



Student Residence System: First Semester 2021

Working together to secure a healthy and safe residence environment for all

To limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, all double rooms in the residence system will serve as single rooms, and all students will need to exercise individual responsibility to comply with the required public health safety protocols. We are committed to making student residences available for new first-year students as well as returning students. We also have contingency plans in place to address a possible shortage of beds.

The use of single-room accommodation will be reviewed for the second semester. Residences may revert to double-room accommodation depending on the risk of COVID-19 infection at that time. UCT reserves the right to change to double-room residence accommodation for students, depending on accommodation needs and the trajectory of the pandemic at that time.

For the health and safety of everyone in the residence system, we are instituting a 'safe arrival' quarantine period

Every student coming into the UCT residence system will need to stay in quarantine in their rooms for the first seven days after arrival. This is to ensure that any student coming into residence who may be carrying the COVID-19 virus does not spread it to other students and staff members and cause a localised hotspot. During the 'safe arrival' quarantine period, we will work with students to monitor their health and screen for possible symptoms. Where appropriate and necessary, we will provide medical care and support to students who develop symptoms.

This is a precaution to assist us all in jointly managing the high-density residence environment, in the interest of all students and staff. Everyone at the university needs to work together to ensure that we adhere to health and safety practices. Students in residences need to join staff members in taking personal responsibility to adhere to the necessary rules and regulations that will serve to create safer environment for everyone. Areas around UCT were recently identified as infection 'hot spots', so taking the necessary precautions will benefit everyone in the campus community.

Students in the Faculty of Health Sciences who are required to be in the health system as part of their academic clinical learning programme will be informed by the Faculty of Health Sciences about safety protocols they will need to follow, including conditions under which they may need to enter a quarantine period.

Meals served during the quarantine period will be charged to the students' fee accounts, whether a student is in catering or self-catering residence.

Managing students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and their possible 'close contacts'

UCT continues to follow the relevant protocols of the health authorities in respect of COVID-19 testing, symptom monitoring and contact tracing.

- [Read about UCT's responses to COVID-19](#)

If students become a close contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, we will follow the 'close contact quarantine period' as prescribed by the Department of Health.

If a student in residence is notified that they have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for the virus, UCT will facilitate their quarantine, where they will remain for 10 days (the current period prescribed by the Department of Health). Students in 'close-contact quarantine' will be monitored every day for possible symptoms. Those who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive will be transferred to the UCT Isolation medical facility, where they will receive any necessary medical care and support and be provided with meals to be charged to their fee accounts.

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