

#UFSLearnOn:

# Midway Mark



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*Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.*

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



**UFS**  
CENTRE FOR TEACHING  
AND LEARNING (CTL)





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# Dear Kovsie Student **Community**

We have made it this far. It hasn't been easy but we have made it, we have together reached the midway mark of the academic year. The UFS community extends its sincerest gratitude to every student who has shown courage and persistence during this time – thank you, the UFS community applauds you.

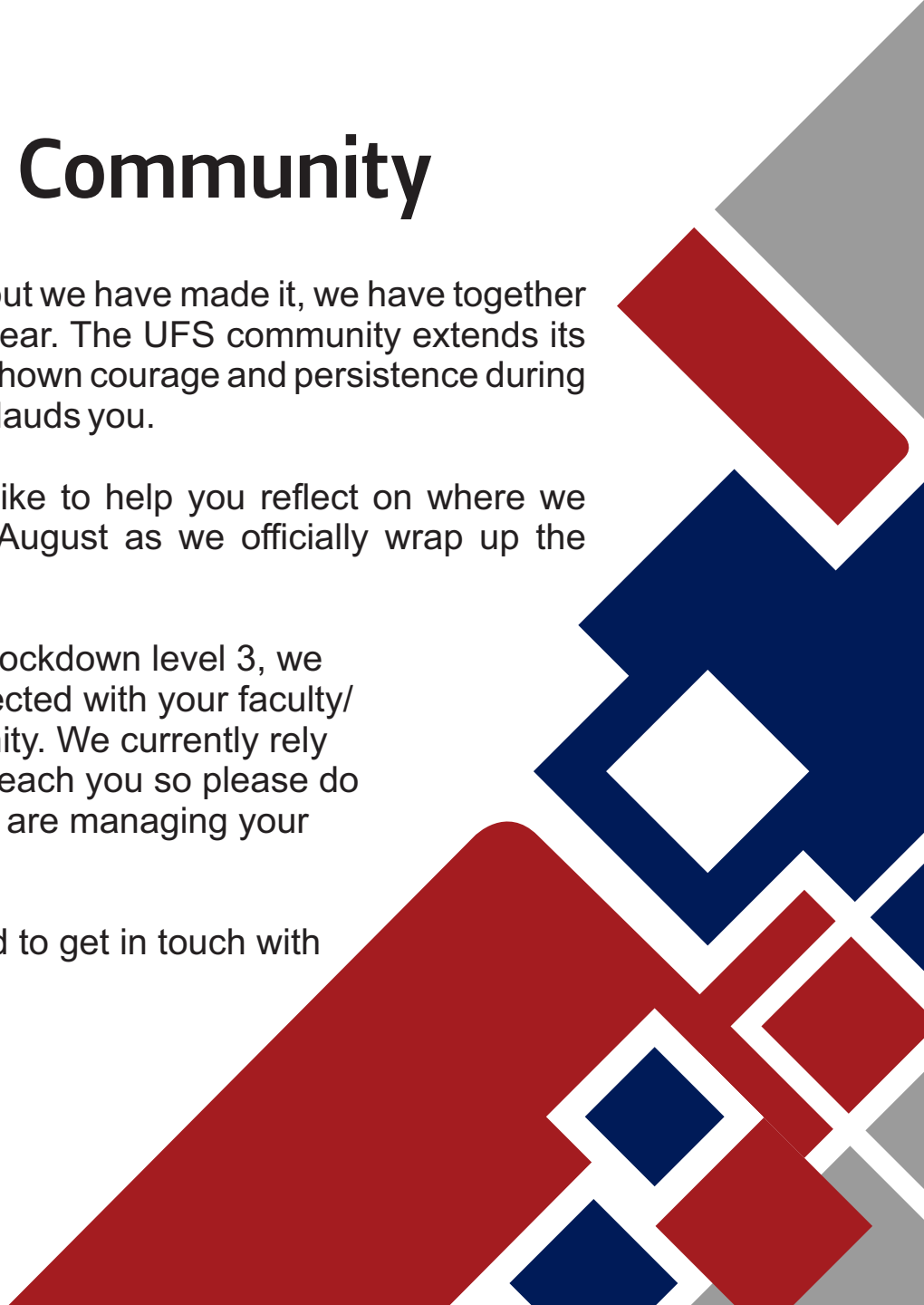
In this edition of #UFSLearnOn, we would like to help you reflect on where we are and what lies ahead for the month of August as we officially wrap up the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

As we continue to find ourselves in national lockdown level 3, we would like to encourage you to remain connected with your faculty/ department and the rest of the UFS community. We currently rely heavily on email, SMS and at times calls to reach you so please do ensure we have your correct details and you are managing your communication channels.

Remember that, at anytime, should you need to get in touch with us, you can reach us at:

- BFN campus: [advising@ufs.ac.za](mailto:advising@ufs.ac.za)
- QQ campus: [advisingqq@ufs.ac.za](mailto:advisingqq@ufs.ac.za)
- South campus: [advisingsc@ufs.ac.za](mailto:advisingsc@ufs.ac.za)

Once again, congratulations Kovsie!





# Planning – UFS academic calendar

As part of ensuring that no Kowsie is left behind, we need to plan. What is a plan without dates, here below is the UFS 2020 calendar to help you better understand and plan for what lies ahead for the remainder of the year.

