



ANNEXURE C

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION: RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS

(Version 1 – 21 February 2022)

Sol Plaatje University (SPU) makes every effort to ensure the health and safety of its employees, students, stakeholders, and the wider community. The University therefore requires all employees, students and independent contractors to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, as per the Vice-Chancellor's Directive on COVID-19 Vaccinations (9 December 2021 and 28 January 2022)

All SPU employees, students and independent contractors may apply for an exemption from this Directive based on religious considerations. Applications in this regard must be submitted by 28 February 2022.

All requests are pending until applicants receive written notice of a decision by the Vaccination Exemption Committee (VEC). Until the decision by the VEC has been communicated to the applicant, all applicants must comply with the existing institutional COVID-19 protocols until a decision is made. Individuals who are denied an exemption shall have seven (7) calendar days from the date of notification of the decision to appeal directly to the Vice-Chancellor or comply with the decision of the VEC.

SECTION I

Name:	Surname:
Date of Birth:	
Position:	
School/Department:	Line Manager:
Staff/Student Number:	
Email:	Phone Number:

A sincerely held religious conviction:

- Should be **more than** a social, economic, or political philosophy.
- Should be an established religious doctrine of a recognised and existing religious congregation.
- Should **not** solely be a belief about vaccinations and one's personal preference.

Please provide a personal statement detailing the basis for your objections to the COVID-19 vaccination, explaining why you are requesting the exemption, the religious principle(s) that guide your objection to this vaccination, and the religious basis that prohibits the COVID-19 vaccination.

Please attach a letter from your religious congregations' leader to support your application. SPU may need to discuss the nature of your religious belief(s) and practice(s) with you or your religious leader(s) (if applicable). SPU may also request additional supporting documentation if needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONSENTS

I hereby acknowledge that the VEC and Human Resources (with regard to employees and independent contractors) or Student Affairs (with regard to students) can contact me as well as my religious leader regarding my stated reasons which prevent me from receiving the COVID-19 vaccination, should it be required.

I further acknowledge that if my request is approved, I will be exempted from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, and I will be required to comply with the following provisions:

- a. Be required to always wear an N95 mask (like all other individuals on campus) and/or take whatever additional measures as may be deemed appropriate in the circumstances.
- b. Be required to sanitise.

Note: Updates to these requirements may be made based on Government COVID-19 regulations.

I agree to comply with these restrictions and accept the responsibility for compliance with all health and safety requirements that may be required from time to time.

I understand that by signing this form, my name and vaccination status will be shared, to the necessary extent and with those individuals duly authorised and required to have access to this information, to ensure compliance with SPU’s health and safety requirements.

I understand and assume the risks of non-vaccination. I understand that the COVID-19 vaccination is required to protect me, my co-employees, SPU students and stakeholders from COVID-19 and its complications, including severe illness and death.

I hereby agree to comply with all safety measures listed above and any other necessary and reasonable safety measures that may be required from time to time.

I acknowledge that I am aware of all current COVID-19 vaccine information and that if my request for an exemption/deferral is not approved, I will be required to comply with the provisions in this Vice-Chancellor’s Directive on COVID-19 Vaccinations.

Thus, done and signed at _____ on the _____ of _____ 20__.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE