



Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic

Monday, 22 February 2021

NUST TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR THE 2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

Dear Students and Colleagues,

Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) staff and students have managed well with Remote Teaching and Learning, and we herewith congratulate you all for your resilience and perseverance despite the unique challenges that the 2020 academic year brought.

To all the new students, welcome to NUST and congratulations on your acceptance to our University. We are immensely excited that you will be joining our University community. It is indeed our goal and mission to ensure that you will have an inspired, vibrant, and engaging learning environment at NUST. Henceforth, it will be a life-changing time for you that will shape your future and the way you interact with different sectors in Namibia and with the rest of the world. While you take hands with us you will become a well-rounded graduate and a productive citizen in the 21st century.


It is understandable that you may have questions about how NUST will function during the 2021 academic year, particularly considering the COVID-19 pandemic. We naturally want to ensure that NUST staff and students remain healthy and safe from infection as far as possible. The University therefore made the following decisions related to the 2021 academic year:

1. All first-year students will come to campus during the week of 08 – 12 March 2021 for orientation.
2. The orientation programme will provide for specific Faculty sessions in the morning and in the afternoon to avoid overcrowding on campus. These sessions will also be complemented with online student orientation.
3. All first-year students are expected to pick up their mandatory Wi-Fi pocket devices at the Centre for Open and Lifelong Learning (COLL) Storeroom during the student orientation week.
4. First-year distance education students residing outside of the Khomas Region should collect their Wi-Fi pocket devices at the COLL Regional Centres.
5. All first-year students must present their original documents and submit certified copies of all relevant documents including school leaving certificates at the Main Campus-Admissions Office or at the COLL Regional Centres before they may commence with class attendance.

6. All full-time and part-time students who are resident in Namibia, and all international students who can return to Namibia, are expected to be at the Main Campus in Windhoek for the start of the academic year on 15 March 2021.
7. NUST will offer courses in a blended mode. In practice, this teaching and learning approach includes Physically Distanced Learning (PDL) comprising of minimum 2 hours face-to-face teaching per week per course for all students; Practical Lab Sessions where required; Online Teaching; and Face-to-Face Tests under controlled conditions for 50% of Course Assessments.
8. Computer laboratories and study spaces will be open for use by students according to spatial layout and seating capacity, following strict health protocols, and cleaning rotation schedules.
9. The comprehensive virtual library services will continue, while on-site library services and facilities will be adapted to support the 2021 blended teaching and learning approach.
10. Further details on timetables and specific course delivery will be communicated through Course Outlines for full-time and part-time students.
11. Details on specific course delivery for distance education students will be stipulated in the First Tutorial Letter for each course.
12. All academic rules and regulations will be operating as stipulated in *Yearbook- Part 1: General Information and Regulations* that is available on the NUST website.
13. Campus activities that involve **physical contact**, whether in a meeting, laboratory, assessment, tutorial/lecture will be held under **strict COVID-19 National Health and Safety Protocols**. Students and Staff not adhering to such National Regulations, i.e., **wearing masks correctly** to cover both the mouth and nose, **social distancing** of at least 1.5m, **hand sanitising** and **refraining from campus activities** when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, **will not be allowed into a venue**.
14. As part of the online registration, students will sign a commitment of adherence to COVID-19 National Health and Safety Protocols.
15. Officials from the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) and the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS) will be on campus during the orientation period to provide information on loans and the COVID-19 pandemic.

I trust in your ability to take care of yourself and each other by following the above directives. I wish you a productive, safe, and enjoyable 2021.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Andrew Niikondo
Deputy Vice-Chancellor