*Proper planning prevents poor performance!*

| Activity  | Dates                    |
|---|--------------------------|
| Academic activity resumes (with online learning)  | 20-Apr-20                |
| <b>Quarter 2</b>  | <b>20 Apr - 31 Jul</b>   |
| Predicate Date  | 31 July                  |
| <b>F2F Main exams (only for those modules with no continuous assessment that require F2F examination)</b> | <b>3 Aug - 22 Aug</b>    |
| <b>Break (end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester)</b>   | <b>28 Aug - 31 Aug</b>   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Registration   | 3 Sept - 11 Sept         |
| <b>Quarter 3</b>  | <b>1 Sept - 16 Oct</b>   |
| <b>Break</b>  | <b>24 Sept - 27 Sept</b> |
| <b>Quarter 4</b>  | <b>19 Oct - 27 Nov</b>   |
| <b>Break</b>  | <b>30 Oct - 2 Nov</b>    |
| Predicate Date  | 27 Nov                   |
| <b>F2F Main exams</b>   | <b>30 Nov - 19 Dec</b>   |
| <b>Break</b>  | <b>21 Dec - 1 Jan</b>    |





# Wrapping up **assessments**

(F2F exams vs. continuous assessments)

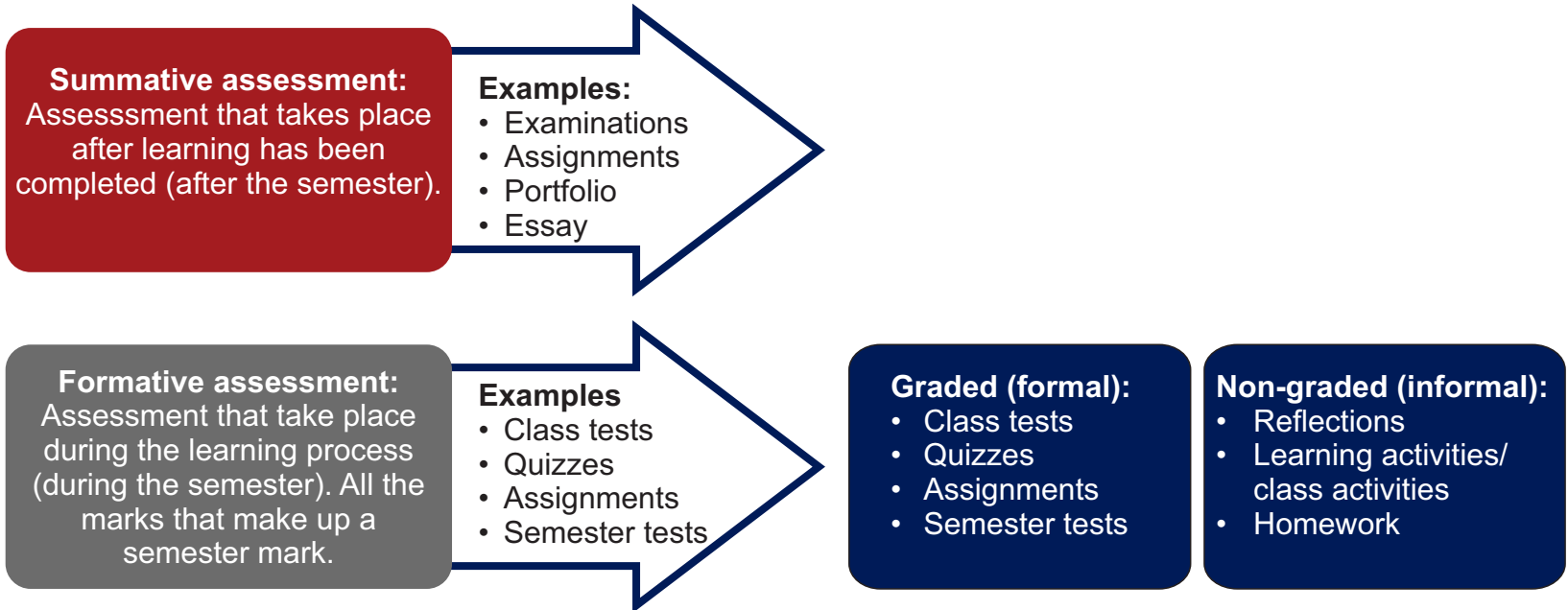
## **Assessment finale or assessment continuation?**

As you prepare for the curtain call on semester one of 2020, your newly acquired skills of flexibility and readiness now come with ease. For some of you the journey continues and for others, proper preparations need to be in place for your departure as you master your modules in final assessments. With this article we want to ensure that you feel confident and are comfortable with knowing about the types of assessments that will be coming up.

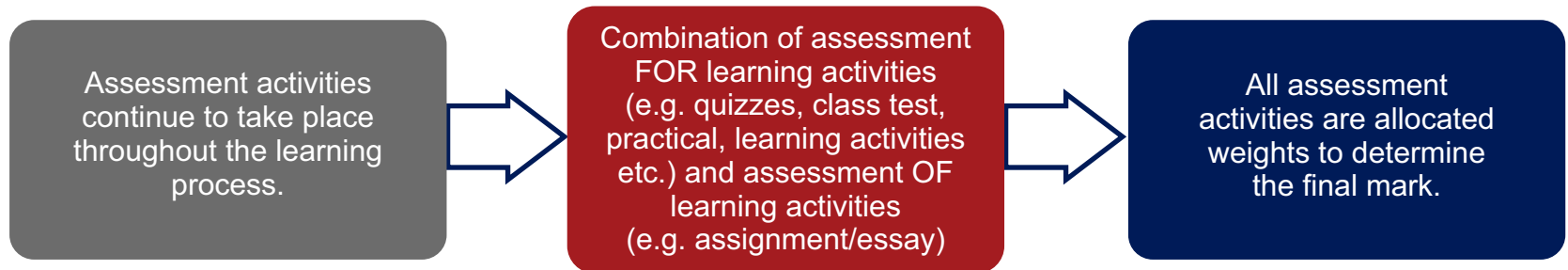


Below is an explanation of assessment options that will take place during the month of August:

### ASSESSMENT OPTION 1: Balance of formative & summative assessment



### ASSESSMENT OPTION 2: Continuous assessment



**REMEMBER:** Some final year modules will be having sit down exams on campus, so check your emails for faculty communication of modules that will require you to come and write on campus or an identified location.



If you are still uncertain of the strategy that your faculty will be taking in terms of final 1<sup>st</sup> semester assessments, the teaching and learning office is your best bet. Below are details of the different faculties Teaching and Learning Managers:

| Faculty                           | Teaching and Learning Manager | Contact details  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Health Sciences                   | Ms Cheryl Jaftha              | <a href="mailto:jafthacba@ufs.ac.za">jafthacba@ufs.ac.za</a>       |
| Natural and Agricultural Sciences | Ms Elzmarie Oosthuizen        | <a href="mailto:OosthuizenEM@ufs.ac.za">OosthuizenEM@ufs.ac.za</a> |
| Economic and Management Sciences  | Ms Annari Muller              | <a href="mailto:MullerA1@ufs.ac.za">MullerA1@ufs.ac.za</a>         |
| Law                               | Dr Jacques Matthee            | <a href="mailto:MattheeJL@ufs.ac.za">MattheeJL@ufs.ac.za</a>       |
| Humanities                        | Dr Rosaline Sebolao           | <a href="mailto:SebolaoRR@ufs.ac.za">SebolaoRR@ufs.ac.za</a>       |
| Education                         | Dr Winnie Mthanti             | <a href="mailto:MthantiBJ@ufs.ac.za">MthantiBJ@ufs.ac.za</a>       |
| Theology and Religion             | Ms Siphokazi Dlwati           | <a href="mailto:DlwatiS@ufs.ac.za">DlwatiS@ufs.ac.za</a>           |

It will not hurt to ask, remember knowledge is power.



# Understanding **permits**

The University of the Free State (UFS) remains bound to Level 3 national lockdown travel regulation across country. As well as by the directive announced on 23 May 2020 by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, that a maximum of 33% of the student population will be allowed to return to the campuses during Level 3 of the national lockdown.

The university is following a structured and phased-in approach to return its students to their respective campuses. The permits issued out by the UFS will be based to the following structure:

1. **Only** students who have been: **pre-identified by faculties and departments** according to the national directives received from the Department of Higher Education and Training, as well as the university's re-integration plan that has been approved by the department, may return to campus under Level 3 of the national lockdown.
2. The travel permits for UFS students to move across the provincial borders is the responsibility of the UFS.
3. The UFS is allowed to issue two types of permits to students: a campus access permit and a travel permit, please [click here](#) for a detailed document on types permits

**\*Please refer to the next page details of the process flow to obtain a permit**



# ISSUING OF PERMITS



# TRAVEL PERMITS

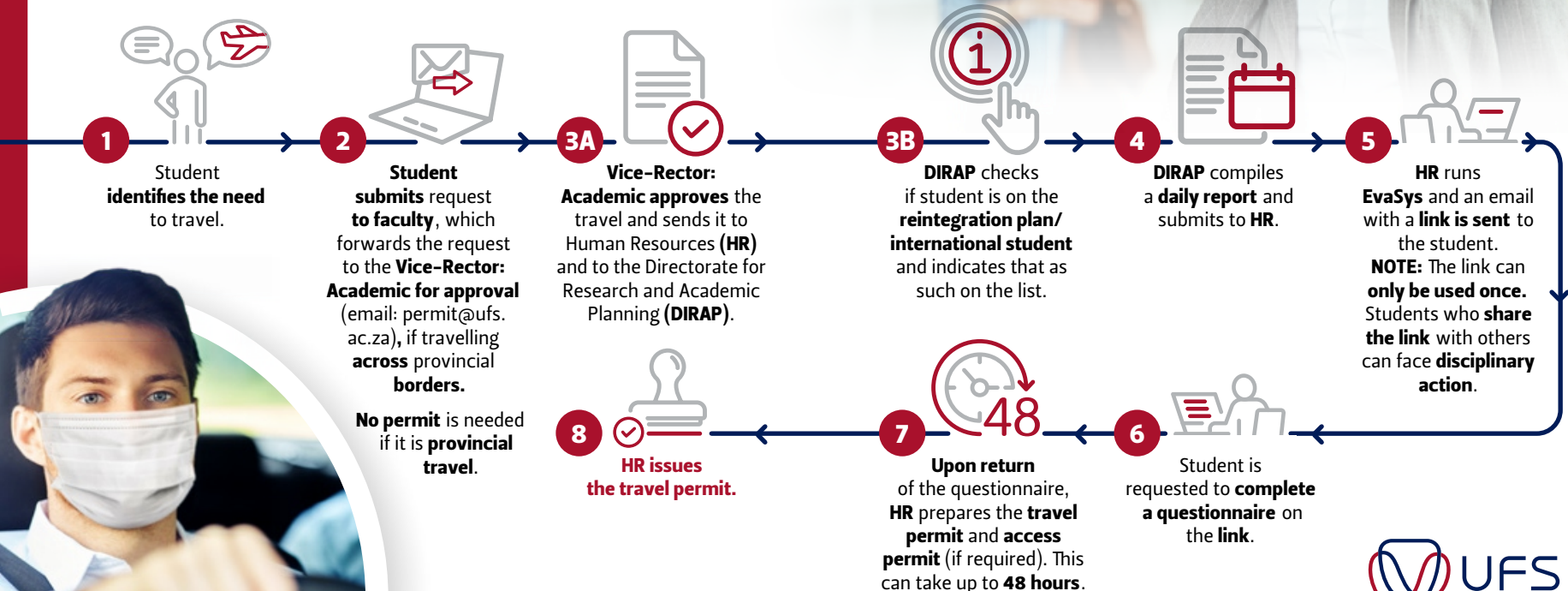
## TRAVEL PERMITS



- **Access permits** will only be issued to students **who need to return according to the DHET**-approved re-integration plan



- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** who have been **outside of the country during levels 4 and 5** of the national lockdown **may only return once level 1** is announced



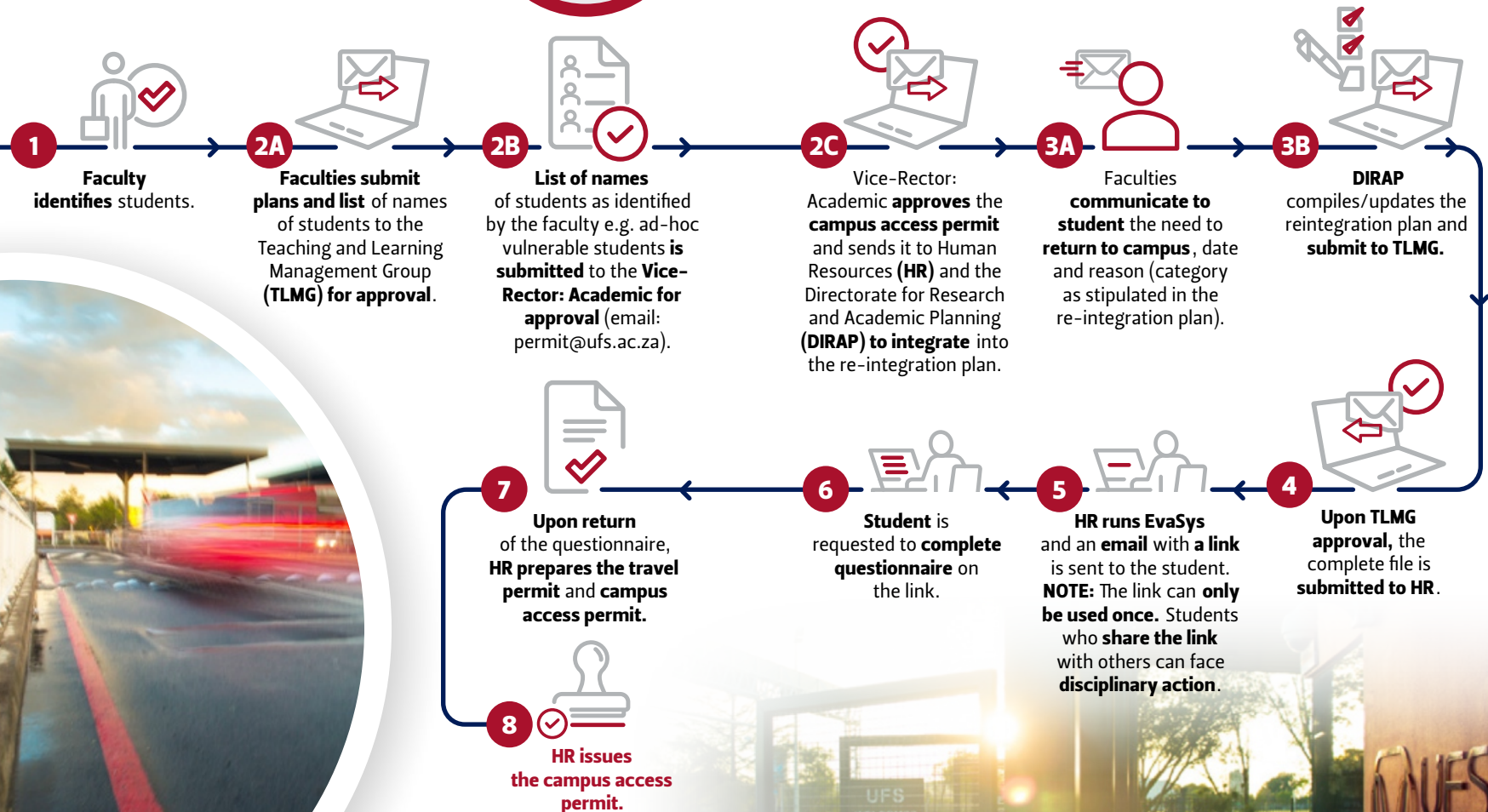


# ISSUING OF PERMITS

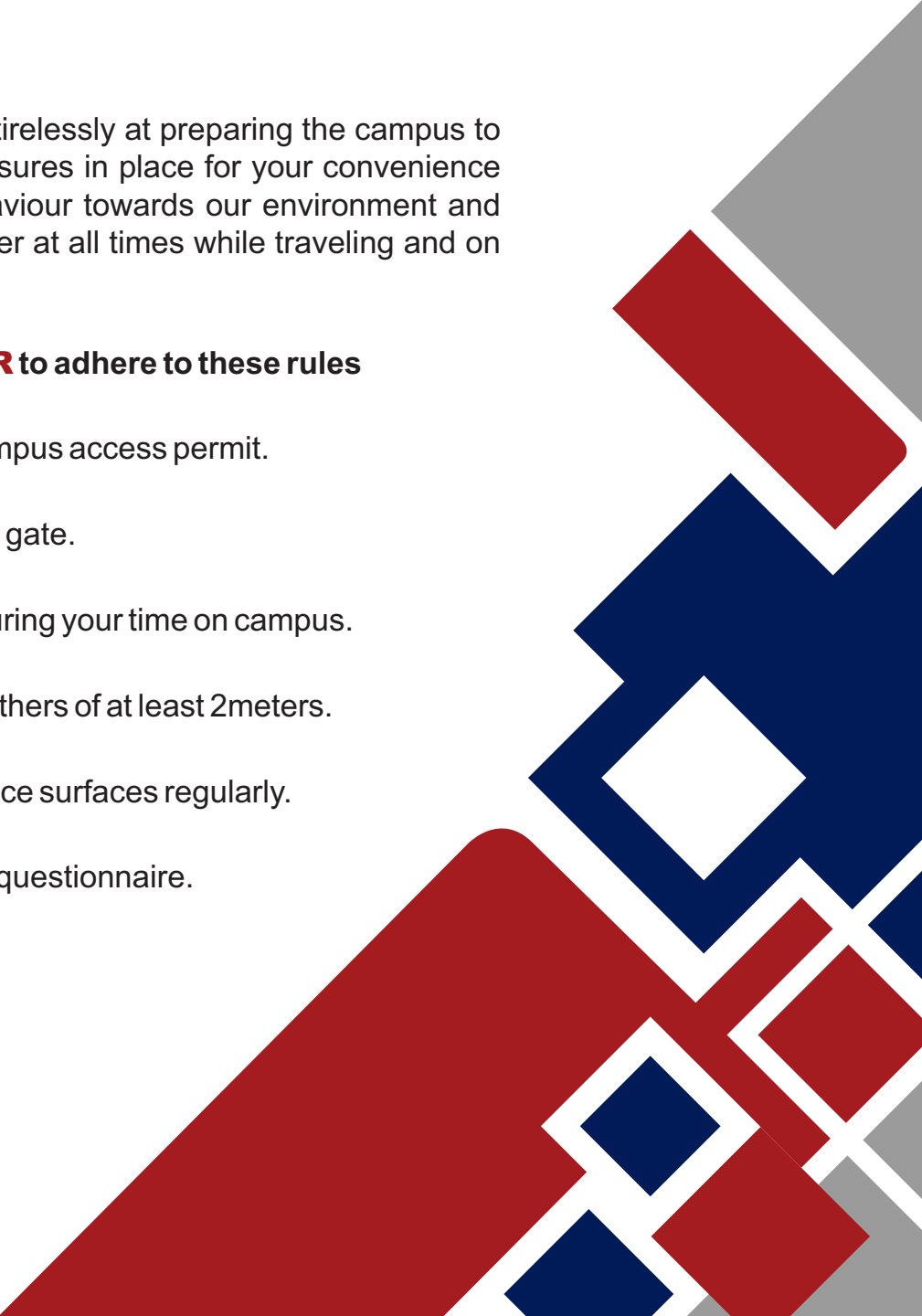


# CAMPUS ACCESS PERMITS

## CAMPUS ACCESS PERMITS







The University of the Free State has been working tirelessly at preparing the campus to welcome students back and put proper safety measures in place for your convenience however our safety also relies heavily on our behaviour towards our environment and each other. Below is a few things we must remember at all times while traveling and on campus.

Upon your return to campus, please **REMEMBER** to adhere to these rules

- o **You MUST** have a valid lockdown Level 3 campus access permit.
- o **You MUST** present a valid student card at the gate.
- o **You MUST** wear a face mask on entry, and during your time on campus.
- o **You MUST** maintain physical distance from others of at least 2meters.
- o **You MUST** disinfect your hands and workspace surfaces regularly.
- o **You MUST** complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire.



# Remaining **data savvy** at all times

Whether you are purchasing your own data, or are a recipient of the NSFAS/Fundza Lushaka data allocation it is now more than ever important that you are aware of your data expenditure.

2020 has been a year with unpredictable twists and turns. You have soldiered on and thrived in the low tech/online distance learning space and now heading towards the mid-year assessments. We have learned to use our data conservatively prioritizing our academics above everything else and that has been a commendable trait.

