



Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic

02 October 2020

Dear NUST Community,

RE: SECOND SEMESTER COMMENCEMENT

We find ourselves at the beginning of the second semester of 2020 after a very turbulent first semester which was a steep learning curve for all of us at the University. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately has changed our campus-life for the foreseeable future. In the short-term and due to our student-venue ratio, it is very unlikely that there will be an immediate return to large-class teaching, hence the continuation of Remote Teaching, Learning and Assessment (RTLTA) during the second semester of our 2020 academic year. Using this flexible and blended teaching and learning approach, required you to be agile and adaptable to successfully conclude the first semester of 2020. Well done to you all and a special pat on the back to all our students for your perseverance to succeed, despite the many hurdles you had to overcome.

I acknowledge that this situation is extremely challenging for our faculty, staff and students however, we all came to the table to instead use it as an opportunity to create innovative strategies and approaches to save the academic year and deliver on our mandate as a responsive university. We have managed to contain the spread of COVID-19 on campus and we are on course to start our second semester on Monday, 5th October. We will continue with our interventions to capacitate and enable both faculty and students to cope with the new priorities under the “new normal”. I therefore encourage faculty, staff and students to remain focussed, embrace the successes and build on the experiences achieved during the first semester.

I am very delighted to inform our student community that the availability of data devices through the NSFAP, as announced some time back, will be available as from next week. Namibian students will also be able to purchase a laptop that is subsidised by Government within the next few weeks through NSFAP. All communication around your application and the roll-out of these devices will be communicated by NSFAP and the University in good time. The students residing outside the Khomas Region will be able to collect these devices at their nearest NUST-COLL Regional Centre. Students who are unable to purchase data devices, including international students, will be accommodated to access Campus/Regional Centre Wifi and computer labs to participate in RTLTA.

The second semester will further see us continue receiving small groups of students to attend practical lab sessions. The University’s assessment strategy as approved by Senate will remain as continuous diversified assessment for all courses across all six Faculties. Rules and Regulations pertaining to continuous assessment requirements for each course should be included in each Course Outline for students to be informed accordingly.

The University Senate further approved the revised Academic Calendar with the following extract of crucial dates for your ease of reference:

Friday, 02 October 2020	Face-to-face lectures end: No data no devices for Faculty of Engineering
Monday, 05 October 2020	Remote Teaching, Learning and Assessment (RTLTA) lectures begin: 2nd Semester 2020 – All Faculties except Faculty of Engineering
Friday, 09 October 2020	Online Registration ends – 2nd Semester 2020: All programmes except Faculty of Engineering BOSEC: Release of results for no data no devices for Faculty of Engineering 1st Semester

Monday, 12 October 2020	Online Registration begins – 2nd Semester 2020: Faculty of Engineering
Friday, 16 October 2020	Online Registration ends – 2nd Semester 2020: Faculty of Engineering DEADLINE FOR LATE APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSIONS FOR 2021
Monday, 19 October 2020	Remote Teaching, Learning and Assessment (RTLA) lectures begin: 2nd Semester 2020 – Faculty of Engineering
Friday, 27 November 2020	GRADUATION CEREMONY
Thursday, 10 December 2020	PUBLIC HOLIDAY – INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY/WOMAN'S DAY
Friday, 18 December 2020	END OF ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES ALL FACULTIES/2ND SEMESTER BREAK
Thursday, 28 January 2021	ACADEMIC STAFF RESUME RTLA LECTURES BEGIN – ALL FACULTIES
Monday, 08 February 2021	Registration for new students begin – 1st Semester 2021 (All Programmes)
Wednesday, 10 February 2021	RTLA lectures ends: 2nd Semester 2020 – All Faculties except Faculty of Engineering
Friday, 19 February 2021	BOSEC: Release of results for 2nd Semester for all Faculties except Faculty of Engineering 2nd Semester 2020
Friday, 26 February 2021	RTLA lectures ends: 2nd Semester 2020 – Faculty of Engineering
Friday, 05 March 2021	BOSEC: Release of results for 2nd Semester Faculty of Engineering 2nd Semester 2020
Monday, 08 March 2021	Online Registration for Senior Students Begin – 1ST Semester 2021 – All Programmes except Faculty of Engineering
Friday, 12 March 2021	Online Registration Ends for Senior Students – Except Faculty of Engineering
Monday, 15 March 2021	RTLA LECTURES BEGIN – 1ST SEMESTER 2021 – ALL FACULTIES EXCEPT FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
Wednesday, 17 March 2021	RTLA LECTURES BEGIN – 1ST SEMESTER 2021– FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Please continue to visit the NUST website and social media pages for information on the University's response to the pandemic and the latest communication to the NUST community. We have a shared responsibility for our personal safety and that of others. I therefore remind all students and staff to adhere to the National Health and Safety Guidelines.

I trust that we will commence the second semester with renewed confidence in ourselves and our abilities to continue serving each other with collegiality, empathy and the necessary understanding.

With my very best wishes,



Dr Delvaline Möwes

Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic

