



15 April 2020

Dear CLM students

I hope you are all well and healthy during this shutdown period. I know these are difficult strange times and I wish you all strength to work through these challenging weeks and months, and look forward to meeting up in person when this crisis has passed.

As you will know the University plans to move to online teaching on 20 April 2020 (some of you, for example in the Parktown campus Schools, have different timetables and will have received separate communication from your Head of School regarding the teaching timetable). We are spending this week doing pilots to ensure that the lectures are ready to go “live” next Monday. We are planning to run the normal timetable so you will need to log onto your lectures as though you were on campus – the only difference is that the lectures will be conducting online. Your lecturer will be online too so there will be lots of opportunity for you to engage with your lecturers.

We have communicated previously that we are aware there are about 10-15% of Wits students who have no devices to link them to the online teaching. We have been in negotiations with business and I am pleased to advise we are now able to purchase a limited number of devices for students who fall into this category. The devices will be loaned to needy students who are expected to return them at the end of the year.

This is obviously a huge task to undertake – in a very short time – and we require your urgent assistance to facilitate the process. Most important to note is that there are a limited number of devices and they are strictly earmarked for students who currently have no other way of accessing lectures. These devices are not intended for students who already have a laptop or cellphone or tablet. They are an emergency stop-gap measure so please do not apply if you have other means available to you.

If you sincerely have no other way to access the online teaching programme, please urgently contact Tshepiso Maleswena at the CLM Road To Success Programme (Tshepiso.Maleswena@wits.ac.za) so she can process your application. All applications will be sent to the Dean of Students who will investigate each application thoroughly and then advise students if they have qualified for a device. It goes without saying that if you already have a way of accessing your studies online, then applying for a second device may in reality deprive another student of their only means to continue studying this year – so please only apply if you have no other option available. We realize that in some cases you may not have a device by Monday and we are planning to be able to make up the lectures for any students who may fall into this category.

We are addressing issues of zero-rating lecture sites in order to cut down on any data costs, and you will receive information from the University shortly in this regard.



If you have any other logistical concerns please contact your course coordinator, Head of School or Road To Success staff so we can address them.

We realise these are trying times but please be assured the University is working around the clock to ensure we do not sacrifice this academic year, and that every Wits student is speedily equipped to move into the online lecture space we have created. We have also put together an information page to answer questions you might have. We are updating the information continuously as new issues or information arises.

The link is <https://www.wits.ac.za/clm/covid19---clm/>

As always, I wish you and your families all the best. Stay safe and be kind to each other. We will get through this together.

#FlattenTheCurve

Kind regards

Professor Imraan Valodia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Imraan Valodia'.

Dean: Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management
Wits University