Dear Prospective Nelson Mandela University student

According to our records you have been accepted to study at Nelson Mandela University in the 2021 academic year and could be doing at least one 1st year module in the Department of Computing Sciences. If you **do** intend to register at Nelson Mandela University, please read through this email **in full**, as it contains very important information for being able to participate in these modules – if you are **NOT** planning to register at NMU, please delete and ignore this email.

Registration

For students who do not yet have funding for registration, please note that you can apply for down-payment exemption at the following address: http://financialaid.mandela.ac.za

Please also send an email to the course-coordinator below to ensure that you do not miss out on anything as you must be participating in the course to register late.

1st year Computing Sciences modules

The 1st year modules done in Computing Sciences are as follows:

Module Code	Course Co-ordinator	Contact email
BIS1101	Ms Amanda Esterhuyse	Amanda.Esterhuyse@mandela.ac.za
BSW1121	Ms Hayley Irvine	Hayley.Irvine@mandela.ac.za
WRAV101	Ms Marinda Taljaard	Marinda.Taljaard@mandela.ac.za
WRFV101 or WRFX101	Ms Hayley Irvine	Hayley.Irvine@mandela.ac.za
WRFV1X0	Ms Amanda Esterhuyse	Amanda.Esterhuyse@mandela.ac.za
WRSC111[i]	Ms CH (Dixie) Dixie	Dixie@mandela.ac.za

i: *This module is ONLY for B Eng (Mechatronics) students and B Sc students who have Applied Maths in their degree programme. All other Science students should register for WRFV101 or, if extended programme, WRFX101.*

Access to equipment and internet connection

All Computing Sciences modules will be offered online ONLY, BUT in order to participate in these modules, students MUST have suitable equipment to install and use the necessary software. As such, if you do not have a computer (laptop or desktop) to work on that is capable of running the software to be used (see point 3 in the **Vital preparation required** section below), or do not have adequate internet connection to regularly participate in lectures and pracs, you will need to come to campus to be able to access the computers and internet connectivity in the Department of Computing Sciences computer labs. *You cannot use a mobile phone for these modules – the mobile-applications are not powerful enough and do not include all the needed features.*

Access to campus

To be able to access campus to use our labs, you will need a permit issued to you by the university. If you need to apply for a permit, please email Terry-Lane.Kriel@mandela.ac.za. In the email, please state your **full name and student number**, and the **reasons for needing to access campus**, for example "*I do not have a computer, so need to use the computer labs*" or "*I do not have a reliable network connection where I live*".

Vital preparation required

We understand that not all students are able, for various reasons, to register now. However, it is important that those who will register later do not fall behind with the work presented for their programme. To ensure you stay up to date and have every opportunity to be properly prepared for upcoming assessments, you need to take note of these points.

1. Work through the following sections in the GetDigiReady programme that can be accessed via a mobile phone or laptop at this address http://getdigiready.mandela.ac.za/:

    - Setting up your email (under *Mobile Device Setup*)
      All future emails from this team will ONLY be delivered to student email addresses, so this is a very important step.
    - The entire *Student Portal* section
    - The *Navigation* video under *Email basics* – especially if you are new to email
    - The entire *Moodle* section

2. Register online for your modules as soon as possible:

    a. You can register from anywhere by logging on to the Student Portal or the Nelson Mandela University website http://www.mandela.ac.za

    b. If you are not able to register immediately and will only register after 15 March (late registration), please note the following ***important information***:

        - Send an email to your Course Coordinator so that your name can be added to the Class List, to ensure that you receive all the module information and access to all the module resources. In this same email, inform the Course Coordinator whether you will need to start classes on campus from the week of 15 March or whether you have your own device (laptop or desktop) and will be working attending online.

        - You **MUST** attend your lectures and complete all required practical tasks and submissions while waiting to register. Failure to do so will mean ***you will not be allowed to register for the module*** as you will not have done the learning required to successfully complete the module.

        - See Registration info at the start of this message.

3. Apply for a campus permit (see the **Access to campus** section above) if you do not have a desktop or laptop that meets these minimum specifications (**NOTE:** Use of an Apple Mac is NOT recommended. File Management and MS Access tasks are not compatible with Apple Mac.):

    a. 1.6 gigahertz (GHz) or faster, dual-core processor - preferably not a Celeron, but if you have already purchased this, it will be adequate, just slow.
    b. 4 GB RAM minimum
    c. 500GB Hard drive minimum with 4GB available for Office to be installed if not already there
    d. If you are registered for **WRAV101 or WRSC111**, then a higher spec computer is required:
        i.   An I5 Intel Processor and 8GB RAM

4. If you have your own device, once you are registered or have received temporary access to the module resources, you need to ensure that you have the software that you need for your module installed. The software is available to students free from the NMU Student Portal (**Note:** *to access the Student Portal you must sign in with your NMU credentials*):

Module Code	Software
All	Office 2016 (self-purchased) ***OR*** Office 365 (free to NMU Students at www.students.mandela.ac.za/Office365) and includes MS Teams and Team Viewer WhatsApp installed on your mobile-phone
WRAV101	Visual Studio 2019 (free but not on the portal – your lecturer will communicate about access)
WRSC111	MATLAB (free to NMU Students, but only needed later – your lecturer will communicate which elements are required)

Initial FAQs:

Issue	Information
Permit for Campus	See the section ***Access to campus*** above
Minimum Lap-Top Specifications	See point 3 in the section ***Vital preparation required*** above
Accommodation	For queries regarding residence availability and registration, please contact resadmissions@mandela.ac.za
Time-Tables	Where duplicate sessions are offered, this will be communicated to you by your Course Coordinator

Text Books	**BIS1101, BSW1121, WRFV101, WRFX101 and WRFV1X0**:
	    There are no prescribed text books
	WRAV101: A <u>recommended</u> text book is:
	    Visual C# by **Joyce Farrell.**
	    Any edition will be acceptable. *(You are welcome to use any introductory programming textbook)*
	WRSC111:
	    The Prescribed textbook is:
	    Chapman, S.J. (2009). Essentials of MATLAB Programming 3rd Ed. International Student Edition, CENGAGE Learning: USA

Live Sessions	All live sessions with students and lecturers will be held using MS Teams – students will be registered in Module Teams by the Course Coordinators

Questions or concerns

Communication with NMU

When communicating in any form with the university, whether by email, direct messaging apps or call, ***always*** include all relevant information, including:

- Your student number
- Your name
- The module code you are referring to (if applicable)
- All other information pertinent to your enquiry

Who to contact

Questions regarding the content of this email or any of the modules discussed here:

- Reply to this email or contact the relevant Course-Coordinator for your module using the email address in table in the section ***1st year Computing Sciences Modules*** above.

Questions about other modules or aspects of your studies: Contact your Faculty's **Academic Advisor**.

Faculty	Name	Contact email
Business & Economic Sciences (Commerce)	Jordin Slabbert	Jordin.Slabbert@mandela.ac.za
Education	Mary-Anne Laufs	Mary-Anne.Laufs@mandela.ac.za
Engineering	Yonela Mashabala	Yonela.Mashabala@mandela.ac.za
Health Sciences	Nathi Nelani	Nathi.Nelani@mandela.ac.za
Humanities (Arts)	*Unknown at this time*	
Law	Kim Hurter	Kim.Hurter@mandela.ac.za
Science	Penny Lithauer	Penny.Lithauer@mandela.ac.za