

## Academic Newsletter

### Dates to look out for:

- Academic Program Recommencing — 4 May 2020\*

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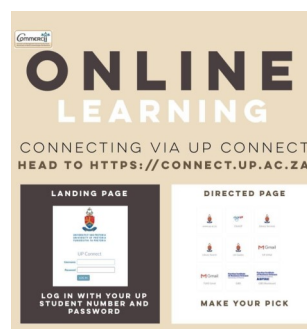
Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande addressed the nation on Thursday, 30 April 2020. In his address, he outlined the plans of his department, and the national executive, for students, who's studies have been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The key considerations are (1) to lower the infection curve, (2) save the academic year, but not at the expense of students' lives, and (3) efforts to save the academic year must avoid worsening the infection curve.

During lockdown level 4, campus based activities will not be continuing. Instead, all institutions of higher education will be adopting a remote learning approach. (UP will be beginning on 4 May with

online learning).

The Department will be working closely with mobile network operators to



ensure all students can access learning material online. (UP students are able to access content at the zero-rated site, <https://connect.up.ac.za>, via the Vodacom, MTN, Cell-C and Telkom networks.)

NSFAS-funded students will be receiving laptops, again allowing students to access online learning.

(students who have been identified by UP as needing devices have been sent devices, and will continue to receive them). These students will continue to receive the necessary funding, as well as their allowances.

University and TVET campuses will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized, and when students do return to campus, there will be continual deep cleaning. Students will be able to access sanitizers, and protective masks, and will be encouraged to continue observing social distancing.

The department will continue to evaluate the situation, and communicate any changes to all students. However, the 2020 academic year will be completed, even if it means extending it into 2021, if needs be.

### Follow us on our Social Media!!



@house\_ca



HouseCAUP



houseca10@gmail.com



<https://www.up.ac.za/house-ca>



EMS 2.88

(next to Accounting One Stop)



## How to “student” from home: A 2020 Essential



**NEDBANK**

**Emmanuel Motlounq**  
**First Year CA Trainee at Nedbank**



These are interesting times we live in. Everyone had plans for this year. We all promised ourselves that this year, forgetting all the others, would be different. We would get our act together and begin to live our best lives. For most of us, all that has changed, and those plans may need some adjusting.

For many students across the country, the change has had quite an immense impact. Everyone had to go home and learn how to be a child again. Being a student at home is certainly not easy and it makes you question how you made it out in the first place. Being away from your usual space means that there are possibly more people around you, possible responsibilities you may need to take on, contributing to the completion of household chores and braving the noise.

How do you begin to student from home?

The first step is to communicate. We are all used to the way we live. We are also understanding of the pressure that comes with wanting to do well academically. Most importantly, we understand how the year of study we are in, is the most difficult year ever. The people around you may not necessarily understand that, and that is okay. It's okay because they are

not in your space when you are at university and may not understand how you can sit with your books all day and still feel like you have done nothing.

Truthfully, they may not really know who you are in that space. As such, it is important for you to voice your concerns about working from home, your availability for home activities and family time and how you want to be treated. It sounds easy on paper, but this conversation can be quite daunting.

To be honest, it certainly is. But, having this conversation will allow you to bridge the gap between your world and theirs and as a result, create a better understanding among everyone.

Thereafter, you need to look inwards and see how you can change. You need to have a willingness to adapt to the situation. The circumstances are not ideal, and none of us should expect to live the way we were before. Be willing to wake up a bit earlier or stay up a bit late. Maybe you don't need to have breakfast at 7am, because at 8am when everyone else wakes up, it will be just as tasty. The more agile you are and the quicker you are at changing your views, the easier the transition will be.

Lastly, it is completely okay to not be fine all the time. Allow yourself the space to feel and recognise negative emotions too. These are certainly challenging times and feeling frustrated or generally sad is okay from time to time. After all, you are only human. The real challenge is about not beating yourself up about things you cannot control and rising to the occasion by doing what little you are able to do. The little efforts go a long way, start there.

Set up a detailed timetable, find or create a space conducive for working and lastly, put in the hours. The situation is what it is at the moment and we all need to make the best of it all.

## The Art of Resilience and Grit

**Minyon Ferrero**

**First Year CA Trainee at  
Nedbank**



“Develop success from failures. Discouragement and disappointment are the surest stepping-stones to success.” – Dale Carnegie

Dale Carnegie expresses that we need to develop our strength from our failures, and that discouragement and disappointment are inevitable on the journey to success. CTA is undoubtedly a tough year, filled with exactly what Carnegie expresses, but how does one navigate it without becoming irrevocably despondent by the volume of work, the complexity of it or the actual test-setbacks (the most common being: “this mark does not reflect the work that I have put in”)?

