



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

**Find out more about UCT's approach
to COVID-19 on the UCT website**



18 September 2020

UCT awaiting revised level one guidelines on return to campus

The University of Cape Town has noted [the announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa](#) on a change to lockdown alert Level 1 effective from midnight on 20 September.

UCT strongly shares the stance that the move to alert Level 1 does not signal the end of the fight against COVID-19. The university's approach remains that of prioritising and safeguarding the health and safety of members of the UCT community. This is particularly important given the real risk of a second wave that could see a surge in new infections.

As with previous changes to lockdown alert levels, the university is awaiting revised guidelines to be shared by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation on how the change to alert Level 1 impacts the sector. UCT is continuing with the gradual phased return of students, prioritising health and safety. This is implemented by invitation only and in compliance with the relevant health protocols.

As part of this phased in approach, the university had planned to return 66% of the student population by end of October. This would have included the 2 000 students returned during previous phases since May, while since 1 September a further 3 100 students were invited to return following the change to the current alert Level 2.

The new national regulations and guidelines will have an impact on UCT's return to campus plans. After the amended guidelines have been shared, the UCT executive will then consider how to effectively implement these with a focus on public health protocols.

The university's plans will be aligned with the government regulations and restrictions, which include for example adhering to 50% capacity in buildings. Once the minister has outlined guidelines for the higher education sector, UCT will be able determine and communicate as soon as possible what will be implemented institutionally.

ENDS

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