

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STUDENTS IN LOCKDOWN/POST-LOCKDOWN
PERIOD – RESUMPTION OF FORTHCOMING SEMESTER STARTING 12 APRIL
2021 (Existing COHORTS) and 19 APRIL 2021 (New COHORTS) USING
BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH**

Mauritius is continuing to face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing sanitary conditions in 2021. As our most important stakeholder, your safety and well-being are of paramount importance to the UTM. The prevailing sanitary conditions and government policies have created many opportunities to face the challenges in creative ways. In order to ensure continuity of our services to our students in any circumstance, and in order to prepare our students for a more digitalized world of learning and work, the UTM will pursue, on a continued pilot basis, with blended learning approach for the forthcoming semester. The following are brought to the attention of students of UTM and same may change from time to time, to which students will be called upon to comply:

1. All policies are adjusted for continued flexibility until further notice to allow for speedy delivery of services to our students.
2. The Induction Sheet for new students is a must read document as it provides essentials of the policies and guidelines to new students and the responsibilities they have towards UTM during the course of their study at the University. Students would be able access the Induction sheets of their respective schools on the website under the heading of each School (SBMF, SSDT, SITE and SHS). Existing students should refresh themselves with information therein in case of any relevant adjustments brought that may be of interest to them.
3. The UTM continues to adopt, on a pilot basis, a “blended learning approach” for the delivery of courses which will normally take the form of:
 - face-to-face sessions delivered on campus of 2/3 hours each as per time-tabled hours (unless decided otherwise for modules having practical component).
 - distance learning mode sessions delivered remotely using ICT based Learning Management Systems(LMS).

4. In the exceptional circumstances prevailing currently, as has been decided by the UTM, all teaching and learning for the next semester, starting on Monday 12th April 2021 for existing students and on 19 Monday April 2021 for new students, will be done on a distance mode preferably using Google LMS. Use of other LMS or any other digital tool is not deterred with the concurrence of lecturers and students. **Guidelines to assist students on the use of Google LMS has/will be sent to you by mail and is available on the UTM website.**
5. Once the sanitary conditions improve and government policies permitting, students may be allowed to attend campus for lectures on terms and conditions that will be communicated in due course. As much as possible time-tabled hours for online teaching and face-to-face sessions will be maintained, except for Sunday online sessions which will be re-scheduled for face-to-face mode.
6. All students should avail of the uemail address and password. All communications to students and from students to the University will have to be done using the uemail address provided to them. In case of loss of uemail address or password, the student has to send a mail to: development@uemail.utm.ac.mu and will receive same within 1 week of request. Details to be provided include:
First Name:
Surname
Cohort:
Student ID:

Note: Uemail address will be provided by mail to new students by the University.
7. The University has adopted a “Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)” policy. Students should bring their own ICT devices and may seek support from the Student Affairs Office of UTM to guide them to seek funding to acquire ICT in case they do not have access to same.
8. Students should use ICT and LMS responsibly and not cause prejudice to other students, lecturers or any other staff of the University. Deviant use of ICT/LMS will be subject to disciplinary actions as per UTM Regulations.

9. Other than for time-tabled hours for access to computer labs, UTM Computer labs will be available to all UTM students from 1200h to 1300h from Monday to Saturday when they are physically present on campus. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity.

10. **Application for exemption/s by existing and new students has been exceptionally set for 03 May 2021.** New students are advised to contact their respective School to ensure their requests for exemptions are made within deadline, failing which no request may be entertained.

11. For the semester starting on 12 April 2021 (Existing cohorts) and on 19 April 2021 (for new intakes), each module will be assessed through a maximum of 2 take-home assignments (take-home assignment will not include presentations, demos, tests, quizzes or other online approaches.). The final deadline for the submission of all assignments is set to 01 August 2021. Lecturers may opt to set the deadline for submission of their first assignment sometimes mid-semester and the second assignment has to be submitted between 25 July 2021 to 01 August 2021. No late submission will be accepted. Assignments should be sent by **email** to the Lecturer concerned and on email address of the examination section of the concerned School on email address to be provided by each School.

12. For all other components of programmes, like dissertation, projects etc. students have to comply with deadlines set by respective Schools. Exceptionally the *viva-voce* for Bachelor's and Master's are waived for this semester. Assessment of projects/dissertations will be based only on the report submitted on deadlines specified by the respective Schools.

13. The School specific Information Sheet to Students will prevail for students and lecturers in addressing arising issues.