



Academic Programme Planning for Covid: Students & Staff

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**please note that data presented in this presentation is accurate as at 26.05.20. Data changes from day to day.*



Context and Contents for Presentation on T-L

Context:

Covid-19 (or the Corona Crisis) activated NWU **contingency plans** for **teaching-learning emergencies** and resulted in their further adaption to enable T-L functionality for staff and students in the online and later distance modality. This presentation covers plans for business continuity as well as resumption of campus-based T-L within a phased approach for students and staff.

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1. Academic Planning in Covid-19: an integrated approach

Covid related Planning Activities :

- 1) CRM survey of students: data, devices, connection (ddc)
- 2) Faculty survey of students (ddc)
- 3) Verification of data by CRM
- 4) Faculty Assessment Plans (FAPs)
- 5) Reconfigured Academic Year (RAY)
- 6) Faculty Reintegration Plans (FRIPs)
- 7) Staff Integration Plans

Completion:

- 1) Completed in early April
- 2) Completed in mid April
- 3) Ongoing process in April and May
- 4) Approved at Senex in April
- 5) V.1 served at Senex in April.V.2 served at UMC in May. **V.3 must go to Senex on 27 May**
- 6) Approved at UMC in April
- 7) Approved at UMC in June

2. Strategy Principles and Rationale:

Online and distance academic programme strategy:

- 1) **To technology:** low-tech/ low immediacy/ low cost
- 2) **To student access:** to ensure no student is left behind
- 3) **To staff support:** to ensure academic & admin staff can work from home

Rationale:

- 1) Allow for access for all students as possible irrespective of demographic group
- 2) To provide for online as well as paper-print modalities
- 3) To enable social distancing and screening without compromising business continuity

3. Multimodal Teaching & Learning:

Issues to consider:

- 1) What does multimodal mean?
- 2) Student data bundles: who gets how does it work?
- 3) Student laptops: how does it work?
- 4) Winter school processes

Note: Communication will follow with students regarding permits (permission) to return around mid-June

Responses:

- 1.1) Online learning mostly off-line self-study
- 1.2) Distance learning paper-print self-study
- 2) Based on a needs-basis once per month upload: 20325 students have been supplied so far
- 3) 3534 purchased: prioritised by faculties for final year students and then others on a loan basis
- 4) Winter school is for those students who joined the academic programme late (ie paper-printer-based students and +/- 1500 students not yet in touch with NWU) within the phased-in approach

4. The Phased-in Approach to Reintegration:

Priority Groups for Reintegration:

- 1) Health professions and clinical students. **Pending & then...**
- 2) Students receiving practicals, laboratory work or workshop work. **Pending % then...**
- 3) Final year students. **Pending % then...**
- 4) Remote and inaccessible students

Note: ALL THE ABOVE HAS TO FIT WITHIN THE 33% GUIDE

Rationale:

- 1) As per definition by DHET within a 33% guideline
- 2) As per FRIPs, priority to sciences and practical –oriented subjects in all faculties
- 3) Final year students can complete the year as this enables the whole sector to take in a new cohort in 2021
- 4) As per FRIPs, these students will lose the academic year unless returned to campuses

5. Re-integration and Return Questions:

Question: Who are...?

- 1) **Health professions students** (Faculty of Health Sciences [FHS] students in programmes registered with professions eg HPSCA and other regulatory bodies)
- 2) **Students in practical-based work** (FHS, FENG, FNAS, FHUM [Music & Graphic Design], FEDUC [Science and Tech Ed], FEMS [Bus Info Sys & Stats etc as defined by FRIPs] etc)
- 3) **Final year students** (Y3 in 3 year programmes & Y4 in 4 year programmes)
- 4) **Remote and inaccessible students** (those living where connectivity is not possible)

Responses:

- 1) Return to supervised lab work and to clinical environments outside the University (ie placements)
- 2) Students to be supervised in practical-based work which includes WIL (pending DHET Guidance on WIL)
- 3) To be determined: current regulations for all pertain to groups of 50 (we are awaiting on the DHET for further guidelines)
- 4) At this stage our thinking is that these students return to the **online teaching-learning programme** for Y1-Y2-Y3

6. Tentative Way Forward:

Aim: The phasing-in of staff and students within a reconfigured academic year makes possible the completion of the academic programme within a focus on the health and well being of the University community (through compliance with regulations concerning social distancing and screening) with a view to continuation in early 2021. The continuation of the online and distance programmes for those staff and students not designated to be on campuses, seems by implication, to be a necessity for Semester 2, 2020.

Process steps:

- Implementation of OHS training for selected staff needs to occur to ready the campus. Pending the training then...
- Implementation of staff reintegration needs to occur following FAPs within the guidelines...followed then by the...
- Implementation of communication of relevant protocols, followed then by the...
- Communication with designated students to return in a phased-in approach.



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