In this article, we will be revising a few tips to help us through the assessment period.

- ✓ Remember network coverage is not the same everywhere, it is important to check what coverage is stronger in your area.
- ✓ Remember to install the blackboard app on your device this will make it easier for you to use offline functionalities.
- ✓ Remember to label all content you have downloaded to avoid duplication (misuse your data)
- ✓ Buy monthly or weekly data deals instead of hourly/daily deals
- ✓ Manage your data usage (i.e. how much time are you spending on social media)
- ✓ Download all necessary resources/material then log off
- ✓ Update only the critical apps (i.e. Blackboard App vs. Instagram)

## Check your network provider for affordable data bundles.

**MTN** (dial \*141# or \*136#)

**Vodacom** (dial \*100# or \*135#)

**Cell C** (dial \*109# or \*147#)

**Telkom** (\*180# or \*147#)

**\*NB: Some network providers have night-time deals; if you are more productive at night (night owl) consider getting connected with the provider with the best night time deals.**



## Essential connectivity services:

1. Blackboard
2. Global Protect App.

### Blackboard Queries

Contact details (office hours): **051 401 2442**

Email: [ehelpdesk@ufs.ac.za](mailto:ehelpdesk@ufs.ac.za)

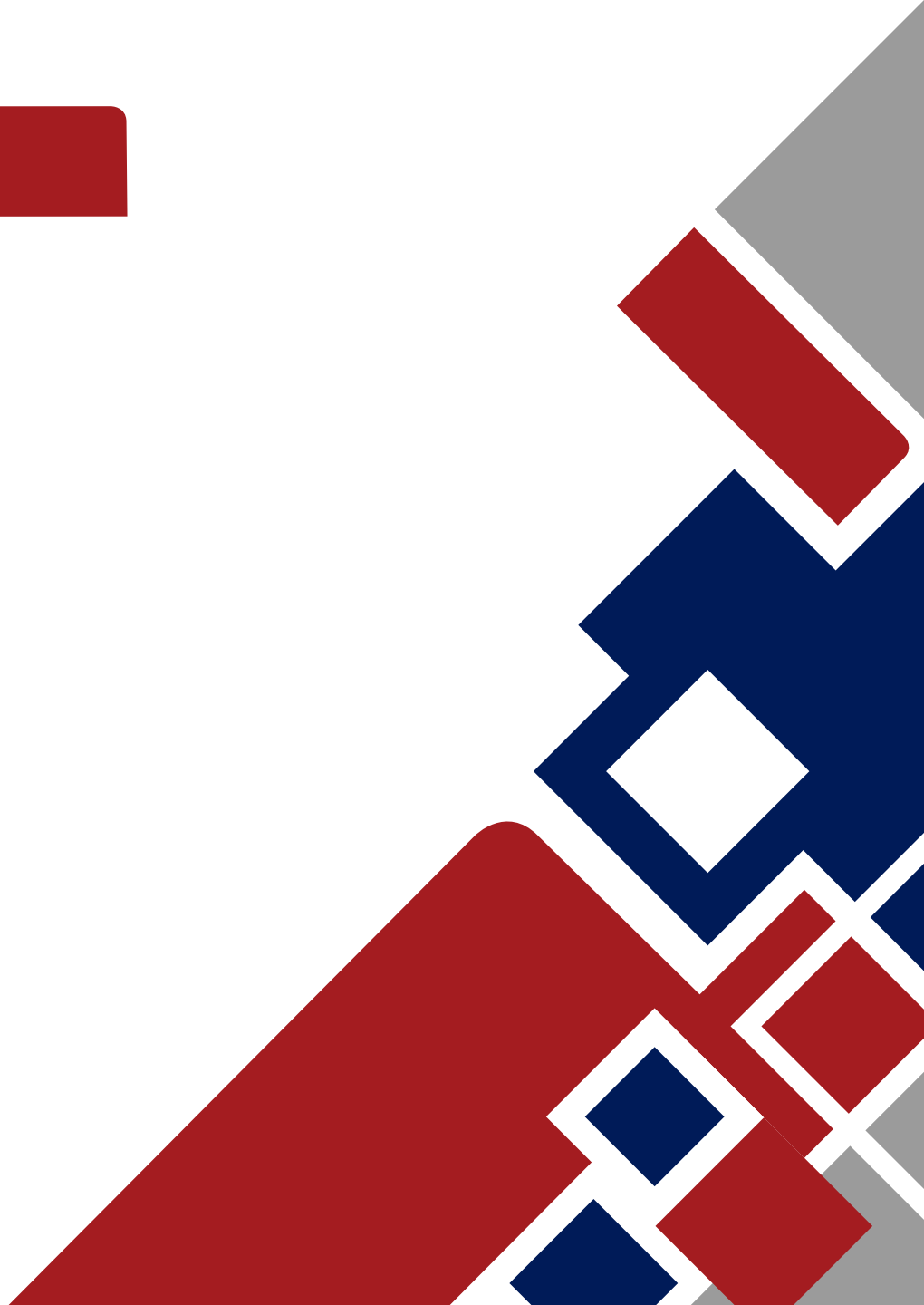
**Password queries**  
(Including Blackboard passwords)

