Pattern for resuming teaching activities (Q2 and Q3 online with additional time for online teaching)

This calendar is based on the current lockdown requirements as directed by the President of South Africa on 09 April 2020. It assumes ongoing lockdown phases and social distancing requirements after 30 April 2020.

The calendar is premised on:

1. students being able to cope with only 30 h per week learning in remote online mode; and
2. students will be given the opportunity to adjust their credit load so as to avoid the risk of curriculum overload. The SEC has in the first instance amended the drop date for F course from 20 March 2020 to the second Friday after online teaching resumes. (If online orientation resumes on 20 April, this will be Friday 8 May.)

Furthermore, the calendar seeks to accommodate the needs of two specific groups:

1. the vulnerable students; and
2. the academics who need to deliver their courses under difficult circumstances.

Proposal 4 has been revised after the TOTT meeting on 9 April to include:

- a ‘prac block’ for each semester to do lab work, moots, community service etc in September (or sooner).
- provision for vulnerable students to return to campus to do online work alongside tutorial support on campus in September (or sooner). This is an element from the tandem model. This has been agreed in principle with the Department of Student Affairs but the actual dates and logistics for the return of selected students still have to be developed taking into account national directives and operational requirements.
- provision for 12 weeks on-campus teaching for the performing and creative arts (PACA) programmes as from September (or sooner).
- provision for Master’s and PhD students to get access to labs and studios in September, or preferably sooner, depending on the national lockdown and other regulations. As required, conditions of social distancing will be maintained.
- invigilated exams for F courses where these are required by professional accreditation bodies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 pre CV-19</th>
<th>Q2 &amp; Q3 online with additional time</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q2 (10 weeks, 2 days)</td>
<td>Q2 (12 weeks)</td>
<td>9 week online teaching to complete remaining 7 weeks to make allowance for reduced learning online (30h / week).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Teaching 30 March – 14 May</td>
<td>Online Teaching 20-24 April 1 week orientation (this may be reduced in duration as is appropriate in small class postgraduate courses) 27 April – 26 June</td>
<td>In-courses assessment on-going during teaching weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consol &amp; Exams 15 May – 9 June</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Q1 (10 weeks)
#### Teaching
13 June – 26 July
9 weeks teaching

*Capstone assessment or online exams (2 weeks)*
29 June – 10 July

- No invigilated exams: optional capstone assessments or online exams (conveners to decide)
- Refer to Q4 segment below for further information on invigilated exams where necessary.
- PGDipl., Honours and taught Masters courses will also be delivered online over this period

### Winter Vac (4.5 weeks)
10 June – 12 July

Includes Winter Term

### Winter Vac (3 weeks)
11 July – 2 Aug

Marks posted 24 July for courses not needing a prac component (see note 1)

- Results must be posted 2 weeks after last assessment day in Q2.
- One week available before next semester resumes. Academic advice and change of curriculum as needed.
- No Winter Term.
- Suspended July PhD graduation – travel restrictions. See December.

### Q3 (6 weeks)
#### Teaching
13 June - 21 Aug

**Q3 (8 weeks)**

*Online Teaching*
3 Aug – 25 September

8 weeks

Vulnerable students
1 September onwards

PACA practical courses
1 September onwards

‘Prac block’ for S1 Q2 work
7-18 September

‘Prac block’ for S2 Q3 work
21 -25 September

Research students (M / PhD)
Lab and studio access from 1 September (or sooner based on national regulations)

- 8 week online teaching to complete 6 weeks of Q3 to make allowance for reduced learning per week using online mode.
- Libraries re-opens with restrictions for social distancing.
- PGDipl., Honours and taught Masters courses will also be delivered online over this period

Only UG students in courses with pracs or in PACA return to campus in Sept. *Please note the following needs to be worked out as indicated in the introduction.*

Only PG students whose research requires lab or studio work or access to specific physical library resources return to campus in Sept. Residences open for September only for students in courses with a ‘prac block’, the vulnerable students, and the PACA students and the lab- or studio-based Masters and PhD students. Social distancing in res is possible as not all students need to return in Sept.

### Mid-term vac (1 week)
26 Sept – 4 Oct

Hons students get access to labs during vac. Total lab time 10-12
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>22 Aug – 30 Aug</th>
<th>weeks. Submission of Hons essay or report can be delayed to 28 Feb 2021 or sooner, based on planning within each faculty between Honours course conveners.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q4 (10 weeks, 2 days)</td>
<td>All students back on campus, and in res.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching 31 Aug – 13 Oct Consol &amp; Exams 15 Oct – 10 Nov</td>
<td>Q4 (10 weeks) 5Oct – 13 Nov Teaching (contact) 6 weeks PACA prac and studio work continues to 20 Nov (1 additional week of prac teaching) Consol &amp; 2nd Sem Exams 14 Nov – 11 December 14 – 22 Dec available for Invigilated exams needed in F courses Honours lab- or studio-based projects continue till latest 18 Dec, giving 12 week on-site period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 (10 Weeks)</td>
<td>14 – 22 Dec is optional – most course will not need invigilated exams for F courses. Results for these exams will be due (TBC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Vacation Students aprox 12 weeks 11 Nov – 31 Jan 2021 Includes Summer Term</td>
<td>Year-end /vacation Dec Graduation ceremonies (14 &amp; 15 ?) Marks on system 23 Dec End 2020 FEC meetings: 11- 15 January Qualifiers for April grad on system by 18 January (No exclusions, no RAC) 6 exam days for supps &amp; DEs 25 – 1 February Summer Term of 4 weeks 4- 29 January ST exams: 1 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifiers on system by 31 October Marks to be on system 14 days after the last exam in Q4 At least 8 weeks needed to run the marking, FEC before the start of the new academic year. No exclusions, so no RAC cycle.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-end /vacation</td>
<td>Note: UG Admissions processing peaks in early/mid-January PG admissions decisions to follow final FEC (other HEI dates unknow) February exams to be marked and posted before the start of the new academic year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Vacation Qualifiers are not for April grad</td>
<td>Feb qualifiers are not for April grad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15 February</td>
<td>Teaching day 1 of 2021 academic year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1 March</td>
<td>Teaching day 1 of 2021 academic year</td>
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<td></td>
<td>See revised 2021 year pattern</td>
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General comments

