taken



Registration

Students can get all registration-related information [here](#).

Students who meet all the requirements can register immediately [here](#).

Furthermore, first year students can access details regarding our orientation programme [here](#).

Stay informed

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to stay in touch with us. Visit the **Nelson Mandela University website**, the **coronavirus webpage** and **social media platforms** for regular updates and to check your student email for communication from the university.

Professor Cheryl Foxcroft, DVC: Learning and Teaching

#SaveLives as we #Start2021AY

