

Communiqué 5 of 2024

To: The Higher Education Sector, All Higher Education Stakeholders and the Public

Subject: Call for Nominations / Applications: HEQC Institutional Audit Panel Members

The Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) is a permanent committee established to perform the quality assurance functions of the Council on Higher Education (CHE). The CHE is an independent statutory body established in terms of the Higher Education Act, No. 101 of 1997 and as the Quality Council for Higher Education in terms of the National Qualifications Framework Act, No. 67 of 2008. The CHE advises the Minister of Higher Education and Training on all higher education issues and is responsible for quality assurance and promotion. One of the functions of the HEQC is to audit the quality assurance mechanisms of higher education institutions, both public and private, through the mechanism of institutional audits.

The quality promotion and assurance functions of the CHE are peer-driven. Institutional audit panels of the HEQC are comprised of:

- credible, experienced higher education administrators,
- higher education quality assurance specialists,
- former and current higher education institutional leaders and managers at all levels, and
- former and current senior higher education academics.

An audit panel would ideally combine disciplinary and specialist expertise – e.g. governance, finance, planning, institutional research, audit, compliance, etc.), as well as management and administrative expertise and experience with knowledge of, and commitment to, quality assurance and promotion in higher education. Its members would also demonstrate a deep understanding of the transformative role of higher education in social and economic development.

The CHE invites nominations of and applications from people (from both public and private higher education institutions) who fit the specified profile and who meet several of the following criteria to serve on institutional audit panels as of 2024. The CHE will assess a candidate's knowledge and skills based on education and work experience, which should include an appropriate combination of the following:

1. A willingness and an ability to form independent and informed judgments:

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- on the effectiveness of institutional quality assurance arrangements and related matters at higher education institutions.
 - in areas that require specialist expertise that the person may have. These areas must be defined and mutually agreed on by the person and the CHE.
2. A degree or postgraduate qualification. For academic peers, this should be at the level of a Master's degree or higher.
 3. Substantial experience (five years or more) relating to the core academic functions of learning and teaching, research, and community engagement in higher education institutions.
 4. Reasonable experience in higher education governance, management and administration, and/or managerial experience in the provision of support services within higher education institutions.
 5. Experience in, and/or understanding of, the management of quality in higher education.
 6. Knowledge of – and experience in – evaluation activities in higher education.
 7. An understanding of the policy and regulatory environment of the South African higher education sector.
 8. Involvement in policy development, regulatory and advisory bodies, and activities that affect the management of higher education institutions and the conduct of their core academic activities.
 9. Familiarity with the basic principles and policies informing the CHE's approach to audits and a willingness to work within that framework.
 10. The ability to assimilate, analyse and evaluate large amounts of information.
 11. The breadth of perspective, knowledge and experience to make reliable evidence-based judgments in relation to the effectiveness of QA arrangements at higher education institutions.
 12. The ability to hold discussions at a high level about strategic and operational approaches in the context of higher education.

As the focus of the institutional audits is now on private higher education institutions, peer academics with expertise in the following fields are especially encouraged to apply:

- i. Fashion design
- ii. Fine Arts
- iii. Jewellery design
- iv. Visual arts
- v. Performance arts



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- vi. Graphic design
- vii. Tourism and hospitality
- viii. Production Management
- ix. Project Management
- x. Animation
- xi. Business management
- xii. Marketing
- xiii. Information Technology
- xiv. Music
- xv. Nursing
- xvi. Community development

In addition to their knowledge and skills, panellists should generally possess the following personal attributes:

- a. The ability to function well in a team context and to relate well to other people on an interpersonal level.
- b. Open-mindedness and flexibility, with a capacity to see beyond their own specific academic or professional specialisations.
- c. Being capable of adapting to, and understanding, the complex dynamics and even contestations that may be occasioned by an audit.
- d. Discretion in delicate situations and an ability to deal tactfully with people.
- e. An inquiring disposition.
- f. Keen powers of analysis and sound judgment.
- g. Adhering to strict ethical principles, such as honesty, sincerity and impartiality.
- h. Conscientiousness and attention to detail in completing the tasks included in the audit process.
- i. Well-developed oral and written communication skills.

The CHE strives to attain broad representation demographically, as well as in terms of differentiated parts of the sector. The term of office of institutional audit panels will be for the duration of an institutional audit. Once one institutional audit is completed, panel members may be considered for a subsequent audit panel.

Audit panel members will be inducted by the CHE and to make the investment worthwhile, panel members are required to participate in at least 2 institutional audits. Institutional audit panel members will be appointed in their personal capacity and not as representatives of higher education institutions, sub-sectors or stakeholder organisations.

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Members: Rev. VF Memani-Sedile (Chairperson), Prof LLL Le Grange, Prof A Parekh, Prof Y Waghid, Adv. N Memani, Dr N Lawton-Misra, Prof DP van der Nest, Ms KR Magongoa, Dr TS Naidoo, Adv. MJ Majodina, Mr MN Muluvhahotho, Dr CB Zulu, Dr GR Son and Ms D Ionescu, Prof VN Marivate and Prof MH Kanyane
Ex-officio members: Mr S Govender (Department of Labour), Mr V Naidoo (CEO: QCTO), Dr MM Socikwa (DDG: DHET), Dr MS Rakometsi (CEO: Umalusi), Ms N Starr (CEO: SAQA), Dr FV Nelwamondo (CEO: NRF); Dr A Nkosi (DBE), Mr I Patel (DSI) and Dr WJ Green (CEO: CHE)



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Nominations / applications from potential audit panel members from all over the world are encouraged, since much of the work will be conducted virtually. