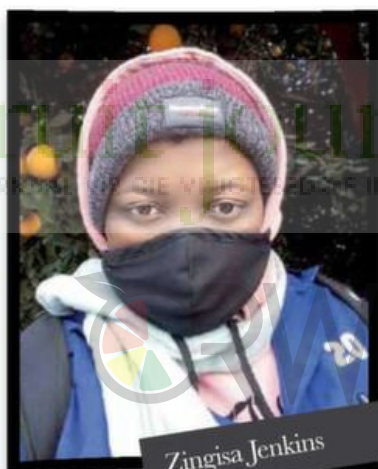


LEARNING in the time of COVID-19

Citrus Academy Bursary Fund students report on how they are coping with the pandemic

CCOVID-19 lockdown regulations have impacted everyone personally in many ways, including the Citrus Academy Bursary Fund students. We reached out to a few of our students to find out how they are being affected, specifically how they are adjusting to their academic programmes being disrupted, and what they are doing to cope with these sudden and unexpected changes to their study year. We acknowledge their perseverance and commitment to doing their best under these challenging circumstances. #GoTeamCitrus



Zingisa Jenkins

Wearing a mask all the time is still a struggle, but safety and hygiene is life. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many sectors of the economy, especially the education sector, where I've learned to rely on e-learning. Thanks to the Citrus Academy, who always has our back in times of need, I was able to continue with my academic work. **Zingisa Jenkins** (N Dip Agric, University of Mpumalanga)

Cooped up with the family in the house is difficult, but staying alone is the worst. I came back to Stellenbosch and moved into a flat where I now live alone. I endured my last few weeks in my family house with my parents and brother. I was irritated, fed up and excited to come back to Stellenbosch. Needless to say, I miss them very much now. The lockdown has taught me the value of family. If you have the privilege of staying among loved ones during these difficult and confusing times, appreciate them. Sure, your mother constantly reminds you to study. Sure, your siblings can annoy you. But as soon as you are on your own, you miss them so much. I appreciate my family a lot more now than I did before lockdown. I cannot wait to go home again. **Alfred Horne** (BSc Agric – Plant and Soil Science, University of Stellenbosch)



Alfred Horne


Solly Tsotetsi

Lockdown has its ups and downs. But for me the awesome thing is that I've been able to spend so much time with my family. We've chuckled through these tough times, and it's been great to see us supporting each other, side by side. There was a point I was tired of washing dishes, but it was all fun. Shout out to the Citrus Academy team! I wrote my exams and I passed, the data you provided really helped me to study and keep me indoors (social media vibes). What I have learnt from all of these events is that tough times never last, but the good memories always do. **Solly Tsotetsi** (BEng Hons Ind Eng, University of Pretoria)


Ruth Selaula

Lockdown has forced me to put part of my research on hold. It is very challenging to go around different farms collecting data for my research. It is making me anxious, as time is not really on my side. The academic year is moving fast and as a postgraduate student, it rests upon me to juggle around the academic calendar and COVID-19 regulations to make it work, or be prepared to not complete on time. For me, this is just not an option. With regards to the new norm of wearing a mask, well, I have adapted well and made it part of my everyday life. It's a matter of us asking ourselves if we care for our families and the people in our communities. **Ruth Selaula** (M Sus Agric, University of Free State).

COVID-19 has proven to be a big disadvantage for me academically and practically. Not being able to attend contact classes robbed me of the opportunity to understand the work that I am studying. So, I've been studying just to pass, without an in-depth understanding of the work. My course is a very practical one, with 60% theory and 40% practical, which I could not attend. It was sad not to be able to do vacation work, which I always look forward to. The year 2020 has not been a good one so far, but I am trying by all means to progress. **Yanga Gagasi** (BSc Agric – Plant Pathology, University of Stellenbosch)

Yanga Gagasi

Puseletso Tswaai


The lifestyle change due to lockdown can be a bit depressing at times, but I try to stay positive and pray to God to help us fight this pandemic. Personally, the lockdown has had a lot of negative effects on my studies. Theory guides practical. A lot of my work has to be done in the laboratory, so I've experienced major setbacks in my research. At the moment theory is the only thing I can do, since I can't access the laboratory. I've been keeping myself busy with research and thesis write-ups on chapters such as

literature review. It's not all bad, since I managed to read up a lot and am still doing so. **Puseletso Tswaai** (M Applied Science – Chemistry, Tshwane University of Technology)

