

EMS Engage

To all 2021 first-year students: Important message from the Dean

Faculty of Economic and
Management Sciences

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Advance



Dear EMS first-year student

Congratulations on successfully completing Grade 12! We wish you all the best for 2021, your first year at the University of Pretoria (UP). We are looking forward to welcoming you from 10 to 12 March for the compulsory online First-year Orientation and to the lectures that will commence on 15 March.

The following information is important to adapt to your first year of study in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences:

First-year Orientation programme from 10 to 12 March 2021

Attending the orientation programme is compulsory and will provide you with crucial information on how to effectively manage your first semester, especially during the lockdown period when you will not be able to attend on-campus lectures.

Teaching mode

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first semester of 2021 will be conducted online. The lecturers are all committed to guide you. We are considering several ways of refining our academic offering in 2021, but broadly, it will entail having more live-streamed lectures and online tutorials.

Resources required for online study

It is important to have an internet-enabled device (smartphone/tablet/laptop) and sufficient data to work online for a large part of the day. The minimum specifications are as follows:

A laptop with the minimum specifications of an i3 Processor (9000 series or later) or equivalent with 8 Gb RAM, a 500Gb or larger hard drive. It would be better to buy an i5 Processor (9000 series or later) or equivalent with 16 Gb RAM, a 500Gb or larger hard drive and a video card supporting a minimum display resolution of 720p (1280 x 720). Departmental websites may also reflect the minimum specifications in the case where you intend to follow a degree that is driven by Mathematics/Statistics or Informatics. Please check the websites of the different departments carefully. Note that you need not buy Windows 10 (build 1703 or later) package as the UP's licence for students will make this available to you to download for free.

Assessment

Your assessments in the first semester will take place online. Measures have been introduced to curb unethical behaviour in assessments and these will be strictly enforced.

Your contribution to the academic project

Although your lecturers will do their best to assist and guide you, your studies is a partnership between you and your lecturers and each one of the two partners must bring 100% to the table. To do this, we strongly recommend that you do the following:

1. *Ensure that you have a place that is conducive to studying effectively.* If this is not possible, we suggest that you apply to occupy your room at the University residence or move to your private accommodation. Alternatively, you can apply for campus access to study on campus where Wi-Fi is available and generators will counter the impact of potential load shedding.
2. *You need to be self-driven, disciplined, and diligent, especially in the online environment.*

Prescribed textbooks

You must buy your prescribed textbooks in advance to complete your studies successfully, especially if you are not close to a large centre such as Tshwane or Johannesburg where academic books are easily available. The lists of prescribed textbooks for the different modules will appear on the EMS website under the **red block** for First-year Students and on departmental websites. Carefully check your module (subject) codes and the associated prescribed textbooks. You will need around R8000 for textbooks for the year.

House Commciii

House Commciii is a valuable source of additional information and also enables contact with fellow students. Please engage with them regularly.

Faculty student advisors (FSAs)

Since you are first-year students, we are aware that you may be anxious and struggle to adapt to this new phase in your life. Should you experience any problems with time-management, study methods, daily planning, psychological issues, relationship issues, stress and the like, please consult with our highly qualified FSAs. More information on this service will be provided during Orientation. The services of the FSAs are confidential and free of charge.

Please look at the Faculty's website (www.up.ac.za/EMS) for where we continuously share interesting news and events.

We wish you all the best in the coming academic year. We are indeed looking forward to have you on board at our winning faculty.

Kind regards

Elsabe Loots

Prof Elsabe Loots
Dean

Johan Oberholster

Prof Johan Oberholster
Deputy Dean: Teaching and Learning