

**02 February 2022**

**Economic & Management Sciences communication to students concerning vaccination policy**

Dear student, applicant and staff member

The "INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE FOR 2022" was approved by the Council of the University of the Western Cape on 25 November 2021.

The Policy records that the majority of stakeholders have advocated for hybrid learning and teaching, and an incremental return to Campus. This serves the interests of its students and will allow them to enjoy all the benefits of a holistic campus experience.

In terms of the policy, a general soft mandate applies where students who are not vaccinated may register for their relevant degree or module but may not enter Campus or attend certain University events.

The online component of hybrid learning will continue for unvaccinated students who may not enter campus or access face-to-face learning and teaching.

The EMS Faculty has developed a set of principles for blended learning for the 2022 academic year. This communication outlines the high-level principles first and then addresses specific elements of the teaching and learning plan. Please read this document in conjunction with the DVC: Academic guidelines for Teaching and Learning 2022.

**EMS general principles for 2022 blended learning:**

- All modules to be delivered 100% online ready
- 2022 to accommodate students who are not able to access campus

**The faculty will support blended face-to-face and online teaching, based on the following principles:**

- Students can stay 100% online if they choose to
- Lectures should be live-streamed and recorded and uploaded to Ikamva
- Prioritise 1st year face-to-face teaching, and encourage blended learning (a mix of face-to-face and online teaching) in all undergraduate modules
- First years should have face-to-face learning and teaching opportunities provided
- Face-to-face lectures can be scheduled on a rotational basis with large classes divided into groups.

Departmental Chairpersons will ensure that these principles are supported in their departments.

Online learning will continue for unvaccinated students who may not enter campus and access face-to-face learning and teaching.

Students, staff, service providers and visitors may apply for an exemption from the Policy based on verifiable medical, constitutional and/or religious grounds.

The Policy will become effective on 3 January 2021 and will be reviewed in the first semester of 2022.