

**FACULTY-SPECIFIC E-MAIL TO STUDENTS ABOUT RETURNING EMS STUDENTS, DATED 26 JUNE 2020 /  
FAKULTEITSPESIFIEKE E-POS VAN 26 JUNIE 2020 AAN STUDENTE INSAKE TERUGKERENDE EBW-STUDENTE:**



*(Afrikaans volg hier onder.)*

Dear EMS Students

This has been a very difficult year for all of you. When lectures were suspended on 16 March, none of us could have known what lay ahead and many of us hoped that we would be seeing one another after the three-week recess. It is now three months later and a great deal has changed. You and your lecturers swiftly made the transition to online learning and then to online assessment. We know it wasn't perfect and there were adjustments that needed to happen on all sides as we went along. Thank you for digging deep and doing your part to make this work. You can be incredibly proud of yourselves and of your University that we did not compromise on either academic content or on the rigour of the assessments. We know we asked a lot of you but your efforts will pay off both in terms of preparedness for the rest of your studies and for preserving the value of a Stellenbosch University degree.

We know that uncertainty creates anxiety and that you are eager to know what the plans are for the second semester which commences on 27 July 2020. We are now writing to let you know about our plans in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. These decisions have required lengthy discussions and scenario planning. As you will know, the Minister of Higher Education advised that at most one-third of students across the university are permitted to return under Level 3. In addition, the Department of Higher Education requires that priority be given to students who need to complete practical or clinical work and to those students whose current living circumstances are not conducive to online learning. Regulations also require that we can only accommodate a maximum of 50 students at a time in a 300-capacity lecture hall. Our understanding is that this restriction is intended to remain in place even under Levels 2 and 1.

We acknowledge that many of you will be disappointed by the information that we are sharing with you today. We know that when you came to Stellenbosch University it was for the richness of the overall student experience beyond just the lecture room. None of us could have ever anticipated the extent of the disruption to this year. Please know that we have made our plans based on the current information about the trajectory of the pandemic and within the constraints of the government regulations. Our highest priorities are to keep our students safe and to complete the 2020 academic year in 2020.

At this stage, the only EMS students that we expect to be returning in 2020 are the following. These groups of students in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences will receive invitation permits during the next few days to return to campus from 27 July 2020 or later:

- For face-to-face classes starting on 27 July 2020:
  - Hons BCom (Economics) and MCom (Economics)
  - Students enrolled in the postgraduate modules: Actuarial Science 774 and 843.
- MCom (Industrial Psychology) students only for their block in 26 October and assessments in weeks thereafter.

- The University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB) programmes will continue block mode teaching from September onwards. The USB will soon communicate further details to all the students in these programmes.
- All Masters and PhD students will receive an invitation to accept a permit to be on campus for their research components of their programmes. This permit will give students the option to do possible field work, research which is only possible in specific computer laboratories and/or to accommodate students who need to have face-to-face interaction with their supervisor. We urge that this group of students to only make use of this opportunity should it be absolutely necessary.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate Diploma in Sustainability students, specifically only to accommodate students who need to complete work-integrated learning in the Stellenbosch area. Please note that all classes for this group will continue online.
- The following groups of students will return to campus only for “sit down”, invigilated exams; and will receive an offer as well as a permit to return on 30 October 2020 to be ready for the A2 and A3 exams in the second semester:
  - Financial Accounting 379
  - Taxation 399
  - Management Accounting 378
  - Auditing 378
  - Hons BAcc – all modules
  - Actuarial Science 211 (exemption exam)
  - Actuarial Science 241
  - Actuarial Science 371
  - Actuarial Science 341
  - Mathematical Statistics 245
  - Mathematical Statistics 246
  - Mathematical Statistics 364
  - Mathematical Statistics 344
  - Portfolio Management Theory 763

The students listed above are currently the only students that should expect to receive an invitation and permit from the University to return to campus. At this time, we do not think the plans will change even if the country moves to Level 2 or Level 1. However, we are in uncharted waters and we need to remain open to the possibility that the situation may change depending on the path of the pandemic and also the governmental response to it. We realise that this leaves you with some uncertainty around planning your personal decisions, especially around whether to remain in your current location. Given this, we want to assure you that even if the situation changes and we are able to bring more students back onto campus at a later date in the year, it will be possible for you to continue with online learning if you are unable to return to campus.

Importantly, please take note of the following practical arrangements for students who will be returning in this first phase of the return to campus:

- No student may return to any of the SU campuses unless you have received an official permit from the Registrar’s Division. The first step of the process is that an invitation will be offered by the Registrar’s Division. These invitations will be going out to the students specified above during this or next week and will specify the date and context of the return. Even if you live in Stellenbosch, if you do not have a permit you will not be allowed to be on campus grounds or make use of campus facilities. You will also receive more details from your departments and lecturers in the course of next week.
- The University and Faculty acknowledge that there are some of you who find it difficult to study from home due to personal circumstances at home, connectivity problems, etc. Students who are in this category (and are not included in the list above) may apply to return to their residence and/or campus to continue with online learning and make use of facilities like computer user areas on campus. Written motivations must urgently be sent to [ssgsupport@sun.ac.za](mailto:ssgsupport@sun.ac.za) by 29 June 2020 for consideration by a central university committee.

- The Faculty is not directly involved in residence arrangements, but residence students will soon be contacted by the University about specific arrangements for students who will return to campus, AND those who are not included in this group (students in private accommodation). Please also read the e-mail dated 15 June 2020 from Prof Stan du Plessis, "IMPORTANT UPDATES: July data bundles, returning students and academic arrangements".

To reiterate, at this time the Faculty is planning to continue with online learning and assessments for our students other than those listed above for the whole of the second semester. If the situation changes we will let you know in good time to allow you to plan for your return. Once again, I am sorry to be the bearer of news that will be bitterly disappointing for many of you. We wish that things were different. Given the current information we felt that we needed to communicate with you as soon as possible to allow you to plan for the second semester.

I hope that your A2 assessments have gone well and that you are looking forward to a short break from your studies during the July recess. Please keep safe and be on the lookout for follow-up communication.

Regards

Prof Ingrid Woolard

Dean: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

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Beste EBW-studente

Dit was en is steeds 'n baie moeilike jaar vir julle almal. Toe lesings op 16 Maart opgeskort is, het niemand geweet wat voorlê nie en baie het gehoop dat ons mekaar na afloop van die drie weke reses sou sien. Dis nou drie maande later en daar was heelwat veranderings. Julle en jul dosente het blitsvinnig die skuif na aanlyn-leer en toe na aanlyn-assessering gemaak. Ons weet dit was nie perfek nie en dat dit aanpassings van almal geveg het soos ons aangegaan het. Dankie dat julle jul ingegrawe het en jul kant gebring het om dit te laat uitwerk. Julle kan ongelooflik trots wees op juisself en op jul Universiteit omdat geen kompromieë getref is ten opsigte van akademiese inhoud of kwaliteit van assessering nie. Ons weet ons het hoë verwagtinge aan julle gestel. Jul inspanning sal die moeite werd wees, nie net wat voorbereiding vir die res van jul studie betref nie, maar ook om die waarde van 'n Universiteit Stellenbosch-graad hoog te hou.

