

Communiqué 9 of 2024

To: All Public and Private Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of South Africa.

Subject: Alignment of Modes of Provision with Programme Accreditation Criteria

Background

This communiqué serves to inform higher education institutions about the critical requirement to provide comprehensive information for each mode of provision in their applications for programme accreditation.

It underscores the importance of complying with programme accreditation criteria and offers clear instructions to enhance the quality of submissions in order to increase the chances of a positive accreditation outcome.

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) has identified a recurring issue in programme accreditation applications submitted through the HEQC Online system. Specifically, many institutions select multiple modes of delivery when applying for programme accreditation for a single programme. Whilst this is permitted by the revised AR system, many of the applications fail to provide the necessary information and do not demonstrate sufficient engagement with the criteria for each selected mode of provision.

Impact of Incomplete Information in the accreditation application

Incomplete programme accreditation application information poses significant challenges in evaluating applications, as it does not adequately explain how all the selected modes will meet the programme accreditation criteria. Consequently, many of these applications receive a **Not-accredited** outcome or are deferred back to the institution. To support the accreditation process and improve the provision of clear information that addresses the accreditation criteria and the evaluation of applications, the Accreditation Directorate requires the following for an application for accreditation:

Key Requirements for Accreditation Applications

- a) **Comprehensive and complete information for each selected mode of provision:** All applications for accreditation must include detailed information with supporting evidence for each selected mode of provision. This encompasses traditional in-person, online and blended learning provision.
- b) **Alignment with Programme Accreditation Criteria:** Each mode of provision must be addressed separately, with clear explanations of how the programme will meet the accreditation criteria for that specific selected mode of provision. Parity of provision across the different selected modes of provision is also important.
- c) **Supporting Documentation:** Relevant supporting documents must be provided for each selected mode of provision to substantiate the claims made in the application.

We strongly urge all institutions to thoroughly review their applications to ensure that each selected mode of provision is fully supported by the necessary information and documentation. This will facilitate an efficient evaluation process.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Accreditation Directorate for the attention of Dr K Moodley (Moodley.k@che.ac.za). Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to upholding quality in higher education.

Yours sincerely



Dr Whitfield Green Chief Executive Officer

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