

Update on the #2021AY

Dear Students

Welcome! You probably have many questions about whether you need to attend all your classes, tutorials, lab and studio work, etc. on campus, or if some of this can be done online. In light of the present national challenges in the higher education sector, by way of example, the start to your academic studies will be phased in.

We are committed to ensuring a safe and successful academic year amid the coronavirus pandemic. National alert level regulations require everyone to **mask-up, practice physical distancing and to sanitise our hands**. Likewise, the University must adhere to **COVID-19 compliance regulations**, which includes ensuring our **venues conform to ventilation protocols, physical distancing and do not exceed 100 people**.

I am a **first-year** student. What can I expect in the immediate future?

Academic activities for first years in the week of **15 March** include continuing with orientation activities and preparation for **online** and **mask-to-mask learning**. Most activities will be online, so there is **no need for first years to come to campus** unless your lecturer indicates this or if you need to book a space in a general computer lab to participate in these activities. More **formal academic work** will start from **23 March**. Lecturers will communicate with students as to how this will work and whether students must attend any mask-to-mask activities on campus.

I am a **returning, senior** student. What happens in the immediate future?

Faculties are communicating directly with senior and postgraduate students this week regarding information related to their modules and programme but there will be no formal academic activities. Formal academic activities start from **23 March**. Please advise fellow students, who are not yet registered, to check in with their faculties and lecturers if they are not receiving communication.

If I have not yet been able to register, can I participate in academic activities?

If you are an unregistered, but admitted first year or senior student, you are **strongly encouraged** to participate in the **academic activities** until you are able to **register**. In this way, you will not fall behind with your studies.

How do I access my online learning activities and lecturers?

At the start of the academic year, the academic activities and **main communication channel** between students, faculties and lecturers will be **online and electronic**. All registered and finally accepted first years, as well as all registered and unregistered senior students, will be given **access to the university's learning sites and technologies**. In the case of unregistered students, this access will be temporary until you have registered.



HOW TO CONNECT TO YOUR ONLINE CLASSROOM

- step 1** Visit the **Orientation website**
<https://orientation.mandela.ac.za>
- step 2** Select **'How to Connect'**
Click on the How to connect banner
- step 3** Follow the **Step-by-Step guide**

- A. Login with your username and password
- B. Download Microsoft Teams
- C. Go to [Learn.mandela.ac.za](https://learn.mandela.ac.za) (Moodle)
- D. Find Module and enrol
- E. Follow your lecturer's instructions

Online Learning Requirements & Support

Students who learn **online** will need a:

- Laptop or desktop computer
- A smartphone
- Reasonably stable connectivity
- Place to study to effectively learn online from home (remotely).

Students who do not have access to all of the above will need to be in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) or George to access the University's general and specialised computer labs and Wi-Fi on campus and in on- or accredited off-campus student residences, so that they can engage in online learning.

How do I know if my programme is **fully online** or a **mix of online and mask-to-mask (hybrid)**?

You can find the answer at orientation.mandela.ac.za and then clicking on your faculty and looking for your programme.

What happens if I must come to campus for an academic activity? Arriving on campus

If your study delivery requires that you need to be on campus, then please follow

On-Campus Protocols

When students arrive on campus they are to:

- Wear their mask
- Have their temperature taken
- Complete the online [COVID-19 self-screening tool](#)
- Show their e-permit saved to their phone. If not registered yet, show proof of admission



Going Forward

Once students are more settled, we will forward information on how to:

- **Get your student card**
- **Use the student transport shuttles**
- **Book a meal**

Enquiries

Students with concerns should contact their faculty or use the following **links** or **email addresses** for assistance:

Key Information

- Track your application: <https://www.mandela.ac.za/Apply/Admission/Check-your-admission-status>
- Online registration: <https://www.mandela.ac.za/Study-at-Mandela/Registration/2021-Registration>
- Residence admission status: <https://studenthousing.mandela.ac.za/>
- Welcoming and orientation news: <https://orientation.mandela.ac.za/>
- Financial Aid and bursaries: <https://finaid.mandela.ac.za/>
- Online COVID-19 self-screening tool: <https://webapps.mandela.ac.za/screening>
- NSFAS portal: <https://www.nsfas.org.za>

Please see full list of **George Campus** links below.

- Financial Aid: FinancialAid@mandela.ac.za
- Pin verification: helpdesk@mandela.ac.za
- Student Housing: resadmissions@mandela.ac.za
- Off-Campus Student Housing: offcampus.accommodation@mandela.ac.za
- General enquiries: info@mandela.ac.za

For additional support, contact the following, but please allow three working days for a response given the present high volume of inquiries:

- Financial Aid: FinancialAid@mandela.ac.za
- Pin verification: helpdesk@mandela.ac.za
- Student Housing: resadmissions@mandela.ac.za
- Off-Campus Student Housing: offcampus.accommodation@mandela.ac.za
- General enquiries: info@mandela.ac.za

Also browse the following sites:

- Student Academic Development
- Library and Information Services
- Campus Health Services
- Emthonjeni – Fountain of Student Wellness
- Arts, Culture & Heritage
- Student Governance & Development
- Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Universal Accessibility & Disability Services (UADS)
- Societies
- Madibaz Sport

..... Professor Cheryl Foxcroft, DVC: Learning and Teaching

#SaveLives as we **#StartTheAcademicYear**