**Reset your password by following the link:**


<https://selfservice.ufs.ac.za/>

**For additional support:**

Email: [studentdesk@ufs.ac.za](mailto:studentdesk@ufs.ac.za)








The UFS has made the **Global Protect App** available to all its registered students. We recommend that you download the App as a back up, because you may have data today but if it runs out your learning should not stop. This app allows you to access all required academic resources to continue with your studies.

- ✓ Access to academic resources
- ✓ At no cost to students
- ✓ No data limit or cap

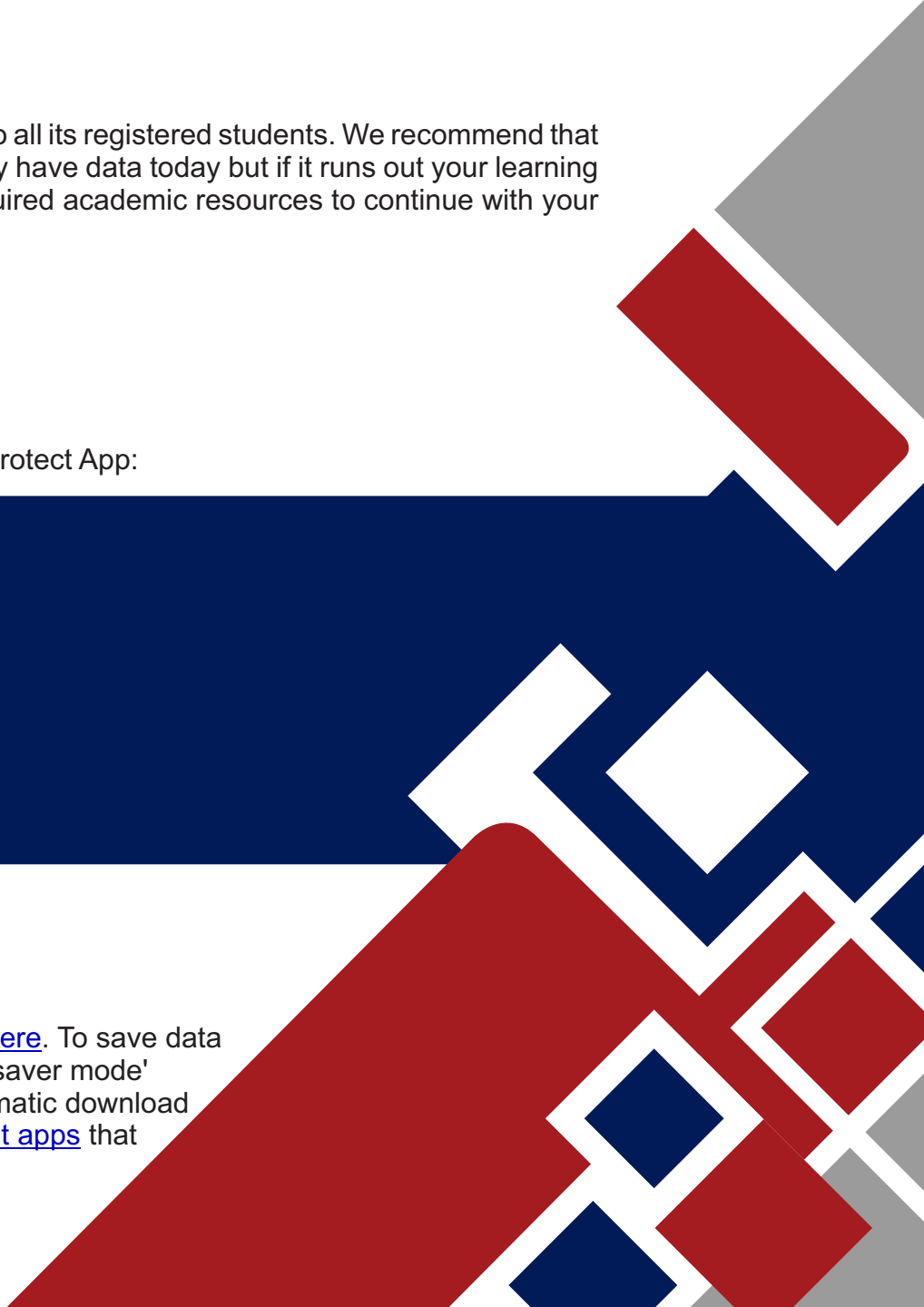
Some sites that have been zero-rated via the Global Protect App:

- 
- ✓ **Blackboard**
  - ✓ **Questionmark**
  - ✓ **PeopleSoft**
  - ✓ **Password self-service**
  - ✓ **Library resources**
  - ✓ **UFS academic resources (i.e Library)**

For more information on Global Protect App [click here](#)

### **Minimise data consumption**

For instructions on how to do this on Facebook [Click here](#). To save data on Instagram, [click here](#). You can also switch to 'data saver mode' under 'settings' on your mobile device, switch off automatic download and update of Apps, and [deactivate unused or dormant apps](#) that use background data.





