



17 May 2021

Dear Senior 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 education experience 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. 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.

Although you have now been a student at UJ for some time, we are mindful of the stress that comes with being a student, especially in the midst of a pandemic. If you are feeling overwhelmed, **make contact** with someone at UJ so that we can direct you to assistance. Below is a list of helpful resources for support.

WHERE CAN I GO?	TO GET WHAT HELP?
Find Your Way website	Find Your Way links you to academic and personal support.
On the Go: Student Online Success (SOS) module	The On the Go: Student Online Success (SOS) supports all undergraduate students with 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.	The Shortcuts for Success document 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 help	On Blackboard, find the module CM0021 CONTINUE TO LEARN OFF-CAMPUS module (under Organisations in Blackboard) which has tips, <i>How-to</i> documents, and advice for online learning., or email the Helpdesk at uhelp@uj.ac.za

WHERE CAN I GO?	TO GET WHAT HELP?
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

If you are a postgraduate student, please do make use of the vast array of services offered by the University. The Statistical Consultation Division (STATKON) continues to offer serviced to postgraduate students in reviewing and advising on research design projects, preparing and administering online surveys for new projects, preparing data capture sheets or providing advice on how to prepare data capture sheets for new projects, facilitating in-house data capture for new projects, providing analysis and feedback support for new projects, ensuring statistical providing support for installation of statistical software for researchers. Please visit the webpage at: <https://www.uj.ac.za/postgraduate-school/Pages/statistical-consultation-services.aspx>.

The Research Capacity Development Division offers support to postgraduate students in the form of workshops, mini courses, self-access courses, and writing consultations. Workshops are facilitated by academic professionals who have a wealth of experience in their respective disciplines. All workshops are hosted in our Blackboard Community (CM0283), where we also have a repository of workshop recordings and other resources. Students need to enrol on the community in order to gain access to this material. We also host Research Communication and Dissemination competitions like Visualise Your Thesis and the Three Minute Thesis Competitions. For more information please send an e-mail rcdenquiries@uj.ac.za Writing consultations can be booked at writingconsultant@uj.ac.za Please also consult our website at <https://www.uj.ac.za/postgraduate-school>.

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

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. COVID-19 is still with us and we all **must** follow the **guidelines** set for us by the national Department of Health. We have to remain vigilant, wear our **masks** at all times, **avoid groups** of people, and keep a **2 metre distance** in queues and classes. Remember that even if COVID-19 may not affect you badly, it may 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.

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