

Learning with Technology – information letter to all First Year Students 2023

(Centre for Academic Technologies – CAT)



Welcome to the University of Johannesburg. We are here to help and guide you to connect to UJ's online resources.

← **Click on the CAT image** to watch a **Welcome to CAT @ UJ** video.

All the information from the video is in this letter, and we have provided links to assist you in going online easily.

Firstly, uLink is the portal to all online facilities at UJ. Here you will find all the relevant tools to help you carry out your daily tasks as a student and successfully complete your studies. You will need to use a [password](#) (that you create when you register) to log into uLink. Once you log into [uLink](#), you will find your Blackboard (Bb) learning modules, personal timetable and registration information, results for tests and examinations, financial statements, the inter-campus bus schedule, and many more. You can also find links to free software such as Microsoft Office and UJ services such as the library. Do take a minute to explore the different tabs or quick links available on uLink. If you use your phone for online learning, we suggest you download the Blackboard Learn app for your mobile phone or tablet.

A lot of your learning will take place online, so you need to familiarise yourself with Blackboard, UJ's Learning Management System. On Blackboard, you will find a menu with all the modules (subjects) that you are registered for. (On Bb, they are called courses.) In each module, you will receive announcements for that specific module, find module information and content, be able to communicate with your lecturer, tutors and other students inside the module. You can also view videos and download learning material. All your academic work will be done in this online space.

To help you get used to Blackboard, we have created a module where you can practice how to submit an assignment, take a test or assessment, and participate in a discussion. You can find the module by logging into uLink: click on the Blackboard tab and go to Courses. Scroll down in the right-hand banner to find TC02022 First Year Orientation: Learning with Technology (uLink → Blackboard Login → Courses → TC02023 First Year Orientation: Learning with Technology).

You can work through the module on your own. You are encouraged to join any live, [guided Blackboard session](#) that will take place over a period of eight weekdays from 25 January to 3 February 2023. Please note that the links will only be live during the set time of the sessions. Three sessions are scheduled per day. You may join any session that suits you and are welcome to join as many of these sessions as you feel you need to, in order to be well-prepared for classes which will start on Monday, 13 February 2023. Please also make sure to visit your faculty's orientation module (uLink → Blackboard Login → Organisations → First Year Orientation), where you will find important information and tips to help you to settle in and be successful in your studies.

Please do not purchase textbooks unless recommended by your lecturers. Students will either be able to buy an entry level computer at UJ or be eligible for a loan laptop.

Once you have registered and should need any support accessing your modules on Blackboard, or have any technology-related questions or concerns, please contact us at uhelp@uj.ac.za at **011 559 3580**.

Once again, a hearty welcome to UJ!

Look out for all communication you will receive from our side, to keep you updated, prepared and on track.

