



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION VIRTUAL SMU GRADUATION CEREMONIES, 11 – 13 MAY 2020**

The Executive Committee of Senate of the University has decided to proceed to confer Degrees and award Diplomas and Higher Certificates to Graduands and Diplomates who have fulfilled the requirements for completion of their specific qualifications as follows:

1. Virtual graduation ceremonies will take place as indicated below:
  - 11 May 2020 - School of Science and Technology
  - 12 May 2020 – School of Health Care Sciences and School of Pharmacy
  - 13 May 2020 – School of Oral Health Sciences and School of Medicine
2. All qualifying candidates will graduate in absentia and their diploma/degree certificates will indicate the date of conferment/award.
3. Graduands/Diplomates will be able to check the status of their graduation from Friday, 8 May 2020.

In terms of the process, an audio-visual message of the Chancellor of the University conferring the degrees and awarding the diplomas and Higher Certificates will be posted on the website on each of the days (11 – 13 May 2020), followed by a congratulatory message from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. These messages will then be followed by a list of candidates for each School, per qualification posted on the website on each of the graduation ceremony days.

Thereafter you will receive electronic copies of your certificates from Friday, 22 May 2020. Alternatively, you can collect hard copies of your certificates and academic records from Friday, 22 May 2020 in the Enrolment and Certification Office, Room N007, Clinical Pathology Building.

Notwithstanding these virtual Graduation Ceremonies referred to above, all Graduands and Diplomates will also be afforded an opportunity “to walk the stage” at the planned Spring 2020 Graduation Ceremonies, assuming that the implications of Covid-19 would have subsided significantly and the normal business and activities of the University fully restored. The dates will be communicated after they have been confirmed by the Senate.

**Please Note:**

1. Postgraduate candidates whose graduation status cannot be confirmed on the website have either:
  - a. Not submitted their final mini-dissertation, dissertation or thesis or supporting documents before the deadline of 30 April 2020;
  - b. Have not had their mini-dissertation, dissertation or thesis results processed by the Postgraduate Committee (PGC) and approved by the Executive Committee of Senate by the deadline of 30 April 2020; or
  - c. Have not had their external assessors' reports received by the University timely to allow the finalisation of other subsequent assessment processes of the University.
2. As the possibility of an error in this notice cannot be excluded, the University reserves the right to effect the necessary changes and/or corrections. The error in the conferring of a degree/awarding of a diploma or Higher Certificate, or in the level of distinction achieved, does not give the candidate/student the right to the associated pass mark or the award/conferment of said certificate, diploma or degree.

If you have questions on any matter raised in this communique, direct them to [baatile.poo@smu.ac.za](mailto:baatile.poo@smu.ac.za). Please note that communication should be through email because staff members are currently working from home.

**DR J MABELEBELE  
REGISTRAR  
25 April 2020**