



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

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



7 July 2020

Limited UCT students and staff to return to campus

The University of Cape Town has finalised the development of a COVID-19 return to UCT policy framework to guide faculties and departments on the phased-in return to campus.

The framework document does not signal a return to business as usual – in fact, it signals just the opposite, said UCT chief operating officer Dr Reno Morar.

“The framework provides a way we at UCT must work in our environment of the Cape Metropolitan “hotspot” area as the COVID-19 pandemic remains a threat around the world,” said Morar.

A limited number of UCT staff and students will only return to campus by invitation. Those not invited will continue working or studying remotely.

“Our guiding principle is the safety of students and staff members, and our families and friends, as we continue with our daily activities at work and in our communities. For this reason, there is a strict limit on the number of people who will be invited to return to campus. Those who have been invited to return will all be required to follow stringent hygiene and physical distancing rules,” Morar emphasised.

UCT's phased-in return to campus will be based on government and other relevant advisory organisations' regulations, directives, guidelines and procedures.

“The only way this framework can succeed is if each of us shares responsibility for following it. Global experience shows that the best way to contain the COVID-19 pandemic is to follow a coordinated, integrated approach.

“The pandemic may last well into late 2021, possibly even into 2022. The Cape Metropolitan area has been declared a national hotspot for the pandemic and we are entering the season

when peak numbers of infections are expected. It is anticipated that the peak period will last through July and August 2020.

“During this period, we must do everything possible to keep our families and colleagues safe as we open our campuses in a phased manner. We need to do what we can to protect people who are especially vulnerable from coming into contact with the virus,” said Morar.

- [Read the full COO Desk: Key framework for returning to UCT.](#)

ENDS

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