1. Dates for the resumption of teaching on campus are subject to national regulations.

This year pattern assumes that we will resume teaching in remote online mode on 20 April, with both Q2 and Q3 offering online teaching over an extended number of weeks. There is potential for the provision of distance mode teaching (delivery of flash disks and printed materials) for identified students without access once the national regulations change. This has not yet been fully explored.

As from the start of September, the campus will open to specified groups of students in a phased manner. *Inter alia*, this allows for the early return of vulnerable students and the offering of ‘prac blocks’ for courses that need this (labs, moots, language teaching, practicums, community service, etc). While on campus during the ‘prac block’ weeks students will be expected to work the usual 40 hours per week: 30h online plus 10h practical.

Lab- and studio-based postgraduate students as well as those requiring access to specific physical library resources (Masters and PhD) will return to campus at the start of September or preferably sooner, depending on the national lockdown and other regulations.

If it is possible to return to campus in August, the necessary adjustments will be made to the calendar. Vulnerable students will return to campus to continue with online learning alongside tutorial support. It is expected that once on campus, they will be able to work 40 h per week.

Honours students with lab- or studio-based projects will return to campus to start these projects at the beginning of the short vacation (28 Sept) and continue for 10 – 12 weeks, finishing latest 18 Dec. Hand-in of the final Honours essay or report can be delayed to latest 28 February, with the actual date set by the Honours programme convener in agreement with their faculty.

As from Q4, the campus is back to contact teaching, culminating in invigilated exams. The last day of second semester exams will be 11 December 2020. Invigilated exams for F Courses where these are required, will be scheduled for 6 days thereafter, 14 - 22 December. These exams will be only where absolutely necessary, and it is not anticipated that this will be a largescale requirement given other continuous assessment options.

Results for undergraduate courses will be due by 23 December. The FEC cycle will run in mid-January 2021. This will mean a delayed start to the 2021 academic year.
2. Results for F course that include assessment in a prac block will not be posted on 24 July with the rest of the first semester course results. Where the F course is a pre-requisite for the S course, students will be admitted into the S courses on the basis of the theory work assessed and / or DP. The final mark for the F courses with a prac block will be posted on system (first week of October – date tbc).

3. PACA programmes will resume studio work, individual lessons etc on campus on 1 September and continue through the short vac, to 20 November (i.e., one week beyond the last teaching day 13 November) to create 12 weeks of contact teaching (the minimum needed for the year to avoid ‘fail point’).

4. The academic year pattern will apply to pre-clinical years in the FHS programmes. Clinical years of FHS programmes will map their own delivery noting the availability of the various clinical platforms and other delivery sites. Flexibility in delivery will be needed to ensure both theoretical and clinical work in all clinical courses can be covered.

5. Master’s and PhD students will get access to campus labs from the start of September (or sooner, based on national regulations).

6. Hons students will have access to campus labs and studios as from 26 September to ensure they have sufficient time in the labs before finalising their research projects. Following completion of their practical work by 18 December, Hons students will submit their final essay or report in January or February as set by the course convenor. The latest acceptable due date is 28 February 2021 to allow completion without re-registration, in accordance with the grace period given in terms of rule GM 17.

7. There is a cohort of vulnerable students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, and it is acknowledged that vulnerability will manifest in multiple ways, both immediately and as the weeks pass. Various concessions and accommodations will be offered to reduce pressure and accommodate the vulnerable students. This could include inter alia, the addition of distance mode (the modalities and logistics of this are being explored), reduced curriculum load, extensions on due dates, LoA.

8. This pattern makes no provision for an RAC cycle but assumes a moratorium on exclusions at the end of the 2020 academic year. This allows the FEC to accommodate students who have not met the ordinary readmission requirement with a concession to continue. It acknowledges that learning will be more difficult online, and that there will be additional psycho-social factors affecting student’s learning and performance.

9. Conveners of F courses will need to consider applications for the extension of due dates of in course assessments. Coursework extensions can be granted as needed but results must be ready at the end of the semester so that results are ready to post on system on 24 July. The DEC will consider applications for the deferment of online exams or capstone assessments in the period 29 June – 10 July. Where the DEC grants such deferment, the work will done after 24 July.
DEC will need to be flexible in dealing with whatever situations present at the time in considering applications for the deferral of the exams at the end of the year.

10. Admissions processing (DBE results) will be in Jan 2021 – date of release of NSC and other examining bodies still to be confirmed. Dates for the release of results from other HEIs are still unknown. The Registrar will consult with faculties to establish what support is needed to ensure the FEC and admission processing run in January.

11. The PhD-only graduation ceremony of 10 July will move to December. It is expected that travel will still be restricted, and many PhD students are international students. Four graduation ceremonies will be held over two days in December. The qualifiers must be on system by 31 October for these ceremonies.

12. Although we will not be able to start the 2021 academic year as previously planned, the intention is to complete it in 2021. If all of the above factors and circumstances hold, it will be possible to complete the 2021 academic year in 2021, with some adjustments.

Approved by Senate Executive Committee
14 April 2020