



University of Fort Hare

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION

PROF SAKHELA BUHLUNGU
VICE-CHANCELLOR and PRINCIPAL



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

3 September 2020

Dear Staff and Students

UPDATE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING AND RETURN OF THE 2ND COHORT OF STUDENTS

University Calendar

A revised Senate-approved academic calendar was circulated to the University community today. Semester 1 will be concluded by 21 November. Semester 2 will commence on 23 November and will conclude on 5 March 2021. The end-of-year break will be from 20 December 2020 to January 3rd 2021.

Spring Graduation

The Spring graduation will take the form of a virtual ceremony and will now take place on Friday, 4 December 2020.

Return of the Second 33% Cohort

Guided by the Government Gazette of 8 June 2020 and the Ministerial Statement of 26 August 2020, the University has identified the following categories of students to return to the University as part of the 2nd 33% cohort:

- First-year students in all undergraduate programmes.
- Students in all years of study who require laboratory and technical equipment to complete the academic year;
- Students in all years of study who require practical placements/ experiential learning/ workplace-based learning to complete the academic year (provided the workplaces and platforms are open and prepared).
- All students who fall in groups that have already returned or had been prioritised to return in Level 3 but couldn't be accommodated due to the maximum campus-carrying capacity having been reached.

Also included in this cohort are students who serve on Faculty Councils, first-time entering students in all programmes of study, international students who are in South Africa and students with disabilities.

The return will be staggered over three weeks, with the first group returning in the week of 7-11 September 2020.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Multimodal teaching and learning continues. The moratorium on assessment has been lifted effective from September 1st 2020. Senate has approved revised assessments for modules across all faculties. This means that in many modules there will not be sit-down, venue-based examinations. Lecturers will update students on the revised assessments for first semester modules where applicable.

Laptops

Distribution of the first batch of 2583 laptops started on 20 August. The second batch of 3417 laptops will be distributed from today. The SRC and Institutional Advancement are now involved and are going to great lengths to speed up delivery where possible.

Continued Vigilance

We are pleased that we are making headway in bringing the virus under control in both our province and nationally. However, although we have gone down to Level 2 of the national lockdown, the virus remains in our midst. We are reminding all students and staff of their pro-social responsibilities to wear a mask, sanitise their hands frequently, and observe the appropriate social distance. This is particularly vital to do in the case of students and staff who have returned to campus, where we will soon be operating at 66% capacity. We need to protect ourselves and each other.

Sincerely

Professor Sakhela Buhlungu
Vice-Chancellor and Principal