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## **UCT charters transport to assist students**

The University of Cape Town executive confirmed on Monday, 16 March 2020 that arrangements have been put in place to assist students vacating residences.

These included immediate payment of allowances for all students on financial aid, liaising with the Department of Home Affairs in cases involving international students, securing safe storage for students' belongings and working with external agencies on travel plans for students.

As part of these measures, UCT has chartered six buses to transport students to metros in the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. Students travelling further beyond the metros will be assisted to ensure that they reach their homes safely and conveniently.

The decision to close residences was taken following extensive discussions with experts in the field. The residences, where large numbers of students live in close proximity, pose a high risk in terms of spreading the infection. In addition, it presents a risk of a mass outbreak and this could add enormous further strain on a health system that will be stretched to capacity in the next weeks.

Keeping the residences open would not be responsible and would have added significantly to the risk of the virus spreading rapidly and contributing to the swell in the rate of infections when our actions must rather serve to flatten the curve. Furthermore, UCT is aligning with the State President's directive restricting public gatherings of more than 100 people.

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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