I have some brilliant tips that I have learnt along the way, as well as lessons that I have learnt this year (that I wish I knew in CTA). Resilience and grit are the two feet that you need to plant firmly on the ground this year, both underpinned by a foundation of faith and trust in your abilities to make it through CTA (particularly with the added COVID-19 disruption).

Tanya Stevens (2020) from BeClear (an expert coach in the field of resilience) defines resilience as follows: “A capacity to bounce back from adversity, conflict, failure, progress and increased responsibility. Resilience is about the deployment of positive adaptation patterns and processes to overcome adversities.” Thus, in developing some of these resilience skills, she speaks about techniques that you can use to train your mind to become more resilient.

“The mind is everything. What you think, you become.” – Buddha

Stevens (2020) expresses that resilience is a learnt skill and that we can develop the state of mind to be more resilient, and to approach our lives and work in a more positive manner. What we tell our minds is vital. Through daily practices of mindfulness, we can improve our presence and meaningful engagement with our responsibilities. This can be achieved through daily practices such as meditation and yoga or any other reflective practice that will help you become more mindful.

Resilience and grit go hand-in-hand. Martin Meadows (2020) (a Wall Street Journal personal development author) explains that grit is the ability to develop mental toughness, and we develop this through exposure to tough situations.

Grit is the key to getting through the disappointing marks, and to keep overcoming the limiting beliefs that you might have of yourself. To overcome them, you need to make sure that you: do not become exhausted (rest is powerful) and be relentless in your commit-

ment to push through the dips you experience, because you know that it is worth it, and you have come this far to achieve the CA (SA) dream.

Faith and trust in your strengths are of utmost importance. Most family members and friends will not understand what you are experiencing this year and any criticism from them for always being behind the books, or not passing/having stellar marks should be swept aside. You deserve your place in CTA, because you worked hard to get there. Have faith that you can do the work, the progress may be slow, but do not give up.

Setting manageable and smart goals is vital to progress. It is not about the hours that you put in, but rather about what you spend your “power hours” on. When approaching your topics, do a thorough gap analysis to address your weaknesses. The trust in your abilities here is essential, you need to trust that you can focus less on certain topics because you know them well enough. Falling into the comfort-topic-trap is easy do not let this be your pitfall.

“Never say never, because limits, like fears, are often just illusions.” – Michael Jordan

Lastly, do not let the fear of failure limit you this year. Visualise the positive outcome – visualise your name on that pass list. With resilience, grit, faith and trust in your abilities, you have the recipe for this year to be a success.

Stevens, T. (2020). BeClear: Get to What Matters Most. Email Newsletter.

Meadows, M. (2020). Build Grit. Udemy Course. <https://www.udemy.com/course/grit-how-to-keep-going/>





## Auditor General South Africa — Graduate Recruitment

### WHY SHOULD YOU #ChooseAGSA



### Purpose



Being part of the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) means that you have a unique and rewarding opportunity to contribute towards improving the lives of ordinary citizens through auditing.

Serving your articles and ultimately working for the AGSA has the following benefits for young professionals:

Trainees are also exposed to different reporting frameworks during their training, such as the Modified Cash Standards (MCS) used by departments, Generally Recognised Accounting Practices (GRAP) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Apart from the normal audit of financial statements, the AGSA provides experience in the auditing of compliance with key legislation and predetermined objectives. The audit of predetermined objectives (AoPO) focuses on the performance of the organisation against its set targets and its strategic objectives. Further to that, we also audit the usefulness of these set objectives against prescribed frameworks to ensure the "SMART" criteria are met. This is a great exposure for trainee accountants in developing their strategy competencies which is fast becoming a great trait for CA(SA)s.

There is also an integration of our normal audit work with experts, like information systems, performance auditors (for infrastructure projects), etc... which gives trainees exposure to more experiences, besides normal accounting and audit work.

### Exposure



Some of our auditees that provide great exposure include, but are not limited to:



the National Research Foundation (with an SKA-SA project – a mega science project to design, construct and commission the 64 dish MeerKAT radio telescope array, including the associated infrastructure)



the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), the biggest asset manager in Africa, (which include one of the biggest mall/shopping centre in Pretoria)



the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)



the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), which offers great experience in banking financial services.

The list is endless...

