

December Graduation Ceremonies

Welcome

Vice-Chancellor Professor Muthwa

Virtual Event, 17 & 18 December 2020

Madam Chancellor, Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi

Chairperson of Council, Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill

Members of Council

Deputy Vice-Chancellors

Executive Deans of Faculties and the Dean of Students

Professors, academics

Student Leadership

Honorary Doctoral Recipients

And most importantly, our graduates, including those at the pinnacle of achievement, those receiving their doctorates today, and all your family and friends who are joining us today in this virtual graduation

It is my privilege to welcome you to our 2020 graduation season. Graduation is the ultimate celebration in the life of any university. As we share in our collective

joy of each graduate receiving their qualification today, we pause for us to acknowledge and remember the staff, students, family members, friends, neighbours and colleagues whom we have lost during this year. We also wish those who are recovering from illness a speedy recovery, and a return to full health of each and everyone of them.

2020 has been a difficult year across the globe. And so the successful completion of studies by each graduating student is a true triumph against adversity. This academic year has been unique and unprecedented. We have had to make an immediate transition to largely on-line learning and teaching, due to the realities associated with the Covid 19 pandemic. Each and every graduate in this season has risen to this challenge in unimaginable ways - with agility, ingenuity, and tenacity. For this we salute you.

We hope that the time you have spent at Nelson Mandela University has been life changing and that you have gained a holistic perspective of the world, which will equip you to use your talents in service to society.

Responding to the complex challenges of our times calls for deep commitment to the service of humanity, and a dedication to a cause that is larger than each one of us.

Our society remains profoundly unequal with high levels of poverty and unemployment, as well as various forms of exclusion. It is my hope that as graduates of Nelson Mandela university, inspired by our ambitious vision and mission, and cognisant of our noble values, you will set out to extend the impact of your contribution in ways that contribute to a world that is better than the one we live in.

We salute all the family members, loved ones and friends for the role you have played in assisting and enabling our graduates to reach this remarkable milestone in their life journey.

I also pay a special tribute to our dedicated academic and professional support staff who, who have worked alongside our graduates and made sure that despite these difficult times, they succeed and excel.

In this summer graduation season, we are proud to be awarding 998 undergraduate qualifications; 125 masters degrees; and 39 doctorates. We are also delighted to be awarding five honorary doctorates in recognition of outstanding individuals who have made sterling and exceptional contributions to society. It is our humble honour and privilege to welcome our honorary doctorate recipients to the Nelson Mandela family. I do hope that your association with this institution and its iconic brand will be a rewarding one for you, as it is a proud one for us.

Again, I welcome all of you to this summer graduation ceremony of 2020

Congratulations to our graduates. Halala!