

Dear Students

What a year 2020 has been!

When our students and staff were sent home and the country was placed in lockdown in March, we were worried about what would happen to the 2020 academic year (2020AY).

2020AY
2020 Academic Year

We started to answer this question by committing to:

Prioritising **#SaveLives** while we **#SaveTheAcademicYear**

Remaining agile, adaptable, and flexible

Walking this journey **together**

Giving every student the opportunity to **complete the year**

Foregrounding our values of **social justice and equality**

What did this commitment result in?



29 100 STUDENTS FOUND



1526
TO GRADUATE
IN DECEMBER

**AND MANY MORE
WILL DO SO IN
THE 2021 AUTUMN
GRADUATION**

79%
SUCCESS RATE

- ☑ We struggled to find some of our students but with the help of lecturers, student leaders, fellow classmates, and administrative staff we found **29 100 of our 29 462 students** and gave them the opportunity to restart their learning and they are steadily progressing to complete the year.
- ☑ The success rate for the 1st semester was **79%**, which was slightly higher than the 2019 semester 1 success rate.
- ☑ Of these, **1526 will complete the 2020AY** when they graduate in a virtual ceremony on 17 and 18 December
- ☑ The teaching in the semester 2 modules is close to completion, while in January and February we will focus on module assessments and experiential learning

How did this happen?



we did it together

It took **courage, determination, and grit** for:

- **Students to adapt to online learning and e-assessment** – often in very challenging circumstances where some students literally climbed mountains to get a signal or battled to learn using a cellphone.
- **Lecturers to shift to teaching and assessing online**, and to work long hours to be able to connect with students who had more data at night.
- **The University to provide** students with data and loan laptops.
- **The University staff to put health and safety protocols in place** when students could return to campus to do mask-to-mask experiential learning and online learning in COVID-19 compliant venues and labs.

We are all happy about the progress made but are also quite exhausted. It is time to rest for a few weeks. We hope that you enjoy spending time with your families. But remember to mask-up, sanitise and practice social distancing so that you and your family stay healthy.

WHEN YOU RETURN IN JANUARY:



You do not need a new e-permit if you returned to campus during lockdown levels 3, 2 or 1. If you have been learning remotely, please continue to do so.



On and off campus residence students need to be back in residence by 10 January so that you can self-isolate for 10 days, during which time you can revise your work and do online learning.



Your lecturers will let you know what work you need to do to complete your modules. Content will remain online, with some experiential learning (studio and lab work, and clinical training) and some mask-to-mask exams.

Thank you

Thanks for hanging in there this year. It's been far from easy. Please rest and relax before we welcome you back in January 2021 to tackle the final stretch in our shared goal of completing the marathon 2020AY.