



17 May 2021

Dear First Year Student

Semester 2

I hope this email finds you and your family safe and well during these unsettling times. At UJ, one of the leading universities in the country, we are focused on providing an exceptional undergraduate education for all our students. We know that maintaining focus is difficult given the distractions that COVID-19 has created. I trust that by now you are navigating online/contact sessions with ease and are making the most of all that the University offers in terms of support for your academic journey.

We would like to urge you to take a focused approach to your studies and engage in all the activities set out for you in your various modules. For those of you who are not on campus please ensure that you log on at the scheduled times for lectures or tutorials and actively work on the tasks assigned to you. This is very important for your academic success.

*For the remainder of 2021, **UJ will continue with a blended learning approach (online)**, unless you are specifically instructed to be on campus for academic activities, e.g. teaching, tests/exams, practicals or laboratory work. Do keep an eye out for communication from your faculties/college. All classes will be taught online **for the remainder of 2021 unless you have been advised otherwise.***

NB: You will be informed by your faculty if you need to be on campus for classes or assessments.

As we move towards the close of the first semester, we are mindful of all the adjustments you have had to make this year. You had to get used to being a university student, and you have had to do this in the midst of a pandemic. You may now be feeling a little overwhelmed in the build up to exams. If you are, this is completely normal! If you are feeling like this, or if you need help, **make contact** with someone at UJ. **Let someone know** that you need help. A key aspect of success at university is to **keep on trying**, to **make contact** with us when you need help, and to **stay up to date** with your work. There is much support available to UJ students, which you can see below:

WHERE CAN I GO?	TO GET WHAT HELP?
Online First-Year Orientation module	Go to Blackboard through uLink. Log onto uLink – click on Blackboard – click on Organisations – the first-year Orientation module for your Faculty / College is there. It contains important information and resources for first-year students.
Find Your Way website	Find Your Way links you to academic and personal support.

WHERE CAN I GO?	TO GET WHAT HELP?
On the Go: Student Online Success (SOS) module	On the Go: Student Online Success (SOS) provides learning support. Click here to learn more and to access this module (scroll to the bottom of the page for tips on accessing On the Go: SOS).
Shortcuts for Success	Shortcuts for Success contains helpful quick links to useful resources.
Exam preparation	Click here for a webinar on <i>Preparation for Exam and Managing of Exam Anxiety</i> .
Blackboard assistance	On Blackboard access the module: TC02021 (FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION: LEARNING WITH TECHNOLOGY) . You can watch live recordings of Blackboard sessions here. Access it at any time to practice submitting assignments, taking tests, joining discussions, etc.
	On Blackboard, the module CM0021 CONTINUE TO LEARN OFF-CAMPUS module (under Organisations) has tips, <i>How-to</i> documents, and advice for online learning. Email the Helpdesk at uhelp@uj.ac.za
Personal support	Are you feeling worried and stressed? The pandemic has made many of us anxious and worried about our futures and our families. Email psycadinfo@uj.ac.za for information on how and where to get support. If you need assistance urgently, the UJ Crisis Line is there for you: call or WhatsApp 082 054 1137. All PsyCaD services are available on their webpage: https://www.uj.ac.za/corporateservices/ads/psycad .

International students should contact the [International Office](#) for any specific queries.

We must remain vigilant, wear our **masks** at all times, **avoid groups** of people, and **keep a 2m distance** in queues and classes. Read UJ's COVID-19 guidelines [here](#). Remember that if you are COVID-19 positive and it does not affect you, it may still seriously impact on an elderly or otherwise compromised person. In the spirit of **ubuntu**, each one of us has the responsibility to keep others safe, whether we know them or not. The rise of new COVID-19 variants, and the current increase in cases in South Africa, India and other parts of the world mean that we simply cannot relax our guard. COVID-19 is still with us and we **must** all follow all the **guidelines** set by the national [Department of Health](#).

Remember that we are here to help you in your journey at UJ. We look forward to a great Semester 2. Don't give up, be in touch, and we will all get through this together! We will fly stronger and higher than ever before, both during this time and after.

Wishing you good health and strength for a great experience as you continue your studies.

Prof A Parekh
DVC: Academic

Prof S Sinha
DVC: Research and Internationalisation

Prof K Burger
Registrar