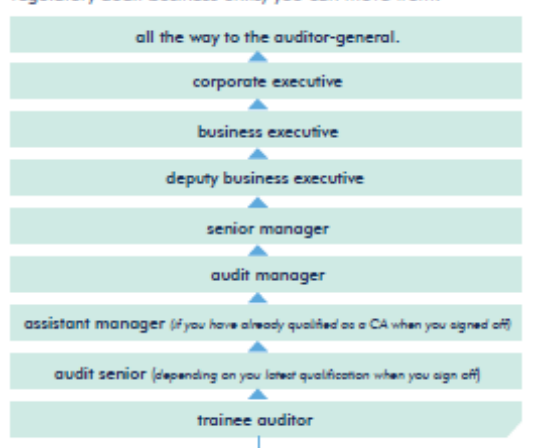




We offer a market-related salary to our TAs and full-time employees.

- **Performance auditing (PA):** The performance auditing BU is a multidisciplinary unit. It offers an independent, objective and reliable examination of whether government programmes, systems, activities or organisations, in the three spheres, provide value for money in the services that they deliver to citizens.

We have many opportunities for retention and for growth within the different ranks of the organisation. Within the normal regulatory audit business units, you can move from: \_\_\_\_\_



 [www.agsa.co.za](http://www.agsa.co.za)  
 @AuditorGen\_SA  
 Auditor-General of South Africa  
 Auditor-General of South Africa  
 Auditor-General South Africa

Visit [www.gasa.co.za](http://www.gasa.co.za) and follow us on social media



## House CA Buzz

The coronavirus has forced us all to observe social distancing, and stay at home. Currently, all we have to keep us busy are online lectures. However, HouseCA has come up with a fun way to help you stay busy during lockdown.

The **HouseCA Buzz** will be a weekly feel-good pamphlet shared with students on a weekly basis. It will either be shared as a stand alone item, or paired with the newsletter.

It will feature a short, interesting recipe, some exercises, and a quiz or two.

If you have any suggestions for content you want featured in the **HouseCA Buzz**, send us a direct message on Instagram or Facebook. For now, enjoy!



# HOUSECA BUZZ

A WEEKLY FEEL-GOOD PAMPHLET

MAY 2020 | ISSUE 1



## WHAT'S INSIDE

Easy Shortbread Cookie Recipe

Weekly Motivation

Staying Active While Staying At Home

General Knowledge Quiz

## EASY SHORTBREAD COOKIE RECIPE

2 Cups Cake Flour  
1 Cup Butter  
1/2 Cup of Icing Sugar

Preheat your oven to 180°C. In a large bowl cream the soft butter and the icing sugar with an electric mixer or whisk until light and fluffy. Add in the flour and mix just until the dough comes together. Dust some flour on the counter and work the dough for a few minutes. Roll out the dough and cut with a cookie cutter (or glass) and placed on a greased tray. Bake for 12 to 16 minutes or until golden.

Once cooked, you are welcome to decorate them or just keep them plain.



## WEEKLY MOTIVATION

"The first step toward success is taken when you refuse to be a captive of the environment in which you first find yourself." – Mark Caine

## Staying Active While Staying At Home

### Mondays (legs)

#### Warm-up

- High knees 3x 1 min/20 sec rest (go as fast as you can)

#### Workout

- Normal controlled squats 3 sets; 15/12/10 reps
- Lunges 3 sets; 10 reps (each leg)
- Jumping squats 3 sets; 12/10/8 reps
- Calf raises 3 sets 20 reps

### Tuesdays (chest and triceps)

#### Warm-up

- Skip rope 3x 1 min/20 sec rest

#### Workout

- Close grip push ups (shoulder width) 3 sets 12/10/10 reps
- Diamond push ups 3 sets 10/8/8 reps
- Wide grip push ups 3 sets 12/10/10 reps
- Dips 3 sets 15 reps
- Elbow plank push ups 3 sets 10 reps

### Wednesdays (Day off)

### Thursdays (core)

#### Warm-ups

- 15 min walk/jog (around your neighborhood)

#### Workout

- Mountain climbers 4x 60s/45s/45s/30s (20 sec rest between each set)
- Sit ups 3 sets 20/15/12
- Plank 3x 30s/45s/60s (20 sec rest between each set)
- Elbow plank 3x 45s/30s/30s (20 sec rest between each set)
- High knees 3x 1 min/20 sec rest (go as fast as you can)

