

Residence Readiness Plans

As the 2020 Academic Year draws to a close, so Nelson Mandela University is transitioning straight into its new 2021 Academic Year with all COVID-19 regulations in place to continue to keep staff, students and visitors safe.

This includes the University's residences, both on and off-campus, where students will go into quarantine for ten days to mitigate against the risks of transmitting the virus.

With the academic year starting on 15 March, all invited new and senior students living in residence are expected to arrive in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) and George tomorrow (5 March) to allow for the 10-day quarantine period. It is during this time that the University's 6000-plus new students will be introduced to all the new ways of studying through the Orientation Programme.

Mandela University residence staff will be on hand to welcome students and their parents tomorrow and to settle students in throughout the weekend. Only those students who have received a "finally accepted" notification for their study programme, and who have been accepted into residence should come to campus.

Not all students, however, will physically be back on campus because of safety concerns. The University is using a hybrid model that looks at each student's personal and programme needs. Every student is being individually advised of this and the various protocols to be followed in accessing campus under the COVID-19 restrictions.

New residence students, for example, have also received a letter advising them of what to expect and what is expected of them (see attachment).

Safety first

Even though the country has moved to Lockdown Level 1, the coronavirus remains a potential threat, especially since the new variant is transmitted more easily. As such, all students, including those living in large residences, must continue to practice social distancing, wearing a mask and sanitise regularly.

Self-screening Tool

In addition, all staff and students are expected to use the University's own screening tool to monitor their own wellbeing <https://webapps.mandela.ac.za/screening> and be ready to share the result at the gates and entrances to key on-campus facilities, including their residences.

Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In turn, the University is supplying all staff and students with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kit, which includes two masks, hand sanitiser and a face-screen. But new students should arrive with their own masks in line with the compulsory national ruling of wearing masks. The University operates on a strict no-mask-no-entry ruling.

e-Permit

Before travelling to campus, students should have obtained an **e-permit** from their faculty, since not all students need to be on campus. The permit will give you **access to the campus** where you are living and studying. A no-permit-no entry approach will be enforced.

Quarantine

As students will be **quarantining** from the date of arrival, they have been advised to be self-sufficient in terms of their supplies as they may not leave the residence during the ten-day period. This is everything from food to medication.

Inquiries

For any residence related inquiries, please feel free to call 041 504 1415, 041 504 1416 and 041 504 2470.