

Dear Veganite,

DATA AND CONNECTIVITY READINESS FOR ONLINE LEARNING

We would like to take this opportunity to discuss a few areas that you need to consider regarding access to and usage of data before we launch online on the 15th of April.

1) Access to data and hardware

For you to work online, you will need to have access to data and IT hardware (desktop/laptop and/or tablet/smartphone). Please make sure that this is in place.

Data: Should you **have a problem with data, it is essential for you to engage with nsewnunan@vegaschool.com by 5pm on Thursday 9 April 2020** so that we can assist you.

Hardware: A laptop/desktop is ideal for online learning. You will be able to access all URLs and view the necessary videos and content using your chosen browser if you have a tablet/smartphone. **If you do not have access to any hardware**, please notify your **Relationship Navigator before the 14th of April** so that we can plan for catch up sessions once contact classes resume.

2) Network connectivity

This past month has seen unprecedented personal data usage volumes due to increased home usage of streaming services and many people shifting to working from home. Your connection during your online sessions may thus be constrained. We suggest that you download your materials outside of peak-times and work offline as much as possible. You would only need to work online during your scheduled sessions (as per your normal timetable) with your navigator. We have also lengthened the assessment submission deadline to midnight (23h59), to provide a larger off-peak window for this.

3) Cost of data

Data is the new petrol. As the country went into lockdown, people started converting their monthly transport or petrol spend into data to 'get around' and stay connected. We encourage you to re-allocate the budget that you would have used to travel to campus, on your data costs instead. We suggest you investigate some of the data offers your bank may have launched.

4) Data Usage

Our projections indicate that you will need between 5GB to 8GB (with the exception of certain design programmes) of data per month to support the following activities: the download of module material, online interaction with your navigators, access to library resources, submission of assessments on SafeAssign, access to supplementary "click through" material embedded in your module material, and potentially accessing other sites for research purposes and to complete assignments. To limit data usage, we suggest, streaming your navigator's recordings and not downloading them, unless you need to reference the recording extensively, in which case consider downloading these in off-peak times as per section 2) above. The Vega Learn platform is designed to be data-light in support of efficient data usage.

To minimise data usage, we recommend the following:

1. Set your connection as metered if possible.
2. Turn off automatic system updates on your desktop/laptop.
3. Avoid excessive streaming.
4. Monitor online backups to cloud storage.
5. Deactivate auto updates on your phone if on same connection as your desktop/laptop.

We look forward to going live with you online on the 15th of April.

Stay safe,

The Vega Team



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