



## **Centre for Open and Lifelong Learning**

**21 April 2020**

**Dear Distance Education Students,**

### **RE: NUST MIGRATION TO REMOTE TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS**

In response to the challenges caused by the novel coronavirus that disrupted the continuation of your studies, the Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation (MHETI), Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, advised the University to resume with teaching, learning and assessment as soon as possible.

It is in this spirit of positivity that I am writing to you to communicate the latest developments in our plans to assist you to continue with your studies and to complete your current academic year successfully.

After thorough deliberation and planning for the past few weeks, the University announced earlier today that teaching, learning and assessment will resume. However, please note that all your weekend face-to-face classes/tutorials as well as vacation schools are cancelled until further notice so that we all adhere to the regulation and practice of social distancing.

The University put the modalities and strategies in place to avail teaching, learning and assessment as from Tuesday 5 May 2020 and officially commence with teaching on Monday 11 May 2020, using remote teaching and learning methodologies to cater for all students. During the week of 5-10 May 2020, students will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with material on the University Learning Management System, MOODLE in order to prepare for remote teaching and learning that will resume the following week and to ensure that you are enrolled for all your courses on MOODLE and through other means. As such, you will have the opportunity to still engage virtually with your Lecturers/Tutors and your fellow students to replace the face-to-face weekend tutorials and vacation schools for those of you who are in a position to connect online. Also note that your Assignment and Online Test Schedules will be adjusted accordingly to allow you time to submit all your assignments and to sit for online tests that were stopped as from 16 March 2020 when the mid-term recess was moved forward. You will therefore receive your revised Assignment and Test Schedule in due course. You will also receive the revised NUST Academic Calendar as soon as it is approved.

Remote teaching, learning and assessment is a complex endeavour within the Namibian context to ensure access for all students. The University will therefore ensure that all students are catered for, hence the importance to set realistic understanding and expectations of how it can support students affected by COVID-19 measures. The University, through the Teaching and Learning Unit (TLU), has developed a series of training videos for students and more specialised training will be conducted in the week of 5 May. Please therefore be on the look-out for such announcements, as we will continue to contact you on a regular basis via SMS, the Centre for Open and Lifelong Learning (COLL) Facebook Page and the COLL Website.

Before commencing with your remote learning, you will be given access to the “*Orientation of Online Learning Course*” to familiarise yourselves with the MOODLE platform (MyNUST), should you be amongst the students who still need orientation. We take cognizance of the challenge that not all of you have access to high-speed internet where you are currently located. Some of you are not adequately equipped with basic technological tools and skills to access study materials online. It is also impossible to know each student’s living, learning or health conditions during the COVID-19 crisis. Therefore, a Task Team has been constituted to identify short-, medium- and long-term solutions on the way forward to roll out remote teaching, learning and online assessment that will replace your engagement with your lecturers during weekend face-to-face tutorials and vacation schools as well as your location-bound physical end-of-semester examinations. The University and the Task Team also liaise regularly with the MHETI, Internet Service Providers and other key stakeholders to identify solutions for all students.

The main campus in Windhoek and the 10 COLL Regional Centres will remain closed and limited operations will continue with appropriate measures to protect the health of our students and staff. Regular updates and additional information will be sent to you via the approved NUST and COLL communication platforms.

We assure you that our students' success is a key priority for NUST. We are doing our best to ensure that remote teaching and learning can be as obstacle-free as possible and wish to emphasise our commitment to ensure that all our students complete their academic year successfully and on time.

Kindly also note that all your Coordinators at the Main Campus in Windhoek and the COLL Regional Coordinators are still available on their usual NUST email addresses, including your Student Support Officers. You may therefore contact them should you have further questions and/or need continued support throughout your studies.

Thank you for your commitment to make a success of your studies. Please ensure you and your loved ones stay safe.

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a smaller 'M' and a flourish.

Dr Delvaline Möwes  
*Director*