

# FAQs for international students relating to UCT's November 2015 Exams

Updated 29 October 2015

## Update on immigration

UCT is aware that several international students are due to submit applications to renew their visas or require assistance with immigration matters during this period of closure. We further note that, as a result of the university's closure, students are not able to obtain supporting documentation and the necessary signatures on Home Affairs forms from IAPO. This means that some students may not be able to submit their visa renewal application '60 days before its expiry' as required by the Department of Home Affairs. UCT is particularly concerned that such students should not be penalised by the Department of Home Affairs as a result of the university's closure.

We wish to inform all affected students that the university, through the International Education Association of South Africa (the national body for international offices country-wide), is in the process of lobbying the Department of Home Affairs to obtain an exemption from any penalty for such students.

IAPO shall continue to keep the university community updated as deliberations on this matter with the Department of Home Affairs progresses.

## Additional options for SSA students

As a follow up to the communication sent yesterday regarding SSA students who have to return before their rescheduled exams take place, it was pointed out that many SSA students don't return to their 'home institution' so further options will be needed. Deputy Registrar Dr Karen Van Heerden suggested that [ProctorU](#) be used. The deputy registrar subsequently established that this will be an option on offer to the affected students and that the ACA39 form would include this option.

## Some FAQs for SSA students

### 1. May I take the exam only at my home institution?

There is also an option to take the exam using online proctoring (in your own location). This choice will be given on the ACA39 form.

- Download the [new ACA39 form](#).
- Review [changes to the form](#).
- Access all other [student admin forms](#).

### 2. Why must I take the exam? Can't my final result be determined using only my course work?

The results must be calculated as stated in the course outline for all students taking the course. If this included an exam, is not possible to forego the exam.

### 3. What about practical exams that have been postponed?

Conveners or departments in courses with practical exams will reschedule the practical exams. Once the university re-opens, students are to make contact with the departments and arrange a practical exam session for before they leave.

### 4. Can SSA students apply for any/all exams to be taken at home (or using online proctoring)?

SSA students must take all exams that occur before the last date of their original timetable here. They may apply to take exams at home only for those exams that in the rescheduled timetable fall after their pre-booked departure. Students will be required to include the original timetable and flight bookings when submitting the ACA39 form.

### 5. The [exam FAQs](#) mentions rule G20.10 (b), which allows SSA students who are granted a supp exam to take it at their home institution. What does this rule stipulate?

Rule G20.10 states the following:

"Except by the permission of the Senate all examinations must be written at the university. Senate has authorised:

- (a) Faculties to schedule examinations outside of Cape Town in the case of:
  - (i) distance-mode courses;

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- (ii) block-release mode course where a significant proportion of a class is ordinarily resident elsewhere; and
- (iii) blended-mode courses.
- (b) Deans to allow international semester study abroad students to write supplementary or deferred examinations at their home institutions; and
- (c) The vice-chancellor to permit exceptions to this rule in exceptional circumstances."

I hope that this information is useful to you and addresses some of the questions that have arisen as a result of the university's closure.

*Prof Evance Kalula*  
*Director*  
*International Academic Programmes Office*