

Circular number

To : **All UJ Students/Parents and Sponsors**
From : **Ms Tumi Mketi**
DVC Employees and Student Affairs
Date : **8th November 2016**
Topic : **Off-Campus Accommodation**

The University of Johannesburg (UJ) has close on 51 000 undergraduate and postgraduate students and has over 6 500 student bed-spaces in 26 residences spread across four campuses. Given the high demand for student housing and the limited availability in our own residences, the University recognises the need for off-campus accommodation. It has established an Off-Campus Accommodation Office that evaluates and accredits all off-campus accommodation against specific criteria and minimum standards.

The UJ Off-Campus Accommodation Policy provides the framework for the accreditation of off-campus accommodation for registered students of the University of Johannesburg. The purpose of this process is to ensure that the accredited off-campus accommodation meets the minimum requirements and standards including compliance with health and safety requirements in line with building and public health regulations. Applications for accreditation are done on a voluntary basis by property owners in order to be evaluated for accreditation status for a specified period. The relationship between accredited service providers and the University of Johannesburg is regulated through a Memorandum of Agreement signed annually by both parties. We are committed to ensuring that off-campus student accommodation adheres to the same high standards of UJ's residences. The University endorses accredited landlords or rental properties with signage and posts the listings on the University's web site to make students aware which listings are accredited. Students are informed of their rights as tenants and a complaint system is in place where students can raise concerns.

We are deeply saddened by the recent tragic death of a student as a result of a shooting incident at a UJ accredited off-campus accommodation. The circumstances surrounding the incident are being investigated by the South African Police Services. The specific off-campus site and SAPS have been requested to provide the University with a detailed report on what transpired. In recent months, the University has experienced several challenges related to accredited off-campus accommodation. These matters are being accorded the highest attention by the Management of the University as the safety and security of our students remains of utmost priority. All reported complaints are actively investigated with the appropriate actions being taken, including de-accreditation of privately owned accommodation to be found in breach of University policy.

The University of Johannesburg is currently finalising the list of accredited off-campus accommodation providers for 2017. The final list will be published on the UJ website and on notice boards across all campuses. We urge you to access the UJ Off-Campus Accommodation Policy on the UJ website. We request that you report any deviations from the policy by an accredited service provider to the Off-Campus Accommodation (OCA) office closest to you. You are welcome to visit the nearest OCA office or simply call 011 559 1040 for all information.