### Fridays (cross fitness)

#### Warm-ups

- 10 min walk/jog
- Skipping 2x 1 min
- High knees 2x 1 min 30s

#### Workout

- Burpees 3 sets 12/10/8
- Jumping squats 3 sets 12/10/8
- Diamond push ups 3 sets 12/10/8
- Plank 3x 1 min/20 sec rest
- Jumping lunges (alternating legs) 30s/45s/60s
- Close grip push ups (nice, slow and controlled) 3 sets 10 reps

## Please Be Sure To Check Out Our Social Media Pages and The HouseCA Web Page

- @house\_ca
- HouseCAUP
- houseca10@gmail.com
- <https://www.up.ac.za/house-ca>
- EMS 2.88  
(next to Accounting One Stop)



## General Knowledge Quiz

1. The financial statement that reports the revenues and expenses for a period of time such as a year or month is the  
a) Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income  
b) Statement of Cash Flows  
c) Statement of Financial Position

2. Under the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are reported in the accounting period when \_\_\_\_  
a) Cash is paid  
b) The expense was incurred

3. Assets - Liabilities = \_\_\_\_

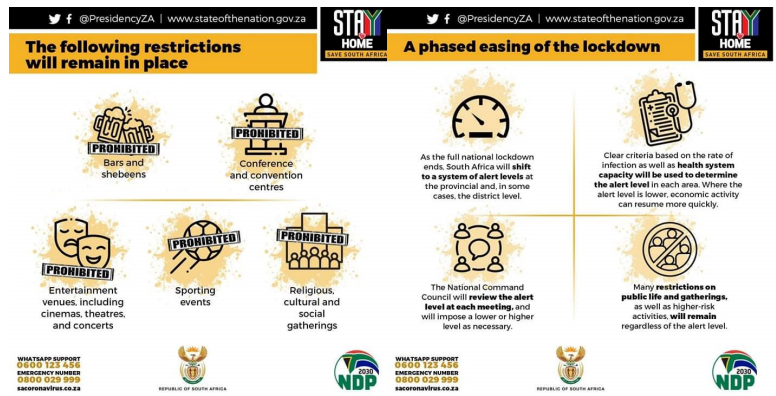
Answers to the quiz:  
1. b  
2. a  
3. c

## Lockdown Alert Levels

Following the address by President Ramaphosa on the 23rd of April, a new revised set of regulations have been announced.

Starting Friday, 1 May 2020, the country will adopt a dynamic lockdown system, which consists of 5 levels, with varying degrees of mobility and activity being allowed in each level. Level 5 is the hard lockdown which we have experienced. We have moved down to level 4 from Friday, 1 May 2020. Each province, district and municipality will be able to adopt a different level, depending on various circumstances.

With that in mind, it is important to continue observing social distancing, and to wash your hands regularly. Wear a face mask when leaving home. For more info please go to <https://www.stateofthenation.gov.za> or <https://www.sacoronavirus.co.za>. Please stay safe and wash your hands.



## Back An Accounting Buddy

A fellow Accounting Sciences student, Kudzai Charangwa, who is currently completing his CTA, is requesting financial assistance. Due to the current economic situation in Zimbabwe, it has become difficult for his family to pay for his tuition.


Please visit the BackABuddy page, at <https://www.backabuddy.co.za/kudzai-charangwa>, to find out more and to donate.

Any amount would be appreciated. A big thank you for your help.





# Updated University of Pretoria Calendar



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

2020  
(Amended April 2020)  
Start 4 May - Complete Q1

Disclaimer: This calendar contains information relating to the academic activities of the University applicable at the time of publishing. Amendments to, or updating of the information contained in this calendar may be made from time to time without prior notification. The accuracy, correctness, or validity of the information contained in this calendar is not guaranteed by the University at any given time and is always subject to verification. All staff and students are kindly requested to, at all times, verify the correctness of the published information with the University. Failure to do so will not give rise to any claim or action of any nature against the University by any party whatsoever.

January							February							March									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
1							5							1	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2							6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	11	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
3							7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	12	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	13	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	9	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	14	29	30	31					
April							May							June									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
14							18							23									
15	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	19	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	24	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	20	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	25	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	26	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
18	26	27	28	29	30		22	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	27	28	Tu	30					
							23	31															
July							August							September									
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27							31							36									
28	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	32	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	37	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	33	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	38	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	34	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	39	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	26	27	28	29	30	31	35	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	40	27	28	29	30				
							36	30	31														
October							November							December									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
40							45	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	49								
41	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	46	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	50	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
42	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	47	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	51	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
43	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	48	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	52	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
44	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	49	29	30						1	27	28	29	30	31		

