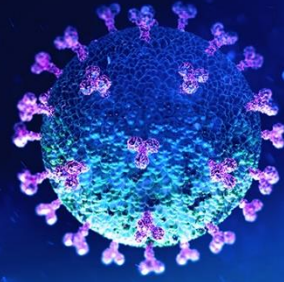




UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

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



**20 April 2020**

## **UCT provides data to students**

The University of Cape Town (UCT) is providing pre-paid data to all students who have valid South African cell numbers as part of extensive support measures put in place for online learning.

Each student will receive 30-40GB depending on their network provider, valid for 30 days, during the course of this week. The first batch of students started getting their data on Monday.

UCT is also pleased to confirm that MTN and Vodacom have also agreed to zero rate access to certain UCT sites. The Vodacom agreement has been implemented with effect from 20 April while MTN will implement by no later than 21 April. This follows an [announcement last week](#) that Cell C and Telkom had made accessible to students at no charge six UCT websites that are key for online learning.

UCT expresses gratitude to the four cellphone network providers for coming onboard in this crucial period to support the university's online learning plans.

This important development will enable UCT students to learn online at no cost via these UCT sites: the UCT primary website (reachable at <http://www.uct.ac.za> or <https://www.uct.ac.za>); the library website (reachable at <http://www.lib.uct.ac.za> or <https://www.lib.uct.ac.za>); Open UCT (reachable at <http://open.uct.ac.za> or <https://open.uct.ac.za>); the Vula student platform (reachable at <http://vula.uct.ac.za> or <https://vula.uct.ac.za>); Opencast lecture streaming (reachable at <http://media.uct.ac.za> or <https://media.uct.ac.za>); and web authentication ADFS (any URL that contains [adsf.uct.ac.za](http://adsf.uct.ac.za)).

It is important to note that authentication itself, via [adsf.uct.ac.za](http://adsf.uct.ac.za), is zero-rated. Should staff or students be authenticating to a site other than the ones listed as zero-rated, that site will incur data charges (e.g. LinkedIn Learning).

UCT has provided unusual levels of support to students during this crisis. This includes:

- transportation for students who needed to return home when residents had to be vacated and closed ahead of lockdown;
- conducting a survey on students' ability to study from home. Of the 90.4% students who had completed the survey by 15 April, 89.5% have access to a laptop/desktop, while 1.3% had no device. A further 91.4% of the students have internet access;
- providing laptops on loan to students;
- setting up a Call Centre and Referral System to handle student queries about connectivity as well as health and psycho-social issues;
- developing an online orientation programme for emergency remote learning; and
- increasing support for student counselling over the phone and online.

UCT is setting up an additional system to distribute printed learning materials and USB drives for students who cannot access the internet in any form.

- READ: [A full message by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.](#)

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

**Elijah Moholola**

Senior Manager: Media Liaison and Social Media  
Communication and Marketing Department  
University of Cape Town  
Rondebosch  
Tel: 021 650 5674  
Cell: 083 981 7770  
Email: [elijah.moholola@uct.ac.za](mailto:elijah.moholola@uct.ac.za)  
Website: [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)