

2 July 2020

Dear Students

REVISED ACADEMIC CALENDARS AND ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE FOR 2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

Since the commencement of the nationwide lockdown in March, all on-campus activities were suspended due to the health and safety risks associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic required alternative plans for students to continue with their studies and CityVarsity responded by directing students to the online learning platform *myClass*, which is accessible through the student portal, as part of CityVarsity's remote teaching and learning, called *Go!Digital*, response as previously communicated to students.

With the partial re-opening and phased-in approach of the return of some students to campus as regulated by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology under lockdown level 3; we are now in a position to provide students with revised provisional academic calendars and associated amendments to the assessment structure and timelines for assignments and examinations (or assessments).

Since all on-campus activities were suspended, all students have had to adapt to the remote teaching and learning activities, including participating in online virtual classes in MS Teams and accessing additional materials and resources in *myClass*.

It has been a challenging time for students to adjust to the new study arrangements and many students have done this so well. Yet, as some students needed more time adjusting to studying online in *myClass* and as some students who have gone online quite late, CityVarsity postponed the submission of assignments for this semester. This will ensure that all students will have fair opportunity and equal access to the resources needed to complete their assignments and examinations.

With the planned return of limited on-campus activities and the phased-in return for certain students permitted by the national Regulations, please find below the amendments to the planned semesters, assessment structure and weightings which will be affected to maintain the integrity of our 2020 Academic Year.

I wish to stress that our virtual classes continue for all students. Where a group of students are permitted to return to campus for limited on-campus classes, the combination of virtual classes in *myClass* and some face-to-face or contact classes on campus will form what is called the 'blended learning' model for the months ahead.

The phasing-in of the rest of the students to campus will happen according to guidelines we receive from the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology. CityVarsity will advise those students when to return to campus.

For the students who are not returning to campus in July as listed below, the timetable of virtual classes and remote teaching and learning continues as per the calendar and assessment dates. Further changes to the type and timing of assignment submissions and examinations for these students may be required.

REVISED PROVISIONAL ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Semester	Group of Students	Virtual Classes Start	On-Campus Classes Resume	Formative Assessments **				Virtual & On-campus Classes End	Exam Start Date**
				T1	T2				
Semester 1 2020	Final Year Students - Exit Level Students	11-May-20	13-Jul-20	T1	T2			04-Sep-20	
				27-Jul-20	17-Aug-20				
					Practical Weeks:				
					24 Aug - 04 Sept				
Semester 1 2020	Special Access Students	11-May-20	13-Jul-20	T1	T2			04-Sep-20	
				27-Jul-20	17-Aug-20				
					Practical Weeks:				
					24 Aug - 04 Sept				
Semester 2 2020	All Students	03-Aug-20	*TBC			T3	T4	27-Nov-20	02-Dec-20
						28-Sep-20	06-Nov-20		to
						T3	T3		15-Dec-20
						23-Oct-20	20-Nov-20		

Please Note:

*These dates for the resumption of on-campus classes will depend on the change to regulations regarding the possible return of 1st and 2nd year students to campus when announced by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

** New Assessment timetables will be issued for the tests and the examinations and will be published in *myClass*.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Assignment structures will vary from programme to programme due to the unique nature of each course however the following principles will guide all assessment structures to ensure our adherence to fair and equal opportunity and access. These structural assessment changes also seek to achieve a decrease in the number of assessments to ensure that students do not feel overwhelmed due to the loss of time in the above reworked Academic Calendar.

Term 1 Assessments

- Not all students will be able to complete online assessments during lockdown period
- Students may complete all term 1 assignments and submit before 27 July 2020

Term 2 Assessments

- Final submission date = 17 August
- *myClass* Submissions only
- Lecturers to mark online
- Practical Assessment Weeks to run from 24 August to 04 September

Term 3 Assessments

- Final Submission Date = 28 September & 23 October
- *myClass* Submissions where needed.
- Integrated Practical assignment to assess various outcomes in two or more modules

Term 4 Assessments

- Final Submission Date = 06 November & 20 November
- *myClass* Submissions where needed.
- Integrated Practical assignment to assess various outcomes in two or more modules

Summative Exam

- 40% Due Performance (DP) requirement on modules to achieve access to exams.
- 02 December to 15 December

Assessment Weighting

The weighting of assessments forms an integral part of the student journey. Acknowledging the disruption of teaching and learning in certain spaces, the loss of valuable academic time and the need for students to evidence certain outcomes on reachable milestones highlights the need to rebalance assessment weightings. This rebalance is meant to assist and ease pressure on all returning students, while still maintaining academic quality and standards, and providing students with adequate time to complete their tests and assignments and receive timely feedback to improve their learning of the module materials. The below breakdown will be effective for all year modules, while semester modules will only commence with the resumption of Semester 2 as indicated above. The breakdown is for all HET modules as approved by the CityVarsity Academic Board and Senate, and is as follows:

Term	Number	Percentage	Assignments Breakdown
Term 1:	1 Assignment	5%	1 Assignment (1 Theory)
Term 2:	2 Assignments	25%	2 Assignments (1 Practical & 1 Theory)
Term 3	2 Assignments	15%	2 Assignments (1 Theory, 1 Integrated Practical Assessment)
Term 4	2 Assignments	15%	2 Assignments (1 Theory, 1 Integrated Practical Assessment)
Examination	Final Summative	40%	
		100%	

CityVarsity would like to thank its students and those who support them at home for their dedication and courage to continue their learning during these challenging times. CityVarsity remains committed and resolved to providing all its students with a quality education and service.

The above changes provide students with clarity on the remainder of the 2020 Academic Year, and CityVarsity looks forward to our students doing well as a result of the collective commitment of students and staff.

Please check the CityVarsity website from time to time for any further official communications to students. Should you require assistance to clarify the information provided in this letter, please contact info@cityvarsity.co.za

Kind Regards



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