

MEDIA STATEMENT

UNISA'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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In line with the directive by Government on the handling of the Corona Virus pandemic in South Africa, the Management of the University of South Africa (Unisa) has put in place special occupational health and safety measures to, amongst others; regulate the university activities and events to mitigate against the possible spread of Covid-19 and to give effect and meaning to the measures adopted by Government in relation to the response against the spread of Covid-19.

The university has also established a high-level Special Health Coordinating Committee to coordinate all activities in terms of these measures, which is comprised of designated members of executive management, representatives of Organised Labour and the Senate Executive Committee.

The following are the key decisions taken by university management:

- All graduation ceremonies have been suspended until further notice.
- Gatherings of more than 100 persons on all university premises are prohibited, including visits to the Unisa Art Gallery.
- Students are strongly advised to study from home and are encouraged to submit their assignments online.
- All training sessions, especially of large groups, must stop immediately.
- All staff at the Department: Student Admissions and Registration (DSAR), security guards, cleaners and library staff at the front desk are directed to immediately wear masks and gloves, as they are rolled out and become available.
- All local and international travel is banned, unless special permission is granted by the Principal and Vice Chancellor.
- **Restaurants:** Only take-aways will be permitted and staff are strongly advised to maintain social distance.
- **Library services:** Social distance must be maintained at the seating and queuing environment and libraries will be open from 08h00 – 16h00 weekdays only.
- **Examinations:** The university is urgently looking at solutions in relation to health and safety measures at examination venues. These will be communicated once the logistics have been concluded.
- Staff and students are advised that the Muckleneuck Clinic (Unisa Main Campus) is not a designated testing facility; and are advised to go to Lancet laboratories, Steve Biko Hospital, Tembisa Hospital or Netcare for testing once symptoms of the virus appear.
- All shuttle services will be discontinued immediately.

The university will provide further updates as and when the need arises.

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For enquiries, please contact Senior Media Officers Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981/
humatm@unisa.ac.za OR Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 6712/ ratheme@unisa.ac.za

Unisa spokesperson: Martin Ramotshela, 012 441 5639 / 076 264 0921

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