Ons weet onsekerheid skep angs en dat julle graag wil weet wat die planne is vir die tweede semester wat op 27 Julie 2020 begin. Ons skryf om julle nou te laat weet wat ons planne in die Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe is. Hierdie besluite het deeglike bespreking en scenariobeplanning geveg. Soos julle weet, was die Minister van Hoër Onderwys se advies dat hoogstens een-derde van alle studente van die Universiteit toegelaat word om terug te keer op Vlak 3. Boonop vereis die Departement van Hoër Onderwys dat prioriteit verleen word aan studente wat praktiese of kliniese werk moet voltooi, en aan daardie studente wie se huidige lewensomstandighede nie bevorderlik is vir aanlyn-leer nie. Verder bepaal die regulasies dat ons slegs 'n maksimum van 50 studente per keer in 'n lesingsaal met 300 sitplekke kan akkommodeer. Ons meen dat hierdie beperking van toepassing sal bly, selfs op Vlakke 2 en 1.

Ons besef dat baie van julle teleurgesteld gaan wees met die inligting wat ons vandag aan julle meedeel. Ons weet dat julle na die Universiteit Stellenbosch gekom het om die rykdom van die algehele studentelewe te ervaar, nie net die lesingsale nie. Geeneen sou ooit die omvang van die ontwrigting van vanjaar kon voorsien nie. Neem asb. kennis dat ons planne gebaseer is op die huidige inligting oor die verloop van die pandemie, en in ooreenstemming met die beperkinge van regeringsregulasies. Ons hoogste prioriteite is om ons studente veilig te hou en om die 2020 akademiese jaar in 2020 te voltooi.

Op hierdie stadium is die enigste EBW-studente wat na verwagting in 2020 sal terugkeer, die volgende. Hierdie groepe studente van die Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe sal in die volgende paar dae uitnodigingspermitte ontvang om vanaf 27 Julie 2020 of later na die kampus terug te keer:

- Vir aangesig-tot-aangesig klasse wat op 27 Julie 2020 begin:
  - BComHons (Ekonomie) en MCom (Ekonomie)
  - Studente wat vir die nagraadse modules Aktuariële Wetenskap 774 en 843 ingeskryf is.
- Studente in MCom (Bedryfsielkunde) – net vir hul blok van 26 Oktober en assesserings in die daaropvolgende weke.
- Die Bestuurskool van die Universiteit Stellenbosch (USB) sal vanaf September met die blokonderrig van sy programme voortgaan. USB sal binnekort verdere besonderhede aan alle studente wat vir dié programme ingeskryf is, kommunikeer.
- Alle meestersgraad- en PhD-studente sal 'n uitnodiging vir 'n permit ontvang wat hulle in staat stel om die navorsingskomponente van hul programme op kampus voort te sit. Hierdie permit sal studente die opsie gee om moontlike veldwerk en/of navorsing wat net in sekere rekenaarlaboratoriums moontlik is, te doen en/of aangesig-tot-aangesig interaksie met hul promotors te hê. Ons versoek hierdie groep studente om net van dié geleentheid gebruik te maak indien dit absoluut noodsaaklik is.
- Die derdejaarstudente van die voorgraadse Diploma in Volhoubaarheid, slegs om studente te akkommodeer wat werkgeïntegreerde leer in die Stellenbosch-omgewing moet voltooi. Let asb. daarop dat alle klasse vir hierdie groep aanlyn voortgesit sal word.
- Die volgende groep studente sal slegs kampus toe terugkeer vir 'aansit'-eksamens wat onder toesig afgelê word, en sal 'n uitnodiging sowel as 'n permit ontvang om op 30 Oktober 2020 terug te keer om gereed te wees vir die A2- en A3-eksamens van die tweede semester:
  - Finansiële Rekeningkunde 379
  - Belasting 399
  - Bestuursrekeningkunde 378
  - Oudit 378
  - BRekHons– alle modules.
  - Aktuariële Wetenskap 211 (vrystellingseksamen)
  - Aktuariële Wetenskap 241
  - Aktuariële Wetenskap 371
  - Aktuariële Wetenskap 341
  - Wiskundige Statistiek 245
  - Wiskundige Statistiek 246
  - Wiskundige Statistiek 364
  - Wiskundige Statistiek 344
  - Portefeuljebestuurteorie 763

