

E-MAIL FROM PROF RONEL DU PREEZ, VICE-DEAN (TEACHING), TO ALL EMS STUDENTS

DATE: 24 APRIL 2020

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

1. [Communique: Academic integrity in online assessment](#)
2. [Student Support: SIM cards for mobile data](#)
3. [Zero-rating: frequently asked questions](#)

Dear EMS Students

Congratulations, you made it through week 1 of “emergency” online teaching and learning! I know that this was a very tough week for most of us and therefore I would like to share a few points that will assist you on the online journey ahead.

- **Support:**
Online student support is just a click away at <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/online-teaching-support-students>. SU has invested heavily in the development of support material that will assist you to make the transition to online learning easier. You will see a red banner at the top of all SUNLearn for resources and help. You can also log a call at www.learnhelp.sun.ac.za
- **Tutor and module-mentor programmes:**
The first-year module mentor programme will continue online. Tutors have also been trained to assist students in the online tutorials and/or practical classes that normally form part of the module.
- **Timetables:**
Remember that for the following date the timetable will **not** switch: Tuesday, 28 April (will NOT follow a Monday timetable). The dates of Semester 1 A2 and A3 assessments will be posted on the website in the first week of May.
- **Data:**
Attached is the Zero-rated FAQ and tips for containing mobile data costs. These two documents are updated regularly. Please consult www.sun.ac.za for the latest versions. Please be on the lookout for an SMS from the university about making data available to all students.
- **E-mails:**
Please do not e-mail lecturers with module-related questions. You can imagine what a lecturer’s inbox looks like if 1800 students start e-mailing. Please use the discussion forum on SUNLearn. The lecturer will visit the discussion forum at regular intervals and answer the question threads. Often, another student or the online tutor could also answer your question if you post it on the relevant platform. This open forum will assist other students that have similar questions. If you have a personal matter, it may be very difficult for your lecturer to assist you as their hands are tied in terms of for e.g. textbooks left in residence, data or learning environments. Please consider contacting the Centre for Student Communities for support (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/learning-teaching/student-affairs/csc>). If you need emotional support, e-mail supportus@sun.ac.za, and for academic support e-mail studysuccess@sun.ac.za.

- **Language:**
It will not be possible to implement the current language implementation plan in all modules. All additional material that are uploaded to assist in online learning may be in English only. Many lecturers are uploading additional material such as quizz items, additional notes, examples etc. to assist you in your learning – these are mostly only available in English. Afrikaans students will be assisted as far as practicably possible. Please continue to ask your questions in Afrikaans on the discussion forums - they will be answered in Afrikaans.
- **SUNLearn:**
Online learning requires a lot of dedication, self-discipline and planning to keep up with your studies. Daily interaction with the SUNLearn platform is essential. Visit the discussion forums, participate and post!
- **Ethical behaviour:**
Online assessment (further assessment summative, A2 & A3) asks for the highest standards in ethical behaviour. Please note that the honesty declaration on SUNLearn still applies and will be updated soon for online learning. Students guilty of plagiarism or any other form of dishonesty will be formally charged and the processes of the student disciplinary committee followed. Please see the attached document on academic integrity in online assessment.

Your lecturers have your best interest at heart. They are working exceptionally long hours to support you in this transition to “emergency” online learning and to develop learning material. Thank you for the positive feedback that many of them received. I am confident that through hard work and dedication, you will be able to succeed and finish the 2020 academic year successfully!

Kind regards
Prof Ronel du Preez

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

1. [Communique: Academic integrity in online assessment](#)
2. [Student Support: SIM cards for mobile data](#)
3. [Zero-rating: frequently asked questions](#)