

## FAQs relating to UCT's November 2015 Exams

### Regarding the postponement of the exams

The circumstances that prevail at UCT (and many other South African universities) are unprecedented. The situation is fluid and changes at short notice. We are making every effort to manage the situation as best possible.

#### 1. When will the exams begin?

At this stage we do not know. If we can reach an agreement with students and staff this week we will resume scheduled activities on 2 November 2015 and start examinations on 9 November 2015.

Scheduled activities include access to labs, the libraries and study space.

We are working towards this goal. If we do not succeed we may not have 2015 exams this year.

In rescheduling the exams we will follow the same sequence as in the final timetable, that is:

- The exams previously scheduled for Tuesday 27 October will be on day 1 of the new session;
- Those originally for Wednesday 28 October will become day 2 and so forth.

This will ensure that we do not need to go through the lengthy process of developing a new, clash-free timetable.

#### 2. What is going to happen about the last two teaching days that were lost?

The two teaching days will not be rescheduled. Departments have been asked to make appropriate plans where teaching time was lost. This will vary by course depending on how much teaching was lost in the last two days. This may include posting recordings of the missed lectures, special consolidation sessions, or Vula announcements. Conveners will advise.

#### 3. What is going to happen about consolidation days?

Students will be given five days of consolidation before the start of the rescheduled exams.

Depending on when the exams start, this may be five calendar days (not five week days).

The five day consolidation period will not coincide with UCT being closed.

#### 4. Will students be able to stay in university residences until the delayed exams are written?

Students will be entitled to stay in residence until 72 hours after their last exam if we resume scheduled activities this year.

#### 5. What about students in private accommodation where the leases are due to expire before the end of the extended exam period?

Students in private accommodation are advised to negotiate an extension of the lease where possible. If this is not possible student should find local friends who are willing to put them up for the extended exam period.

#### 6. What help will international students get from UCT if their exams are postponed past the expiry date of their visas?

Many international students are in this position. We are making representations via IAPO and the Department of Higher Education and Training and Universities SA to the Department of Home Affairs in the hope that we can resolve all such permit/visa problems.

[Read IAPO's FAQs regarding exams for international students.](#)

#### 7. What will happen to Semester Study Abroad (SSA) students and final-year international full-degree students who had planned to return to their home institutions after their last exam in November?

SSA students will be able to return to their home institutions as per their original bookings and then complete their remaining exams at their home institutions. The following must be noted:

- All exams taken by SSA students at their home institutions must be written at the same time as the exam is written in Cape Town even if the home institution is in a different time zone.

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- SSA students to complete the ACA39 form to arrange for proctoring of the exam under the same invigilati on conditions that apply to all UCT exams.
- If a student is in transit when the postponed exam is being written the student must apply for a deferred exam (DE) in January. This too will be written in the same time and under the same conditions as the exams on campus in Cape Town.

SSA students are reminded of rule G20.10 (b) allowing SSA students who are granted a supp exam to take it at their home institution.

Similar arrangements may need to be made for international full-degree students.

### **8. Are the exams in the qualifications offered by distance mode (Advance Diploma in Project Management and the PGDip in Management in Marketing) also postponed even though those exam centres are off campus and outside Cape Town?**

All exams have been postponed – including those for the distance-mode qualifications. The students taking the distance-mode qualifications write the same exam papers as the on-campus students.

### **9. What is going to happen about clinical exams?**

The scheduling of the clinical exams will be co-ordinated by the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS). All detail to be provided by the FHS.

### **10 What is going to happen about exams in the form of exhibitions/performances/recitals?**

All exhibitions/performances/recitals scheduled for the week of 16 October and thereafter were also postponed and will be rescheduled by the departments concerned. Alternative arrangements will be made to ensure external examiners are present.

### **11. Honours students working on their research papers/essays that are due in November have not had library access at a critical time. Will they be given an extension on the due date?**

We are aware that some honours students have submitted and other will be able to submit by due date, but others will not (in part because they will not have been able to use library or other facilities). Any student who is unable to submit by due date should submit an email application to the course convener asking for an extension, and setting out the reason for this.

In the circumstances such applications will be favourably be considered. Honours students who submit their research papers/essays in January will be in line for a June graduation.

### **12. Will final-year students still be graduating this year?**

At this stage we simply do not know.

### **13. What about family who had booked and paid for their tickets to attend my graduation, scheduled for December? Should I tell them to cancel those tickets?**

Our advice is to establish through your travel agents/airlines what options are available. If you need to cancel now to avoid cancellation penalties, you may need to do so as we cannot guarantee a graduation date in December 2015 and would not wish your family to incur penalties that you might be able to avoid.

### **14. If graduation is delayed, what happens about students who have employment as from January 2016 and which is conditional on their having graduated.**

The standard approach should be followed: as soon as a student has completed all exams and met the degree/diploma requirements the faculty examination committee may declare that the student is a qualifier. The university will issue letters to the students stating they are qualifiers, and will graduate at a ceremony during 2016. A student's transcript will be available to show the degree has been completed.

### **15. What should students do if they have pre-booked travel plans that mean that they have flights to leave Cape Town in November, and who may as a consequence of the postponement of the exams, still need to stay? Will they need to forfeit those plans if the examinations do take place in November as hoped.**

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Students will be expected to stay to sit the exams if these can be rescheduled for later in November. Our advice is to establish through your travel agents/airlines what options are available. If you need to cancel now to avoid cancellation penalties, you may need to do so.

Students who have commitments they feel they must keep in late November may choose to apply for deferred exams; these will probably be scheduled from the beginning of the second weeks of January 2016.

Please remember that there are no supps granted on deferred exams.

*Hugh Amoore*  
*Registrar*  
*28 October 2015*