# Making the most of **different devices**

Since March, much of your learning has been taking place on various devices such as a tablet, laptop, or only a mere smartphone. As we continue to be faced with this pandemic and not being able to have face-2-face learning and teaching, this article is aimed at helping you make the most of the device you have to help you learn.

Here are some tips to help you make the most of learning off different devices, deal with load shedding, take care of your eyes, and stay data-savvy.

## Download appropriate apps to support your remote learning

### VLC Media Player

[Click here](#) to download

### Microsoft Office 365

To download [click here](#)

### PowerPoint

[Click here](#) (Android devices), or [here](#) (Apple devices) to download

### Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader

[Click here](#) to download

### Download the Blackboard App

Android device [click here](#)  
Apple device [click here](#)



## **Avoid interruptions and distractions**

Make sure you switch disruptions like Facebook notifications, instant messages and emails off, so that you can focus. To avoid these interruptions, get an App that helps you block social media notifications – App: [Offtime](#), [Moment](#), [Flipd](#), and [RescueTime](#).

## **Set a timer**

Struggling to concentrate? You don't need a smartphone, simply activate the stopwatch/ alarm feature to set yourself incremental times for learning. Set a timer for a time period such as 30 minutes. When the alarm goes off, take a well-deserved break of 10 minutes, and start again.

## **Plan for Loadshedding**

Of late we have also been experiencing loadshedding which for many is a serious disruption. Whether you are learning or completing an assessment, plan for loadshedding. While many students have struggled with learning when experiencing loadshedding, here are some tips that can help you plan for loadshedding:

- Download the loadshedding schedule for your area: [Click here](#)
- Download learning materials from Blackboard, and save them in a folder on your device. Make sure your folders are arranged in the same way as your study guide is structured to avoid losing important information. You can then access your information offline while you experience loadshedding.
- Make sure you keep your devices charged. This will maximise your study time during loadshedding.
- If possible, get a Power Bank for your phone, or a UPS for your computer. These will store electricity, which you can use during loadshedding.
- Make the most of the time you have electricity, at time the loadshedding may be longer than scheduled and in some instances not scheduled at all.

## **Save time! Teach yourself short cuts and tricks to learn**

There are various tips to help your productivity from selecting information, or retrieving closed tabs [Click here](#) to learn more. With limited teaching opportunities in a low tech remote environment, lecturers might provide you with lecture scripts of how they would explain material in class. If you prefer learning through listening, read the script out loud and record yourself on your phone. This way you can listen to the recording during loadshedding, or while taking a walk. Revision on the go!



## Take care of your eyes

Staring into a screen, whether big or small, for too long can and will cause strain on your eyes. Here are a few tips to take care of your eyes:

**Maintain a comfortable distance:** Avoid hunching over your phone/tablet screen and keep a comfortable distance from a laptop/desktop screen.

**Keep your screen brightness at a low setting:** Reading books on a phone is difficult in dim light, but the brighter you make your screen, the more you strain your eyes. Ensure that you use the blue-light filter on a smartphone and set your screen's (phone, tablet and/or laptop) brightness at the lowest setting still visible.

**Make use of paper notes where possible:** Even with the helpful note-taking apps available, you can still consider using pen and paper for making your study notes as this is still one of the most effective methods.

**Take breaks often:** Take short breaks away from the screen and do some physical exercise (even if it means doing star jumps in one place, as long as your brain gets a break from a screen and you get physical activity).

## Save your files where it is not limited to a specific device

Whether it is to save your lectures, or share notes in your study groups, an online Dropbox or writing out a paper on Google Docs, you can have access to what you need to do whenever and wherever you need it. That way, you also make sure you do not lose your work, should anything happen to your learning device.

## Use note taking apps

There are numerous apps designed to help you stay organized and keep your notes in a convenient and safe location. Apps like [Google Drive](#), [Evernote](#) and [Dropbox](#) help store your important files on your phone so you can access them whenever and wherever you are.



# Postgraduate School

The postgraduate school will be presenting the following webinars in August:

| AUGUST                              |             |   |                       |         |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------------|---------|---|
| Date                                | Time        | Topic   | Presenter             | Venue   | RSVP link   |
| 3 August                            | 09:00-11:00 | EvaSys  | Danila Liebenberg     | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/EVASYS5">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/EVASYS5</a>                     |
| 4-5 August                          | 16:30-18:30 | Scientific writing                                  | Dr Frank Chidawanyika | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/SCIENTIFICWRITING">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/SCIENTIFICWRITING</a> |
| 6 August                            | 16:00-18:00 | Research proposal writing                           | Prof Witness Mudzi    | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/PROPOSAL2">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/PROPOSAL2</a>                 |
| 7 August                            | 09:00-11:00 | Interactive pdf's                                   | Danila Liebenberg     | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/PDFS">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/PDFS</a>                           |
| 11 August                           | 09:00-11:00 | Word Basic  | Danila Liebenberg     | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/WORDBASIC">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/WORDBASIC</a>                 |
| 11 August<br>12 August<br>13 August | 16:30-18:30 | Article writing for novice authors                  | Dr Elizaveta Kovaleva | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/ARTICLEWRITING2">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/ARTICLEWRITING2</a>     |
| 17 August                           | 09:00-11:00 | Word Intermediate                                   | Danila Liebenberg     | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/WORDINTER">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/WORDINTER</a>                 |
| 18-19 August                        | 16:00-18:00 | Delineating your topic                              | Dr Charity Ndereya    | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/DELTOPIC">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/DELTOPIC</a>                   |
| 24 August                           | 09:00-11:00 | Excel Basic   | Danila Liebenberg     | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/EXCELBASIC2">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/EXCELBASIC2</a>             |
| 25-27 August                        | 15:00-16:30 | Interpretation and write-up of quantitative results | Hennie Gerber         | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/QUANTITATIVE3">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/QUANTITATIVE3</a>         |
| 31 August                           | 09:00-11:00 | Excel Intermediate                                  | Danila Liebenberg     | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/ExcelIntermediate">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/ExcelIntermediate</a> |
| 31 August                           | 16:30-18:30 | Introduction to qualitative research                | Dr Thulebona Shawe    | Webinar | <a href="https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/QUALIRESEARCH">https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/QUALIRESEARCH</a>         |

For any inquiries, please contact Tshepiso Molaba ([molabatp@ufs.ac.za](mailto:molabatp@ufs.ac.za)).



