

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS DURING THE UFS APRIL 2022 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The University of the Free State is excited to welcome our graduands and their guests to the April 2022 graduation ceremonies on the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses. The ceremonies will take place in the Callie Human Centre on the Bloemfontein Campus from 19 to 22 April 2022, and in the Rolihlahla Mandela Hall on the Qwaqwa Campus from 29 to 30 April 2022.

To ensure the protection of all individuals present on campus, the university has implemented the [COVID-19 Regulations and Required Vaccination Policy](#), which regulates the [access](#) of staff, students, and visitors to the campuses.

To minimise the risk of COVID-19 infections during our April 2022 graduation ceremony, the following health and safety protocols will be in place and enforced:

1. CAMPUS ACCESS:

It is a requirement for graduands and guests to be vaccinated to access campus.

A vaccination certificate (the original PDF as issued by the [South African COVID-19 vaccine certificate system](#)) must be produced at the campus entrance gate upon entry.

All students who are graduating must produce their student card at the campus entrance gate.

Unvaccinated graduandi and guests will only be permitted on campus if they upload a negative SARS (COVID-19) PCR or antigen test [here](#) – select the 'Private' option under 'Access Type'. Tests must be uploaded 48 hours before campus access is required.

Note that children aged 12 and older who accompany guests, must be vaccinated or upload a similar negative test by following the same procedure as above.

2. MASKING:

The wearing of a mask is required for all graduands and guests inside graduation venues. Graduates will only be permitted to remove their masks when then they cross the stage to take pictures. Face masks should be worn at all times prior to ascending the stage.

3. SOCIAL DISTANCING:

Due to the nature of the graduation ceremony and the number of students who will be graduating, it may not be practically possible to uphold social distancing in the venue at all times. **Graduation ceremony and seating in the venue:**

Only two guests per graduand will be allowed to accompany them inside graduation venues.

Two (2) guest tickets per graduand will be issued. Guest tickets are available for collection from the Callie Human Centre on the Bloemfontein Campus and B11 in the new EMS Building on the Qwaqwa Campus **one hour before graduation.**

Extra guests are allowed to follow the ceremonies via live streaming in EXR (Exam Room) 6 on the Bloemfontein Campus and B4 (in the new EMS Building) on the Qwaqwa Campus.

All graduandi **MUST** be seated half an hour before the commencement of the ceremony.

(See [2022 UFS Graduation Guide](#) for ticketing and other arrangements).

4. COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTION:

Graduandi and guests who tested positive for COVID-19 during the graduation period are asked not to attend the ceremony to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others.

We thank you for your cooperation to help maintain the safety of our graduandi, guests, staff, and students.