



ATTENTION: M_Prof students
M_Prof study leaders
M_Prof coordinators
Head of Department

23 November 2020

M_Prof final exams **February 2021**

On the 10th of November, an email request (copied on page 2) was forwarded by a nominated class representative to the HoD, Prof Chrisna du Plessis. The letter was signed by 20 out of the 32 M_Prof students.

On the 12th of November, after I met with the M_Prof discipline coordinators, a meeting of all M_Prof students was called. I presented two options for the final exams. The first was to continue with the December exam with a concession, that if the external examiners agreed, any incomplete work for *all* subjects could be resubmitted in January 2021. The second option was to postpone the exam until the beginning of February 2021. After a lengthy discussion a poll was taken, and the democratic decision was to postpone the exams until next year.

The following will therefore apply:

1. Students must submit the final document (for the CPD 810 mark), and the signed form by the study leaders, by 23:59 on 11 January 2021 (to a location as will be instructed later) for electronic distribution to the external examiners.
2. Students must hand in their final DPD and DIT digital presentation submissions a week before the exam by 23:59 on 24 January 2021 (to a location as will be instructed later) for electronic distribution to the external examiners. As students will not be in Boukunde for the February exam, these presentations must include explanations/recordings so that in the event of connection or other problems, the external examiners can assess without the student being present.
3. Students must not expect input from study leaders after the 2020 academic year ends, save for signing off the CPD 810 document before submission on 11 January 2021.
4. The final online oral exam will take place from the 1st to the 4th of February 2021.
5. This will allow enough time for work to be completed, to the required standard of a master's degree, with final marks to be handed in before 15 February (which is the final date for acceptance into the April graduation). There will be no time for resubmissions after the February exam.

6. Therefore, those students whose work is still incomplete (as will be determined by the external and internal examiners and the respective discipline coordinators at the final exam), will have to reregister (and pay the applicable fees*) for 2021 and then submit work for assessment by the end of February 2021 (with graduation, then, only being possible in August 2021).
7. All M_Prof students are to acknowledge, accept and sign this agreement (see table on pages 4 - 5).

* From the Directive for the Reduction of Post-Graduate Re-registration Levies A115/96:

5.1 If the examination and the assignment of the final result are completed and captured on PeopleSoft before 31 March, only an administration levy, as determined from time to time by the University, is applicable.

5.2 If the examination is to be completed after 31 March, the full re-registration levy is payable (refer to A81/96).

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Arthur Barker

M_Prof coordinator, Research coordinator and Heritage and Cultural Landscapes Research Coordinator
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Idelette Mulder** <idelettemulder@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, 10 Nov 2020 at 13:02
Subject: MProf Concerns
To: <chrisna.duplessis@up.ac.za>
Cc: <caylincjs@gmail.com>

Good morning Prof du Plessis

I hope that you have been well during these trying times.

I am writing to you on behalf of several MProf Architecture students, regarding a serious issue we all face.

This year, apart from the Covid implications, has brought about a number of challenges for each person in our class. Our study supervisors can attest to that. As a class, we have shown resilience and adapted as best we could to the changing circumstances. However, the following challenges were unforeseen.

With a class of 23, these stats are based on personal knowledge, from those willing to share on a sensitive matter:

17% of our class lost a parent this year.
22.2% contracted COVID-19
16.7 % had a parent in ICU

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27.8% lost a family member
77.8% has financial issues
A number of students suffer from anxiety and depression.

Our class coordinator has done what he can to accommodate the class as a whole. Unfortunately, even with the concessions provided, some students are experiencing emotionally draining circumstances and cannot keep up with the weight of this final exam. As a class, it's disheartening to experience the lack of support we have felt this year from our department. Especially with a number of students having started off in Boukunde's undergrad, it's disappointing having to end that journey with this experience. We have tried on numerous occasions to reach out for assistance, but we are at a loss. Hence this email to you now, asking you to reach out your hand.

An anonymous email went out yesterday, petitioning those in grave need for a deferral. A select few students in the class deserve an opportunity to be heard out. We have exhausted our energy. Therefore, we write to you directly. We do not intend for deferral to be the only option, however we plead that it is considered. We are looking for support from our department. We understand that due to the unprecedented times, circumstances have to change. We have been resilient throughout the year. However, we feel that the examiners are being prioritized in terms time, with work needed to be handed in early for preview.