# Student support hub

Helping you succeed! Follow any of the following links to connect with the support you need.

## Essential Contact details

|   |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Still experiencing issues but not sure who can help?</b> | Email -<br>BFN campus:<br><a href="mailto:advising@ufs.ac.za">advising@ufs.ac.za</a><br>QQ campus:<br><a href="mailto:advisingqq@ufs.ac.za">advisingqq@ufs.ac.za</a><br>South campus:<br><a href="mailto:advisingsc@ufs.ac.za">advisingsc@ufs.ac.za</a>   | <b>Password Enquiries (Including Blackboard password):</b>                  | T: +27 51 401 3994/2000<br>E: <a href="mailto:studentdesk@ufs.ac.za">studentdesk@ufs.ac.za</a><br><br>Operating times<br>Mon – Sun:<br>07:45-18:00   | <b>Questions about upcoming assessments?</b> | <b>Contact your faculty</b><br><br><b>Economic and Management Sciences:</b><br>Ms Anneri Muller<br><a href="mailto:MullerA1@ufs.ac.za">MullerA1@ufs.ac.za</a><br>Mr Sivuyile Nzimeni<br><a href="mailto:NzimeniS@ufs.ac.za">NzimeniS@ufs.ac.za</a><br><br><b>The Humanities:</b><br>Dr Rosaline Sebolao<br><a href="mailto:SebolaoRR@ufs.ac.za">SebolaoRR@ufs.ac.za</a><br><br><b>Education:</b><br>Dr Bawinile Mthanti<br><a href="mailto:MthantiBJ@ufs.ac.za">MthantiBJ@ufs.ac.za</a><br><br><b>Law:</b><br>Dr Jacques Matthee<br><a href="mailto:MattheeJL@ufs.ac.za">MattheeJL@ufs.ac.za</a><br><br><b>Theology and Religion:</b><br>Ms Siphokazi Dlwati<br><a href="mailto:DlwatiS@ufs.ac.za">DlwatiS@ufs.ac.za</a><br><br><b>Natural and Agricultural Sciences:</b><br>Ms Elzmarie Oosthuizen<br><a href="mailto:OosthuizenEM@ufs.ac.za">OosthuizenEM@ufs.ac.za</a><br><br><b>Health Sciences:</b><br>Ms Cheryl Jaftha<br><a href="mailto:JapfthaCBA@ufs.ac.za">JapfthaCBA@ufs.ac.za</a> |
| <b>Need counselling or emotional support?</b>               | Bloemfontein Campus<br>T: +27 51 401 2853<br><a href="mailto:scd@ufs.ac.za">scd@ufs.ac.za</a><br><br>QwaQwa Campus<br>T: +27 58 718 5033<br>T: +27 58 718 5029<br>T: +27 58 718 5032<br><a href="mailto:scdqq@ufs.ac.za">scdqq@ufs.ac.za</a><br><br>South Campus:<br>T: +27 51 505 1298<br>T: +27 51 505 1430<br><a href="mailto:scdsouth@ufs.ac.za">scdsouth@ufs.ac.za</a> | <b>Blackboard technical support</b>   | Email<br><a href="mailto:ehelpdesk@ufs.ac.za">ehelpdesk@ufs.ac.za</a>  |  |  |
| <b>Social Worker/ Social support needs</b>                  | Bloemfontein Campus<br>T: +27 51 401 9117<br><br>QwaQwa Campus:<br>T: +27 58 718 5090/5091<br>E: <a href="mailto:phoofofoST@ufs.ac.za">phoofofoST@ufs.ac.za</a>   | <b>Assistance with study methods and time management in remote learning</b> | Email <a href="mailto:advising@ufs.ac.za">advising@ufs.ac.za</a> (BFN) or<br><a href="mailto:advisingqq@ufs.ac.za">advisingqq@ufs.ac.za</a> (QQ) or<br><a href="mailto:advisingsc@ufs.ac.za">advisingsc@ufs.ac.za</a> (South Campus) |  |  |
|   |   | <b>Inquiries about a travel permit or campus access permit</b>              | Email<br><a href="mailto:studentadmin@ufs.ac.za">studentadmin@ufs.ac.za</a><br><a href="mailto:advising@ufs.ac.za">advising@ufs.ac.za</a>  |  |  |
|   |   | <b>Need technical or connectivity support?</b>                              | Email<br><a href="mailto:studentdesk@ufs.ac.za">studentdesk@ufs.ac.za</a>  |  |  |



# Student support hub

## South Campus

### Essential Contact details

**Programme Head:****Ms Tshegofatso Setilo**Email address: [SetiloT@ufs.ac.za](mailto:SetiloT@ufs.ac.za)**Advising and General Support – Education & The Humanities****Mr Chwaro Shuping**Email address: [ShupingCN@ufs.ac.za](mailto:ShupingCN@ufs.ac.za)**Advisor – Sub-regions****Ms Lerato Mosiah**Email address: [MosiahLP@ufs.ac.za](mailto:MosiahLP@ufs.ac.za)**Support – Economic and Management Sciences****Mr Lerato Sekonyela**Email address: [SekonyelaLE@ufs.ac.za](mailto:SekonyelaLE@ufs.ac.za)**Support – Natural and Agricultural Sciences****Ms Elzmarie Oosthuizen**Email address: [OosthuizenME@ufs.ac.za](mailto:OosthuizenME@ufs.ac.za)**Library****Ms Lianda Coetzer**Email address: [lianda@ufs.ac.za](mailto:lianda@ufs.ac.za)



