

Our ref. C. 15761
Enquiries: registrar@iie.ac.za

02 November 2020



Dear IIE Students

ASSESSMENTS SEMESTER 2 OF 2020



We are proud of how our students and campuses have responded to these unprecedented demands and challenges this year. While the year has not been the one we looked forward to, we have much to celebrate. The IIE, its campuses and students, have again shown resilience and flexibility – life skills that will stand us all in good stead.



This letter is to address the few remaining questions about assessments as the year draws to a close. Alongside many of the best public and private institutions, we will be able to complete our assessments and academic year this year – further testament to our focus on your qualification and success.



As we planned for Semester 2 we were conservative in our approach as we were not sure where the country would be at this stage. As a result, there were still many assessments planned in the less than ideal take-home format. Largely this has worked, although it has been disappointing to experience a significant increase in intellectual dishonesty and plagiarism – matters we are attending to. A second problem we experienced is that many students really struggled to submit on time without staggered, structured deadlines and that has impacted on the quality of work and on results.

With the reduced restrictions of Level 1, along with our demonstrated ability to meet and exceed safety requirements at all times, we are committed to summative assessments at the end of this semester which will:

- Enable us to use the best assessment strategy for the modules and their level and content while still keeping the numbers on campus as low as possible.
- Reintroducing sit down summative assessments for those modules where it is clearly the best way to enable you to demonstrate mastery (about 10% of the modules in total).
- Restructuring the take-home assessments to reduce the number of days that students have for them (as is always the case for summative assessments written on campus) while still being realistic about the different connectivity experiences you have.
- Re-introducing fixed but staggered submission deadlines to help guide you towards successful completion by giving you guidelines and milestones to manage your progress.

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A small number of you have expressed anxiety about being on campus for these examinations. It would be in your interest, if you have not returned to campus at all yet, to come on to site in advance to familiarise yourself with the protocols for your safety, as that will give you the reassurance you need.

You can be certain we are following all required protocols from the Department of Health and the Department of Higher Education and Training and associated organisations such as Higher Health. **Please make sure you are on campus early enough for any exams so that you have time to work through the protocols.**

In 2021 we will be taking many of the lessons learned with us. There will be a reduction in take-home assessments but not to pre-COVID levels, and an increase in engagement on campus for all contact students. We will remain flexible and responsive so that we can ensure a successful academic year next year too. Many of the safety protocols will become part of our new world and we are finding ways to ensure that we are able to do so harmoniously and easily.

We wish you well with the final stretch of this complex year. Congratulations to you for sticking with your programme – this life lesson of tenacity and investment in yourself will reward you richly going forward.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. Coughlan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'F' and 'C'.

Dr Felicity Coughlan
DIRECTOR – THE IIE
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR - AdvTECH