Considering the stresses that this year has brought about, a 5 day extension on a final exam (from 25 November to 1 December) does little to compensate. Perhaps the discussion for each severe case could be had with our individual study leaders, to see which students have the ability to complete the year in the stipulated time, or would need the support of a deferral. We aren't requesting that the year be extended for the entire class, but for an option for those in need to be supported by the department, be made available

Please consider the sincerity of these words. We would appreciate your guidance on a way forward.

Members of the class who have agreed to this email and the concerns raised:

1. Dipuo Matena
2. Puri Naidoo
3. Idelette Mulder
4. Vitumbiko Khoswe
5. Caylin Springhton
6. Morne du Bois
7. Cosette Minnaar
8. Pierre Brink
9. Brittany Newton
10. Kelsey Smith
11. Aimee Simeon
12. Jill Williams
13. Nolwazi Mlambo
14. Anne van der Hoven
15. Lauren Konstantinou
16. Reginald Venter
17. Cari Taljaard
18. Rinus Piek
19. Liam Ullrich
20. Elmar van Wyk

Kind regards
MProf Class of 2020

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I have read the above letter and agree to the terms and conditions as set out:

M_Prof 2020

Status for 2021

EmplID	Last Name	Initials (Name)	Title	Program	Comments	Signature
14005043	Boshoff	M (Mia)	Miss	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
13020553	Brink	PBN (Petrus)	Mr	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
12169413	Cronje	JR (Jana)	Ms	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
14035783	de Beer	S (Sarlien)	Ms	Interior Architecture	Will examine on 4 Feb 2021	
11245868	Dixon	DN (David)	Mr	Architecture	To reregister for 2021	
15042482	du Bois	M (Morné)	Mr	Architecture	Will examine on 1-3 Feb 2021	
15178065	du Plessis	F (Francois)	Mr	Landscape Architecture	Will examine on 4 Feb 2021	
15051774	du Plessis	T (Tara)	Ms	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
13192753	Faul	GM (Gareth)	Mr	Landscape Architecture	Will examine on 4 Feb 2021	
15054013	Greyling	C (Christian)	Mr	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
15203329	Khoswe	V (Vitumbiko)	Mr	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
29091536	Kipanga	LN (Linda)	Miss	Architecture	To reregister for 2021	
15001700	Konstantinou	LM (Lauren)	Miss	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
28024029	Marais	SA (Shakira)	Miss	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
18344977	Masuku	BG (Boineelo)	Mrs	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	

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12148131	Matena	D (Dipuo)	Miss	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
15040217	Minnaar	CM (Cosette)	Miss	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
29190275	Mkandla	VN (Vuyisile)	Ms	Interior Architecture	Will examine on 4 Feb 2021	
15179088	Mlambo	NSX (Nolwazi)	Miss	Landscape Architecture	Will examine on 4 Feb 2021	
28185341	Mphaka	ME (Mamofella)	Ms	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
15032371	Mulder	I (Idelette)	Miss	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
15362282	Naidoo	P (Purll)	Miss	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
17354821	Nemasetoni	FF (Fulufhelo)	Mrs	Architecture	To reregister for 2021	
14113873	Newton	BS (Brittany)	Miss	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
13018753	Piek	R (Rinus)	Mr	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
14091322	Sebotsi	ML (Molwantwa)	Mr	Landscape Architecture	Will examine on 4 Feb 2021	
15209106	Simeon	AMS (Aimee)	Ms	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
13070330	Smith	K (Kelsey)	Miss	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
14278643	Sprighton	CJ (Caylin)	Ms	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
10069667	Taljaard	CA (Carolina)	Ms	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
15109420	Ullrich	LG (Liam)	Mr	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
10192647	van der Hoven	A (Anné)	Ms	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
15077196	van Wyk	EG (Elmar)	Mr	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
19227711	Venter	RB (Reginald)	Mr	Architecture	Will examine 1-3 Feb 2021	
14160316	Williams	JA (Jill)	Miss	Landscape Architecture	Will examine on 4 Feb 2021	

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