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How universities will manage walk-in students during the 2018 registration period

Universities SA (USAf) issued a statement on the 1st of January 2018 in which it discouraged walk-in applications as this posed a real and serious risk to students and staff. The tragic events that unfolded at the University of Johannesburg in 2012 have to be avoided at all cost.

At a meeting of the 26 member universities of USAf held on the 8th of January, feedback was received from a number of universities that had started to register students. In light of the broadly positive feedback received about the orderly manner in which registrations were progressing, it was decided that a more flexible approach would be adopted to address the question of walk-ins so as to ensure a successful registration period.

This statement seeks to make clear what was decided at that meeting.

- a. Universities that do not have vacant academic seats available will endeavour, to the extent that their resources and facilities permit, to provide a support facility to walk-in students to facilitate their use of -- and access to the Department of Higher Education and Training's Central Application Clearing House (CACH) system. The use of the CACH system provides students with access to vacant academic seats across the university and TVET college sectors.
- b. Universities that **do** have vacant academic seats available will process walk-in applications where there is a match between the candidate's chosen field of study and the vacant seats. Universities may also require students to use their institutional online application systems.

To the extent possible, each university will provide information on academic programmes that can still accept new students. Each university will make its position known to the prospective students and to the public at large through various forms of communication.

We look forward to an effective, smooth and successful registration period over the next 3 to 4 weeks as about 208,000 first year students enter the system for the first time and more than a million students in all register at South Africa's 26 public universities.

Universities SA is a representative association of all 26 public universities of South Africa.

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