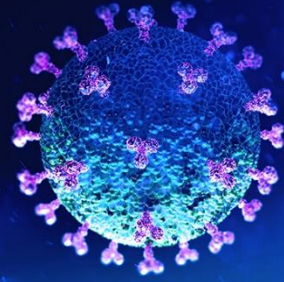




UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

**Find out more about UCT's approach  
to COVID-19 on the UCT website**



**1 April 2020**

## **UCT rolls out survey on students' study conditions off-campus University also provides laptops to eligible students**

As the University of Cape Town leadership prepares to continue academic work in the context of COVID-19, the university is rolling out an urgent student access survey and distributing laptops to eligible needy students.

UCT requests all students to complete the survey as soon as possible, even if they have recently completed a similar survey from the university. The survey asks questions about the conditions where students are now living and how those conditions will affect their ability to study. These include access to wifi and the internet; access to a quiet place for dedicated study or research; the hours students expect to be able to study or do research, among others.

Due to both cost and availability, UCT cannot distribute laptops to all students who do not have devices (including those who had them but lost them through theft or an accident). The overarching criteria for allocating laptops is financial need.

The laptops will be allocated only to students in these categories:

- undergraduate South African students who are on financial aid or are eligible for financial aid and are residing in South Africa;
- postgraduate South African students who are on financial aid or are eligible for financial aid and are residing in South Africa;
- GAP funded students, either undergraduate or postgraduate, who are residing in South Africa;
- tutors in undergraduate courses who are also postgraduate students; and
- sponsored South African students who do not have computers through their funders.

These will be loan laptops – not a donation – and they must be returned to UCT at the end of the 2020 academic programme. These laptops will be issued to students at a cost of R4 150.

While UCT understands the difficulties faced by students living in neighbouring countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), regrettably the university is unable to provide laptops to those in these countries. The logistics simply do not make this possible.

SADC and other foreign students without access to computers, as well as South African students who have no online connectivity, will be given an opportunity to catch up with their studies through blended learning (which combines online lectures and face-to-face tutorials) once the university is able to reopen.

***ENDS***

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