



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR, Xi

CONTINUING STUDENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENT ADVISORY

Dear Students and Prospective Students:

RE: COVID CONCESSIONS FOR UG FACILITIES FEES

In recognition of the prevailing and escalating social and economic impacts of the Covid 19 context, The Council of the University of Guyana along with the administration of the University, in June 2020 approved a 20% reduction of the facilities fees for last semester that is semester 2 for the academic year 2019-2020 (Feb to July, 2020). Upon application of the Vice Chancellor in September 2020, the Council again extended this concession to cover the present semester for academic year 2020-2021 (November 2020 to February 2021). This reduction of 5, 000 dollars from 25,000 payable for semester 2 was being applied manually but now automatic payment protocols for fees in our SRMS have been configured to reflect this reduction.

Students who had already paid the full fees can be refunded the difference by writing to admissions@uog.edu.gy and copy to bursary.fees@uog.edu.gy requesting that the difference be applied to their facilities fees for the next semester or academic year.

The Chancellor, Pro Chancellor of the Council, Vice Chancellor and Members of the Senior Management Team have also since heard and entertained a request by the UG Students Union for a further reduction of an additional reduction to be applied the exact calculations and possible quantum of which are now been negotiated for final approval and will be announced before the beginning of the new Semester on Nov 2.

*It is important to note that there are special unplanned costs associated with delivering 1200 course online while still maintaining the physical University in readiness for a seamless return. **Facilities and Maintenance Fees of \$25,000 Guyana dollars per semester, cover among other things these specific items and was introduced in 2014 to address persistent historical gaps in overall funding for the University:***

a) Laboratory equipment, reagents, glassware and any other supplies required by labs *(40% of our courses still require labs of various kinds for Medical Sciences, Agriculture, Technology, Biology, Chemistry and Physics)*

b) Classroom improvements

(Modifications now needed including extra sanitization measures in Covid Season)

c) Internet Access to all on Campus and applications to support online environment *(In Covid environment the cost of moving courses online almost exclusively including hardware, software application, expanded storage, hosting, zoom, personnel, training, upscaling of data etc. is an massive additional upfront cost not catered for in our past budgeting. Even these fees at the current rate are insufficient because they did not consider the need for sudden rapid expansion of the online facilities of the University at the present time.)*

d) Free Medical and psychological Services and Supplies for all *(In this Covid 19 env this had to be expanded 400% to even*

include provision of tele medical services and provision, management and distribution of care packages for those severely affected. Since April 2020 UG has delivered almost 300 care packages a month and provided care and counselling for over 2000 persons).

e) Books and other materials for library – Subscriptions for journals, e-books *(While some students are not able to physically visit the library it still has to be maintained. Additionally, the Library staff have expanded their e-services to provide scans of documents requested; This semester a full scale on lining project for the Library is underway to better provide for an online based delivery in the Covid context)*

f) Improvement of Facilities for Sports *(all sports have been suspended for this semester, but it should be noted that sports day did occur in 2019 -20 academic year)*

g) Office Furniture and Equipment (only for student benefits); *(We are still outfitting the new student complex with support from this aspect of the fund).*

h) Repairs and Maintenance

i) Improvement of facilities conducive to Learning and Delivery of Education *(More needed now with need for physical distancing).*

j) Student Research Projects and Hosting of the Presentation of Final Year Projects *(Still happening and given the move from Final Exams to continuous and final evaluations this requires continuous expansion of assessment and evaluation mechanisms for an online setting).*

k) Student Insurance Costs (50%); *(Still required)*

l) Off Campus Training and Practicum as required by Programmes *(Still required and unavoidable for some course s but must now be extended over space and time to cater for safety and distancing requirements hence more resources are expended to achieve the same result in the Covid context).*

The fee also covers a modest Student Unions Due and a Cautionary Deposit.

It should also be noted that despite its own modest resources and additional costs incurred during the Covid19 period, **the University of Guyana has not discontinued delivery to any student who could not pay in the last semester. New students are asked to utilize the support mechanisms available**

through government scholarships and the Government of Guyana Student Loan Agency. For more information visit <https://uog.edu.gy/student-loans>. Telephone Number: **222-5418**. **If you need further student support reach out to studentswelfare@uog.edu.gy and pace@uog.edu.gy (Student Support Fund for non-scholarship support in the Vice Chancellors office).**

The University has also augmented its help desk with 14 new lines manned by student representatives accepting calls, WhatsApp and text messages 24/7, in addition to email and a chat feature which will be available from Monday. **Self-assistance for frequently asked questions is also available and persons can visit the University website at <https://www.uog.edu.gy/newsletters/faqs-september-2020>.**

UG's New Help Desk Numbers are:

Turkeyen Campus Registration Support Numbers: 623-1941, 623-1867, 623-1869, 623-1871, 623-1924, 623-1940, 623-1942, 624-1943, 623-1944, 623-1945, 623-1946, 623-1948/

Berbice Campus Registration Support numbers: 623-1943, 623-1949.

Please be assured that the University of Guyana is doing all it can to support the success of our present students and those we look forward to welcoming for the new semester. We understand and we care not only about the quality of your education but also about the quality of your experience and your life in general.

*Prof. Paloma Mohamed Martin, Ph. D
Vice Chancellor, Xi
The University of Guyana*