



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

INTERNAL COMMUNIQUÉ

Student Updates, including Guidance for Non-Nationals

Good Morning Students,

I know that there are many questions following the announcement from Prime Minister, Dr The Honourable Keith Rowley at yesterday's Press Conference that confirmed that all schools are now to be closed until **April 20, 2020**. We have taken note of your questions and comments via various platforms, and appreciate that you have many concerns.

Over the past couple of days, our lecturers and administrators have been meeting to work out how best we can continue to teach amidst the global health challenge, and where possible, we will be moving to **online classes**. Given that 34% of our courses are already delivered in this way, and given the limited time in which the remaining courses have to be transitioned, it is clear that this online-only mode of delivery is unprecedented for us. But in the face of this challenge, we are ready to adapt. Given the fluidity of the prevailing circumstances, and the rapid response required I am pretty sure that we will encounter a few kinks in this transition process. However, I am also certain that if we work collaboratively, we can ensure a positive teaching experience.

Our Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and the Open Campus have already begun to share best practices through virtual instruction to our lecturers and I am heartened by the leadership each Faculty Dean has displayed in taking on this challenge. With over 700 programmes delivered at our Campus, we are working to share the specific details for online delivery of your courses (coursework, examinations, virtual library access etc) in short order.

With the Campus's continued closure for the next five weeks, **all non-national students who can safely return home are encouraged to do so**. The safety and security of non-national students residing off-campus is of particular concern at this time. We want to keep all available options open to students and will continue to support all students.

We know that there will be difficult and extenuating circumstances for students who cannot leave Campus or do not have another place to go. Existing Hall residents needing continued housing will be accommodated. Halls of Residence will remain open and we will make arrangements for those who require accommodation at this time. The Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD) will continue to follow up with students who live on Halls of Residence and in Off-Campus residences. Students with concerns or questions should email studentservicesanddevelopment@sta.uwi.edu.

All staff and students are encouraged to check your UWI email consistently for official updates.

Thank you for your partnership and assistance as we work to manage this evolving situation.

Marketing and Communications
on behalf of

Professor Brian Copeland

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal