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

Dear Semester Students,

There are no new updates to the email below, but please make sure you are aware of all the information in the email.

Please see attached the travel advisory provided from the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

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. 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.

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>

Semester Mobility Students: Students Remaining on Campus

Neelsie New Opening and Closure Times:

The Neelsie Student Centre will be closed 9pm 17 March-19 March. As from 20th March it will be open from 7am-6pm weekdays and 7am-12 noon on Saturdays and closed on Sundays. Please plan accordingly.

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 the 30th of March and moving to online forms of teaching and learning thereafter. Please follow the communications from the Faculty with which you are registered for updates.

Accommodation:

Please note that the attached information (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.



Semester Mobility Students: Students Returning Home



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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 within the next 2 weeks 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=Azv6pjjwKWEKEM6Eg3_zTSLXLclw4_oJHiEnc78X3U3pURUE5TDA0QVBQNEZSTjZOUINHOVUyMFdPSS4u
3. Complete the Airport Transfer Form: <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> **(This service is available until 31 March.)**
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 for the upcoming recess (21 – 29 March 2020). See the following announcement regarding private travel from Stellenbosch University: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/notices/DispForm.aspx?ID=1502>
- 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>

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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