

NWU Faculty of Education
Deputy Dean: Teaching and Learning

26 March 2020

Dear Student in the Faculty of Education

IMPORTANT TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMUNIQUÉ: STUDENTS

This communiqué aims to provide some clarity with regards to teaching and learning (TL) matters in the Faculty of Education. This current TL situation is dynamic and change continuously as decisions are made at national and institutional to adapt to the specific circumstances of the national state of disaster. Your understanding and patience is much needed and appreciated. Communication with all our students is priority and you will receive communication about any developments and as information gets available.

The following broad **guidelines in relation to teaching and learning matters** are provided to provide guidance and direction as far as possible. The current situation has a major impact on global and local scales and all students' full support and commitment to the NWU teaching and learning project is essential.

1. Although students are not required to submit or to write assessments during the university recess, it is required from students to engage vigorously in academic work. Follow module instructions to complete academic work as far as possible. All students should be academically active during this challenging time.
2. You will soon receive more information about the first semester examination. Don't be too concerned about this matter. It is important to focus now on what you have to do *during* the semester (continuous assessment) to build up a good participation mark – which will be to your advantage in all circumstances!
3. Access to the NWU Learning Management System (eFundi) and network (Website; email etc.) is crucial for online programmes, while access via mobile phone to SMSs (and email if possible) is vital for the paper-based Open Distance Learning (ODL) programmes. The NWU URL domain is zero-rated in terms of data use, but ALL domains *outside* the NWU domain have data cost implications (for example Google platforms). Faculty understands the complexity and sensitivity of network access and will account for the diversity of all our students.

4. **Communication** is of paramount importance. The *primary NWU teaching and learning platform is eFundi*.
 - 4.1 ODL students contact the Unit for Open Distance Learning (UODL) as per programme information provided. Please take note of the special communication from the UODL about programme matters in this challenging time (SMSs, letters & Website).
 - 4.2 Contact students' first line of communication is the **module lecturer, subject group chair and programme leader** - if needed. Use the contact detail in your study material for this purpose. If a *serious* problem is encountered – and *after* you consulted with your module lecturer and subject group – you may contact the relevant school director. BEd – 018 299 4774; PGCE – 018 389 2297; BEdHons – 018 299 4710 and the Deputy Dean Teaching and learning – 018 299 1612.
5. The Executive Dean urgently request guidance from the national Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) about the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme at our Faculty. You will be informed of any development about this important matter as soon as the Faculty received information. Be alert to communication in this regard. An important message from the Deputy Dean (WIL) – *do not complete the current portfolio as crucial changes may be made if school visits do not realize*. This matter enjoys the highest priority and you will soon receive further information. You may contact the WIL Office if necessary: Elize.kung@nwu.ac.za or P-WIL@nwu.ac.za
6. Be committed to your studies at all times and adhere to the highest ethical standards like refraining from any form of plagiarism.

Best of luck for your studies and stay healthy!



Prof Herman J van Vuuren
Deputy Dean: Teaching and Learning