

22 May 2020

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## **The Mandela School during COVID-19: webinar series, masterclass series and remote learning**

On 15 March 2020, [President Cyril Ramaphosa](#) announced that the COVID-19 outbreak has been declared a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act. This was followed by the announcement of the nationwide lockdown on 27 March, aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19.

In response to COVID-19, the [Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance](#) at the University of Cape Town (UCT), has been working hard to assist students and to ensure that the academic year continues.

The part-time masters, first and second year semesters in June and July, which consists of 38 students, that are spread across 12 African countries, will be taught remotely using both synchronous and asynchronous modalities.

First years are submitting their course assignments which the teaching faculty is grading, while second years are receiving supervision for their research proposal writing. The Mandela School's postgraduate team plans for all courses to be completed as prearranged and research dissertations to be submitted in December 2020.

The postgraduate team continues to provide executive coaching sessions to first-year students. All the academic management structures at the School and UCT are functional for decision-making. Eleven 2018 Masters students will graduate this year!



*The postgrad team: Academic Director, Dr Shanil Haricharan, Postgraduate Programme Manager Elvina Moosa, Mandela School Director, Professor Faizel Ismail, Programme Coordinator Zikhona Sikota, and Lecturer Musa Nxele. Photo: Michael Hammond*

The Mandela School has also been hosting informative webinar series aimed at understanding how COVID-19 has affected various countries in Africa. The webinar series has since involved the School's alumni and current students by inviting them to share their stories on COVID-19.

The first webinar was held on 28 April, and it considered Africa's response to COVID-19. The event was chaired by the School's director, Professor Faizel Ismail and discussants included Professor Carlos Lopes from the Mandela School, Professor Alan Hirsch and former South African Finance Minister, Trevor Manuel.

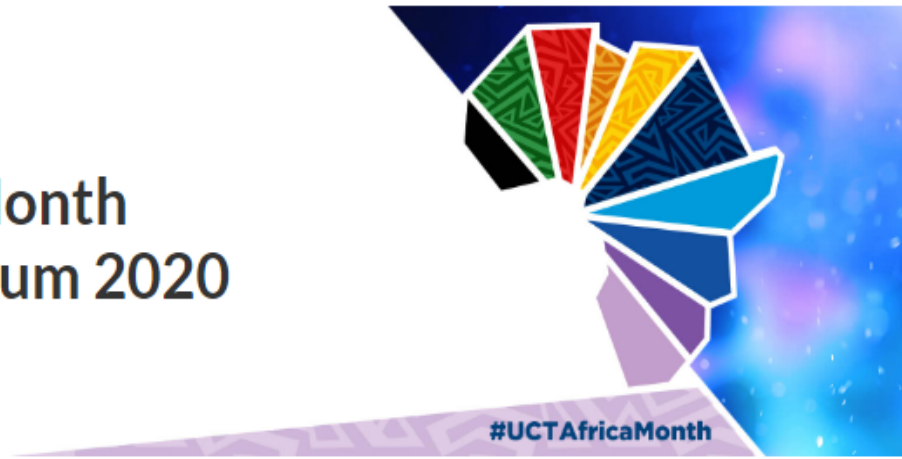
The next webinar session will take place on Africa Month, 25 May and will consider, "How the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) could stimulate an inclusive and developmental post-COVID-19 economic revival". [Join the session here](#).

In addition to the School's webinar series, Professor Carlos Lopes has been hosting a successful Masterclass Series titled: "What does contemporary Africa look like in the new decade?" The first session considered the [Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Africa](#), and was well attended online. Professor Lopes as well as Professor Alan Hirsch have written features on COVID-19, [read the articles here](#).

[The Mandela School will also be involved in this year's UCT Africa Month event](#), held in collaboration with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The event will consist of voices from academia, student activists, government voices and various experts.

The School will be hosting two webinars, one in partnership with the African Climate Foundation, on "Unpacking the climate change and development nexus in Africa: Moving beyond obligations to opportunities"; and another on "Pan-African reflections on leadership and good governance during COVID-19: good practice, challenges and opportunities"

# Africa Month Symposium 2020



**RSVP here:** for the Africa Month Symposium 2020 events, themed: *Africa's Innovations in the Global Fight Against COVID-19!*

For more information, please contact the Mandela School's Communications Manager, Andile Cele, at [andile.cele@uct.ac.za](mailto:andile.cele@uct.ac.za) or (021) 650 7019.

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