

15 December 2021

Dear Faculty of Education student,

As we conclude the year, I would like to thank you for your hard work, resilience and commitment in completing the 2021 academic year. The past two years have been challenging regarding programme delivery, access and connectivity. Despite these challenges, you have stayed committed to your studies.

The uncertainties brought about by the Omicron variant of the covid-19 virus and the looming 4th wave are a cause for concern as this will impact on our plans for the 2022 academic year. Our plans thus remain flexible to accommodate any eventuality.

Due to covid-19 protocols that must be observed and the availability of classroom space, the general decision of the Faculty of Education is that learning and teaching will happen in a hybrid mode of delivery (a mix of mask2mask and online). However, all first year students are to come back to campus in 2022 for mask2mask tuition. This means that the majority of their classes will be mask2mask while some classes will be online. The second and third year students will remain online, except for where they are required by specific modules in their respective service faculties to be on campus. The IP, SP & FET fourth years and PGCE students have the option to do SBL in hometown schools; which means they will be following a hybrid approach for at least the first semester – with students attending mask2mask classes and at the same time some joining online. The FP fourth year students must however arrange to be close to campus for mask2mask classes.

As to be expected, there will be different approaches in different undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Your respective Heads of Department will share programme specific plans with you during the week of 10 January 2022.

With regard to the B Ed (Hons) and PGDE programmes, there will be a mix of online and mask2mask tuition. The Adv Dip (TVT), the M Ed and PhD will be fully online. Some research related workshops might be arranged to support students depending on how the virus behaves.

With regard to School Based Learning (SBL), a separate letter will be sent out to you by the SBL office. Your Heads of Department will also be able to guide you with regard to hometown/Nelson Mandela Metro SBL.

All students are encouraged to get vaccinated so that we can all be safer as we prepare to be on campus in 2022.

The university will officially open on 3 January 2022 and classes will start on 14 February 2022.

I wish you and your families a happy and safe festive season.

Sincerely



Dr Muki Moeng
Executive Dean