Public Holidays

Registration / Orientation  
First Year Students

Rag

Spring Day

UP Examinations

UP Supplementary Examinations

UP Recess

Special Lecture Days

INSYNC first year consort

# Choose UP Day

Engineering Test Weeks

Public Holidays	UP Examinations	Special Lecture Days
Registration / Orientation First Year Students	UP Supplementary Examinations	INSYNC first year concert
Rag	UP Recess	# Choose UP Day
Spring Day		Engineering Test Weeks

S0004/19  
(Amended April 2020)

## UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA Explanation of lecture days for 2020 (Amended April 2020) Start 4 May 2020 (Complete Q1)

**Semester 1: 03 February – 29 June**

**Quarter 1: 03 February – 8 May**

Mo = 8\*, Tu = 7, We = 7, Th = 7, Fr = 7 (36 lecture days)  
\*Monday 4 May repeating Monday 16 March

**Quarter 2: 11 May – 29 June**

Mo = 8 Tu = 6, We = 7, Th = 7, Fr = 7 (35 lecture days)

Monday 29 June Tuesday timetable is followed

**Semester 2: 3 August – 13 November**

**Quarter 3: 3 August – 21 September**

Mo = 7 Tu = 7, We = 7, Th = 7, Fr = 7 (35 lecture days)

**Quarter 4: 28 September – 13 November**

Mo = 7, Tu = 7, We = 7, Th = 7, Fr = 7 (35 lecture days)

## UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

### CALENDAR 2020 MAIN DATES (Amended April 2020) Start 4 May (Complete Q1 – July/Sept short Recess)

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1 January	New Year's Day
3 January	Academic year commences
6 January	Commencement of online registration for senior students
6-17 January	Summer School
13 January	Commencement of online registration for first year students
13-25 January	Assisted online registration for first year students at Hillcrest campus
24-26 January	Special orientation for non-RSA students
25 January	Welcome Day
27-31 January	1. Orientation programme for new first year students at Hatfield campus 2. Assisted online registration of senior students at Hillcrest campus
30 January	Closing date: Submission of final marks for Autumn Graduation (Students will receive degrees in absentia on the official graduation dates announced earlier)
1 February	INSYNC first year concert
3 February	Lectures commence for quarter 1 and semester 1
8 February	Rag
10 February	Anniversary of the University's founding
17 February	Closing date for amendments or cancellation of modules (quarter 1, 2 and semester 1)
17 March-3 May	University closed for face-to-face lectures and assessments due to the Coronavirus pandemic
21 March	Human Rights Day
10 April	Good Friday
13 April	Family Day
27 April	Freedom Day
1 May	Workers' Day
4 May	1. Lectures commence <b>online</b> after recess for quarter 1 and semester 1 2. Lectures end for quarter 1
8 May	Lectures commence <b>online</b> for quarter 2
11 May	Youth Day
16 June	1. Tuesday timetable is followed
29 June	2. Lectures end for quarter 2 and semester 1 3. Last day for discontinuation of modules
15 June-30 July	Cooling off period for all non-academic student activities before and during the examination period
1-21 July	Examinations of first-quarter, second-quarter and first-semester modules
22-28 July	S0004/19 Supplementary examinations of first-quarter, second-quarter and first-semester modules
30 July	Last day of submitting supplementary examination marks of first-quarter, second-quarter and first-semester modules
31 July	Closing date: Submission of final marks for spring graduation
29 July-2 August	July short recess due to COVID-19
3 August	Lectures commence for quarter 3 and semester 2
9 August	National Women's Day
10 August	Public Holiday in terms of legislation
15 August	# Choose UP day
18 August	Closing date for amendments or cancellation of modules (quarter 3, 4 and semester 2)
18 September	International Students Day
21 September	Lectures end for quarter 3
22 September	Spring day
23-27 September	September short recess due to COVID-19
24 September	Heritage Day
28 September	Lectures commence for quarter 4
2 November-12 December	Cooling off period for all non-academic student activities before and during the examination period
13 November	1. Lectures end for quarter 4 and semester 2 2. Last day for discontinuation of modules
16 November-5 December	Examination of third-quarter, fourth-quarter, second-semester and year modules
7-12 December	Supplementary examinations of third-quarter, fourth-quarter second-semester and year modules
12 December	Academic year ends
15 December	Last day for submission of supplementary examination marks of third-quarter, fourth-quarter, second-semester and year modules
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
23 December	University closes at 10:00
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill
4 January 2021	Academic year commences

### GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2020

28 September – 2 October  
10 December

Spring Graduation Ceremonies  
Graduation Ceremony for LL.M in Human Rights