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Dear International, Full- Degree, Student (Stellenbosch Main Campus only)

*This communication is intended for **full-degree international students currently on main campus**. Note that this **DOES NOT** apply to students at the Tygerberg (Faculty Medical and Health Sciences) and Stellenbosch University Business School (USB) campuses.*

You are likely to be concerned regarding the status of your stay in South Africa and the situation on campus following the spread of the global pandemic COVID-19 and the subsequent announcement from the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation on the 17th of March announcing the closure of universities in South Africa up until the 15th of April.

We would like to reassure you that Stellenbosch University has not gone into a total shutdown of activities. We have suspended face to face classes temporarily (until 30th of March 2020) and implemented measures to ensure that students are not exposed to risk of infection from COVID-19 by banning all mass gatherings and closing spaces where students would not be able to maintain social distancing procedures.

Stellenbosch University staff and services are still available to students who remain on campus. Students and parents are assured that we will continue to maintain a high level of service and support for students who choose to remain on campus. Daily updates and a repository of key information relevant to our International Staff and Student Community will be posted on the SU International website. Link to SU International Website: www.sun.ac.za/international

We cannot provide specific advice on whether you should return to your home countries or remain in South Africa. This is a personal decision based on your assessment of risk posed as circumstances may change. Stellenbosch University has not had any confirmed cases of COVID-19 as at the 19th of March 2020.

Information for students who are remaining on campus:

Neelsie New Opening and Closure Times:

As from 20th March the Neelsie Student Centre will open from 7am and close at 6pm weekdays and 7am-12 noon on Saturdays, closed on Sundays. Please plan accordingly.

Academic Matters: Teaching and Learning

The communication from the Rector, Prof Wim De Villiers remains as the official position of the university with regards to the suspension of academic activities until the 30st of March and moving to online forms of teaching and learning thereafter. This does not apply to post-graduate programmes which continue as per communication with their postgraduate course coordinators and supervisors. Please follow communication and advice provided by the Faculty with which you are registered for updates as well as the Postgraduate Office. Here is the website of the Postgraduate Office: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/research-innovation/Research-Development/postgraduate-office>



Accommodation:

Please note the official communication of the 16th of March from the university: “Request to Vacate SU Accommodation,” regarding students who are staying in university residences. You are not forced to leave the accommodation, however, are advised to do so if you are able to continue your academic programme from home in such a way that will not compromise your ability to access online teaching and learning delivery of the academic programme. Please note that if you do decide to leave, on return, room allocations may also change as a result of the university creating spaces for students to safely self-isolate.

The University is aiming to limit the incoming of new students and protect students who choose to remain through self-isolation. Students that do decide to stay behind should know that no visitors will be allowed, and no gatherings of any sort will be allowed.

Our priority is to provide you with information and support and as such we will be sending out daily updates via email and through social media. We have also received enquiries from concerned parents and we actively encourage you to share this information with your parents, caregivers or hosts. If you are not already following the su_Globally social media feeds, we encourage you to do so immediately.

Also ensure that you check the University website for official communications as these become available: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/covid-19-coronavirus-disease-2019>

We trust that you understand and thank you for your cooperation.

Refiloe Nkhasi

Communication and Liaison Officer | BA Hons International Studies

Stellenbosch University International | Universiteit Stellenbosch Internasionaal

e: interweb@sun.ac.za | t: +27 21 808 9391 | a: RW Wilcocks Building, Cnr Victoria and Ryneveld Street



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