



THE EMS ACADEMIC PROGRAMME FOR SEMESTER 1 OF 2021

5 March, 2021

Dear Student,

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the national lockdown requirements still in place for the foreseeable future, online engagement with students will continue in 2021. The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) wants to assure you that we are committed to the delivery of the academic programme, under similar circumstances to what you have come to know during 2020. The Faculty will continue to implement measures designed with student success and quality at its core.

Background

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) considered a number of options to address the current situation with regard to the completion of the first semester of 2021. The key directives for this process included:

- Maintaining the academic integrity of teaching and learning activities.
- The safety of our students and staff.
- Affording students the opportunity to gain the necessary knowledge and skills in the learning process.
- The planning process was furthermore underpinned by the consideration of logistical, practical and resource implications.

General guidelines

The Faculty follows a general set of guidelines in decision-making in order to maintain the key directives for the continuation of the academic programme, to uphold the quality of teaching and learning in the Faculty and to limit discrepancies. These general guidelines are:

- The 2021 registration process will take place online for first-year, senior, and postgraduate students. Visit our website for more information about the online registration process: www.ufs.ac.za/register
- Important dates:

Online registration and orientation

- 8 February to 12 March 2021: Online registration and orientation for senior and postgraduate students
- 1 to 13 March 2021: Online registration and orientation for first-year students

Start and duration of the first term

- 1 March 2021 to 16 April 2021: First term for senior students
 - 15 March 2021 to 30 April 2021: First term for first-year students
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- All academic activities will continue in an online format for at least the first semester of 2021. This includes assessments.
 - The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a global shift towards the integration of technology into learning and teaching. The ability to learn and work with a laptop is essential for your studies. In an effort to best prepare for the 2021 academic year, you are encouraged to ensure that you have access to a laptop. Ideally, you should have your own device, but we are aware that this might not be possible for some of our students.
 - Because of data limitations and unreliable networks, live streaming of contact sessions will be avoided. Instead, recordings will be used to accommodate students with connectivity challenges.

- The core assumption for the continuation of activities is that students will have access to a network and the internet.
- Students will be required to familiarise themselves with the UFS E-Assessment guidelines and the EMS Assessment guidelines, as these guidelines will be strictly enforced for quality assurance purposes. These two documents are already available on the EMS portal and on all EMS modules' Blackboard pages.
- Academic study packs will be provided to students on Blackboard on a weekly basis, in order to cover module content and to complete assessments.
- All content provided will be designed to limit data costs.
- Most modules will follow a continuous assessment strategy, which means the following:
 - At least the same amount of assessments will be provided.
 - It is the student's responsibility to familiarise themselves with the assessment breakdown for the calculation of the final mark, available in the study guide of each module.
 - With continuous assessment, there will be no written examination and academic activities may continue throughout the UFS main examination period, until the last day of Semester 1.

Details on the module-specific application of these general guidelines will be communicated to students by academic staff using different communication platforms, with Blackboard considered the main platform.

Application of general guidelines

In certain modules or programmes, a campus-based face-to-face offering will be presented in 2021. Students involved in these modules or programmes will still require a permit to access campus in 2021, and communication will be forthcoming to the identified students in 2021.

The programmes or modules with a face-to-face offering in Semester 1 (2021) are:

- MCom with specialisation in Industrial Psychology
- Master of Public Administration
- BCom Hons with specialisation in Economics
- BCom Hons with specialisation in Financial Economics
- Bachelor of Accounting 3rd year modules
- Postgraduate Diploma in General Accountancy
- BCom Hons in Accounting
- Bachelor of Accounting Honours
- Postgraduate Diploma in Chartered Accountancy
- The module EACC3708

Please note that not all modules within a certain listed programme will necessarily involve face-to-face teaching. For any queries regarding the application, please contact your relevant academic department.

Apart from the programmes or modules listed above, all other modules on both undergraduate and postgraduate level will be presented and assessed only online.

Deliverables

The EMS Faculty will, as far as possible, agree to the following deliverables:

- Academic module packs to be prepared by the relevant academic staff to be delivered to students in electronic format (i.e. Blackboard) on a weekly basis.
- Continuous support of student learning by all academic staff through any applicable communication platforms, such as email, telephone, Blackboard, and increased online consultation hours.
- Additionally, communication with regard to the different student support initiatives (including communication options) will be communicated by the academic staff for each module individually.

In addition to the #LearnOn resources provided by CTL, faculty-wide communication to students and faculty-specific support resources will be provided through the EMS Students 2021 Blackboard organisation. Students need to access these platforms at least once a week to ensure that they receive all the faculty-specific as well as module-specific information to

support their learning for the remainder of the semester.

Conclusion

The EMS Faculty wishes to reassure parents and students of the faculty's commitment to the academic programme to the best of their ability by affording each and every student an optimal opportunity to gain the relevant knowledge and skills.

Gratitude is also extended to the academic staff of the EMS Faculty who tirelessly supports their students and their learning within the current circumstances. We know our students are resourceful and resilient to succeed in extraordinary circumstances. In the meantime, take some time to rest, recharge and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HJ Kroukamp', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Prof HJ Kroukamp

Dean: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Notice: The above arrangements are subject to changing circumstances, in which case we will inform you regarding changed arrangements.