

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

COMMUNIQUE ON EXAMINATIONS

The Open University of Mauritius (OU) had initially scheduled the May/June 2020 Examinations series to start as from the last week of May 2020. Consequently, due to the COVID-19 confinement in force in Mauritius, OU had postponed the examinations pending clearance from the Authorities. OU has now been given clearance to organise the end of semester examinations as from **1 July 2020**.

The examinations timetable is being posted on the e-learn platform (Moodle) and will be sent by email to all learners. OU will administer the examinations at two centres in compliance with the sanitary conditions as stipulated by the COVID-19 law. OU would like to re-assure its students and stakeholders that all necessary precautions shall be taken to ensure the safety and health of students as well as staff during the examinations. Some of the most important measures that we will be implementing during examinations are enumerated below:

- obligatory wearing of masks by all students and staff at examination centres and thus **candidates without a mask will not be admitted in the examination centre**;
- provision of hand sanitisers;
- ensuring a social distancing of 1m between all those on OU premises;
- provision of facilities to record body temperature of students and staff on a daily basis;
- sanitising of common surfaces like door knobs, tables, chairs etc before and after each examination session; and
- following established protocol in case any student/staff falls sick with COVID -19 symptoms on OU premises.

It would NOT be compulsory for candidates to wear gloves. Those who feel they should wear gloves, should bring same with them.

A detailed Notice on precautionary measures to be taken by learners for examinations will be issued shortly to guide learners.

As usual OU relies on its students to maintain a safe and secure environment.

OU has taken cognizance of some views and comments expressed on social media recently by some individuals mentioning that *“OU is organising examinations in order to churn money”*. **OU strongly condemns such malicious comments which are an attempt to tarnish OU’s image and reputation and authors may be liable to prosecution under ICTA regulations for misuse of ICT facilities** as well as under the University regulations. **In fact, the option of not organising exam would have led OU to save more than one million rupees.**

OU considers that **examinations constitute a critical element in the quality assurance process of assessment**. Therefore, it has to abide by its quality assurance procedures and the criteria set in the programme documents to ensure that students are assessed with all the rigour required for a higher education programme. Several students, **including frontline workers**, have expressed their wish to attend examinations despite the challenging and unprecedented situation they are facing because they have made sacrifices and worked hard to get the chance to complete their higher studies in the given time.

Replacing examinations by assignments is not a viable option as those who are not ready for examinations are unlikely to be ready for assignments as both are based on the entire content of the programme.

Nevertheless, a learner who would **not be able to attend examinations** due to plausible reasons, supported by documentary evidence(s) (health problems, exigencies of service, death of a close relatives etc) may be exceptionally allowed to defer their examinations to **December 2020 only** or even repeat the current semester as from August 2020 **WITHOUT any additional fee**. Such students are requested to fill in the attached Form for Deferment and submit same to the Academic Affairs Division by email **ONLY** on studentsupport@open.ac.mu by **Friday 5 June 2020**. Learners must note that all deferments will have an impact on the total time they will require to complete their entire course.

The Open University of Mauritius wishes all its students the best of luck for the forthcoming examinations and re-assures them that their health and safety is as much our concern as their academic achievements.

Management
Open University of Mauritius