Die studente wat hierbo gelys word, is tans die enigste studente wat kan verwag om 'n uitnodiging en permit van die Universiteit te ontvang om terug te keer kampus toe. Ons dink nie die planne sal verander nie; selfs al beweeg die land na Vlak 2 of selfs Vlak 1. Ons bevind ons egter in onbekende omstandighede en daar is 'n moontlikheid dat die situasie kan verander na gelang van die verloop van die pandemie, asook die regering se reaksie daarop. Ons besef dat dié onsekerheid jou persoonlike beplanning beïnvloed, veral die besluit of jy op jou huidige plek moet aanbly. Gegewe dié feit wil ons jou die versekering gee dat, selfs al verander die situasie en ons is in staat om meer studente later vanjaar terug te bring kampus toe, jy steeds met aanlyn-leer sal kan voortgaan indien jy nie kan terugkeer kampus toe nie.

Dis belangrik om kennis te neem van die volgende praktiese reëlings vir studente wat in hierdie eerste fase terugkeer kampus toe:

- Geen student mag na enige van die US-kampusse terugkeer nie tensy jy 'n amptelike permit van die Registrateursafdeling ontvang het. Die eerste stap van die proses is dat 'n uitnodiging deur die Registrateursafdeling uitgereik word. Hierdie uitnodigings sal vandeeweek of volgende week aan die studente wat hierbo gespesifiseer is, gestuur word, en sal die datum en konteks van terugkeer verstrek. Indien jy nie 'n permit het nie, sal jy nie op die kampusterrein toegelaat word of van kampusfasiliteite gebruik mag maak nie; selfs al woon jy op Stellenbosch. Jy sal ook binne die volgende week meer besonderhede van jou departemente en dosente ontvang.

- Die Universiteit en die Fakulteit besef dat daar sommige van julle is vir wie dit moeilik is om van die huis af te studeer weens persoonlike omstandighede tuis, konnektiwiteitsprobleme, ens. Studente wat hulself in hierdie situasie bevind (en nie by die bostaande lys ingesluit is nie), kan aansoek doen om na hul koshuis en/of kampus terug te keer en hul aanlyn-leer daar voort te sit en kampusfasiliteite soos rekenaargebruikersareas te gebruik. Geskrewe motiverings moet dringend en nie later nie as 29 Junie 2020, aan [ssgsupport@sun.ac.za](mailto:ssgsupport@sun.ac.za) gestuur word vir oorweging deur 'n sentrale universiteitskomitee.
- Die Fakulteit is nie direk by koshuisreëlings betrokke nie, maar die Universiteit sal koshuisstudente binnekort kontak om te verduidelik watter spesifieke reëlings getref word vir studente wat na die kampus terugkeer, EN vir diegene wat nie by die groep ingesluit is nie (studente in privaat verblyf). Lees ook asseblief die e-pos gedateer 15 Junie 2020 van prof Stan du Plessis oor “IMPORTANT UPDATES: July data bundles, returning students and academic arrangements”. (Die Afrikaanse weergawe is op die US-webtuiste beskikbaar).

Ons benadruk weer eens dat die Fakulteit beplan om met aanlyn-leer en -assessment vir ons studente – met die uitsondering van die studente wat hierbo gelys is – vol te hou vir die hele tweede semester. Indien die situasie verander, sal ons jou betyds laat weet sodat jy jou terugkeer kan beplan. Soos voorheen gesê, is ek jammer om die draer van bitter teleurstellende nuus vir baie van julle te wees. Ons wens dinge was anders. Gegewe die huidige inligting, wou ons so gou moontlik met jou kommunikeer sodat jy vir die tweede semester kan beplan.

Ek hoop dat jou A2-assesserings goed afgeloop het en dat jy uitsien na 'n kort studie-onderbreking in die Julie-reses. Bly asb. veilig en wees op die uitkyk vir opvolgkommunikasie.

Groete  
Prof Ingrid Woolard

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