

## Communiqué 4 of 2023

<b>To:</b>	<b>All Higher Education Institutions</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Requirements of The Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) regarding the offering of higher education qualifications and programmes</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>07 June 2023</b>

### 1. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFERING HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

1.1 This Communiqué serves to remind all Higher Education Institutions of the following regulatory requirements for offering higher education programmes that must be met at all times:

- a. All programmes offered for the first time since 01 January 2020 must have been deemed accredited and confirmed HEQSF-aligned as reflected on the Offerings per Institution Report on the HEQSF-online portal or have been accredited by the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) after 2019.
- b. The qualifications to be awarded upon successful completion of the programmes must be registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).
- c. For public institutions, the programmes and /or qualifications must form part of the institution's Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) approved by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).
- d. For Private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the programmes must be registered on the DHET's Register of Private HEIs by site of offering.

1.2 Institutions are further reminded that enrollments against programmes and achievements must be reported on the Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS)/ Higher Education Quality Committee Information System (HEQCIS), as accredited by the HEQC, registered on the NQF and recorded in the PQM/Register of Private HEIs.

1.3 All correspondence with the CHE on accredited programmes and qualifications must include the full title as accredited, the NQF level, number of credits, mode, HEQC Reference as well as the SAQA ID.

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**Members:** Ms Vuyo Memani-Sedile (Chairperson), Prof Lesley Le Grange, Prof Angina Parekh, Prof Yusef Waghid, Adv. Nomazotsho Memani, Dr Nita Lawton-Misra, Prof Daniel van der Nest, Ms Koketjo Rebecca Magongoa, Dr Tholsie Naidoo, Adv. Matefo Majodina, Mr Mphedziseni Muluvhahotho, Dr Bheka Zulu, Mr Grant Son and Ms Dorina Ionescu

**Ex-officio members:** Mr Sagren Govender (Department of Labour), Mr Vijayen Naidoo (CEO: QCTO), Dr Marcia Socikwa (DDG: DHET), Dr Mafu Rakometsi (CEO: Umalusi), Ms Nadia Starr (CEO: SAQA), Dr Fulufhelo V. Nelwamondo (CEO: NRF); Dr M Simelane (DBE), Mr Imraan Patel (DSI) and Dr W Green (CEO: CHE)

1.4 Institutions are reminded that:

- a. Accreditation cannot apply retrospectively; thus, students may not be enrolled into programmes that have not been accredited.
- b. Programmes may not be marketed on any medium until the requirements listed in 1.1 (a-d) above are met.
- c. Programmes may only be offered at approved sites of provisioning.
- d. All requests for changes of sites of provisioning must be submitted on the HEQC-online prior to the changes being made.
- e. Changes to accredited programmes must be submitted to the CHE for approval following the established process of PQM approval by the DHET (for public institutions), submission for evaluation and approval by the HEQC and recommendation to SAQA where appropriate.
- f. Institutions retain the responsibility of ensuring that any changes to programmes do not compromise the integrity of the programme as accredited.

## **2. GENERIC QUALIFICATIONS, LEARNING PROGRAMMES, INTERNAL STREAMS/ PLANS**

2.1 As part of the preparations for the implementation of the new Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), the CHE will engage with the other regulators and with the institutions to ensure a shared understanding of qualifications and learning programmes, as envisaged in the new approach to accreditation, as well as arrangements for certification.

2.2 In the interim, institutions are requested to note that:

- a. Enrolment and awards against generic qualifications is only allowed if the generic qualification concerned forms part of the institution's HEQSF-aligned record and meets the other requirements stipulated in 1.1 a-d above as appropriate.
- b. Similarly, enrolment and award against specialisations is only allowed where each specialisation concerned meets all the requirements stipulated in 1.1 a-d above.
- c. Institutions have the responsibility of ensuring that all their offerings meet these requirements.
- d. Where the institution offers internal learning plans/ streams/ plans, it must ensure that it awards against qualifications that meet all the requirements in 1 above. In such cases, the institution may use an endorsement on the certificate.
- e. No internal streams/ plans etc. may be offered within professional qualifications.
- f. Should institutions wish to offer internal plans/streams as full qualifications, they are required to submit these for accreditation.

2.3 The CHE is aware that there may be institutions that are not fully compliant with the requirements listed above. Where this is the case, the institutions are urgently requested to communicate any anomalies to the CHE.

### 3. QUALIFICATIONS REACHING END DATES

3.1 The CHE is aware that the majority of qualifications on the HEQSF are due to reach their end of registration on 30 June 2023.

3.2 The CHE will request SAQA to extend end registration dates of all qualifications that form part of each institution's HEQSF-aligned record, initially to 30 June 2024. This will be reviewed later in line with each institution's accreditation cycle, taking into account finalisation of the HEQSF Review process and the introduction of the QAF.

3.3 SAQA will be requested to deregister all other non-HEQSF aligned qualifications from the NQF.

### 4. OUTSOURCING OF OFFERING AND PARTNERSHIPS

4.1 Institutions are reminded that outsourcing of any aspect of delivery of programmes is not allowed. Partnerships and / or affiliations for purposes of any aspect of offering is not allowed.

### 5. PROGRAMME OFFERINGS, MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

5.1 Institutions are reminded that there is no automatic transfer of accreditation in the event of a merger or acquisition.

5.2 Where changes are planned or anticipated, institutions are urged to engage with the DHET and the CHE well in advance to enable planning.



Dr W. Green  
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 07 June 2023

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