



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

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



31 August 2020

More UCT students to be invited back under level two

Students registered in performing arts courses, those needing to undertake practical blocks, and selected postgraduate researchers will be invited in phases to return to residences or academic spaces in alignment with the amended University of Cape Town calendar.

The selected postgraduate researchers who need to use on-campus facilities to complete their research projects, and where this can be accommodated appropriately, will be invited to return in two tranches.

UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng said: "As outlined by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, under national alert [Level 2](#), depending on a tertiary institution's capacity, no more than a maximum of 66% of students will be allowed to return to campus and residences. This is on condition that they can be safely accommodated and supported in line with the health and safety protocols as directed by the department.

"While the official rate of COVID-19 infections has slowed, the coronavirus is still very much with us and we must remain vigilant. Our priorities at UCT are to protect the lives and well-being of our community, to conclude the academic year, to adhere to all government protocols and to take all reasonable steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19."

UCT has developed a [framework](#) for identifying which students and staff may return in a phased approach, and this is being implemented by invitation only, after the necessary health assessments have been concluded and after formal authorisations have been granted. Very strict monitoring, social distancing and other health regulations will be in place for those returning. No other student or staff member, apart from those identified, will be able to return.

Some students were invited back on the basis of vulnerability, such as difficult home circumstances, socio-economic disadvantage or particular barriers to academic progress. These students will continue remote learning in residence with easier access to online resources. Final-year medical students have also returned to residence.

With the change to Level 2 restrictions, UCT may now invite more students back to campus. All students must undergo a 10-day self-quarantine period when they return to their residences.

Campus services will be limited: dining halls will remain closed, Jammie Shuttle services will be limited, all but one of the computer labs remain closed and UCT Libraries will operate as a virtual library service for the rest of the academic year.

Staff are to continue working from home where possible – this approach remains UCT’s default position. All departments have identified staff members whose work requires them to be on campus and these have been granted access on condition that they undergo a daily health assessment and adhere to strict protocols. Allowing the majority of UCT staff to continue working from home will minimise the significant risk that COVID-19 presents.

- [Read the full communication by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.](#)

ENDS

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