In order to continue with teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Cape Town (UCT) has developed a framework for delivering remote teaching and has introduced a revised academic calendar.

**OUR APPROACH**

- **Our aim is to ensure that as many students as possible can continue learning while off campus.**
- **To avoid reinforcing or increasing existing inequalities, remote teaching is being informed by low-tech options and supported by a redesigned curriculum.**
- **Loan laptops have been distributed to identified students in financial need.**
- **Printed learning materials and USB drives with lecture recordings will be made available to students who cannot access the internet in any way.**
- **The UCT Call Centre and Referral System (CARES) is available to respond to general queries or to refer you to the correct department. You can contact the helpdesk via uctcares@uct.ac.za or SMS 47553.**

**THE FRAMEWORK**

- Students are expected to engage with learning for approximately 30 hours per week (informed by the Student Access Survey, which had a 96% response rate from undergraduate students).
- Learning materials, lectures, readings, etc are being uploaded to the course sites on Vula.
- Cell C, MTN, Telkom and Vodacom have zero-rated access to certain UCT sites, including:
  - UCT main site
  - UCT Libraries
  - Open UCT
  - Lecture videos (Opencast)
  - Web authentication (any URL that contains adfs.uct.ac.za).
- Students can engage with learning in their own time, but lecturers will provide a structure and suggested pace for studies.
- The UCT Call Centre and Referral System (CARES) is available to respond to general queries or to refer you to the correct department. You can contact the helpdesk via uctcares@uct.ac.za or SMS 47553.

**CONTACT TEACHING**

- Departments and courses will prepare contingency plans to address laboratory work, field work, public service, etc.
- Special plans will accommodate contact teaching courses, such as dance, music, fine art, theatre and languages.
- Students will be able to catch up with their studies through blended learning once the university reopens.
- The reopening of the university will be announced by the vice-chancellor, according to national government regulations.

The integrity, quality and standards of UCT degrees will not be affected by remote teaching.

**REVISED ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

- The Senate Executive Committee has approved a revised academic calendar that allows for remote teaching in terms 2 and 3.
- While we aim to complete the revised 2020 academic calendar within this calendar year, the pandemic may cause unforeseen delays and further changes.
- Further details will be provided as the country’s response to the coronavirus pandemic develops.