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Current Semester Students at Stellenbosch University / COVID-19 Update / 9 April 2020

Dear Semester Students,

I hope you are doing well.

We have two upcoming public holidays:

Friday, 10 April: Good Friday

Monday, 13 April: Family Day

Our office will be closed on these days.

Online learning and teaching at Stellenbosch University

Our online classes will start on 20 April. We really want to encourage you to continue with the online classes if possible.

Online Learning and Teaching Support for Students: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/online-teaching-support-students>

Guidance for Student Online Learning: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/learning-teaching/student-affairs/cscd/Pages/Guidance-for-Student-Online-Learning.aspx>

Remote access to library resources and services during the lockdown period:
<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=7229>

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>

Possible Discontinuation of studies or modules

The closing date for all students applying to discontinue studies or modules has been extended to **30 April 2020**. The rules regarding the discontinuation of studies or modules will be communicated to you on Tuesday, 14 April 2020.

Semester Mobility Students: Students Remaining on Campus

Neelsie New Opening and Closure Times:

For now, the Neelsie Student Centre will remain open due to the Post Office which is regarded as an essential service, but strict access control will be enforced. The Spar, pharmacy, ATMs and some banks will also be open for restricted business hours (08:00 – 18:00 on weekdays, and until 13:00 on Saturdays).

Academic matters:

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 20 April and moving to online forms of teaching and learning thereafter. Please follow the communications from the Faculty with which you are registered for updates.



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Accommodation:

A total of about 500 students who have had no other option, remain in University residences. The University will support these students with the minimum of services allowed by national regulation on lockdown. The same strict guidelines during the lock-down will apply at SU residences as for all South African households.

Please note that the communication below (Request to vacate SU Accommodation) is **a request to start an isolation space and you are not forced to leave the accommodation.** However, please note that if you do decide to leave (on holiday) you will not be allowed to move back into your room until we receive confirmation from the Rector of Stellenbosch University regarding the process for returning students. Room allocations may also change as the university makes provision for self-isolation spaces.

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

Two important Accommodation Notices:

Request to Vacate SU Accommodation (16 March):

https://www0.sun.ac.za/international/assets/files/COVID%2019/Request_to_vacate_SU_accommodation_728aa015afc7a3a897e37cbabc58b800.pdf

Protocol for student accommodation to deal with containment for COVID-19 virus during recess (18 March):

<https://www0.sun.ac.za/international/assets/files/COVID%2019/Residence%202%2018%20Mar%20Rules%20student%20accommodation%20to%20deal%20with%20containment%20of%20Covid%2019%20virus%20during%20recess.pdf>

Semester Mobility Students: Students Returning Home

Various home universities are recalling students and for that reason, we are informing you of our approach. We are implementing the following steps and sharing information with students who need to return home.

Please follow these steps if you are returning home:

1. Every student who has the intention to return home MUST please inform their SU International coordinator via email. Also inform your home coordinator.
2. Please also complete the following survey if you are returning home:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Azv6piwKWEKEM6Eg3_zTSLXLclw4_oJHiEnc78X3U3pURUE5TDA0QVBQNEZSTjZOUINHOVUyMFdPSS4u
3. Complete the Airport Transfer Form (Students should continue completing the airport transfer form. We will liaise with a private service provider who will be responsible for the transport): <https://www0.sun.ac.za/international/prospective-students/non-degree-seeking-short-term-students-1/i-have-applied-i-have-been-accepted-1/arrival---airport-transfer-1.html>
4. If you are staying in Academia / Concordia you need to inform Mr. Grant Leukes of your departure: interhouse@sun.ac.za
5. If you have a Matie Bike it is important that you return it to Carpool before you depart. Carpool will confirm the return of your bike with us and the subsequent refund due to you. The deposit refund will be done electronically, and we will in due time communicate how and when it will be done.

Financial Matters for Students returning Home:

- Please do not close your student account, we will communicate further steps via email.
- More information regarding financial matters will follow once all stakeholders have been consulted and we know who is taking the option of returning home.
- Currently we confirm that we won't be able to refund the accommodation / housing costs incurred.

- Please refer to the notice on visas available on the SU International website which relates to students who choose to leave but with intention of returning. Link to website: <https://www0.sun.ac.za/international/news/information-about-visas---su-international-communication.html>

General:

- During these uncertain times, we understand that you may be feeling a lot of tension and stress. We have included here some ideas and resources to assist you to deal with stress.
 - The WHO suggestions and tips: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/mental-health-considerations.pdf?sfvrsn=6d3578af_8
 - CDC suggestions and tips: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>
- Be mindful of your travel plans during the recess period. See the following announcement regarding private travel from Stellenbosch University: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/notices/DispForm.aspx?ID=1502> Also, refer to the following Government Travel Restrictions: <https://www.gov.za/Coronavirus/travel>
- Please also take note of the current Stellenbosch University travel restrictions and the possible implications they may have for your plans. See the following link: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=7094>

If you are not already following the SU_ Globally social media feeds, we encourage you to do so immediately. Official communications and notices will also be posted to the SU International website.

NB: The situation is fluid and information will be distributed as it becomes available.

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

Kind regards,

Sarah

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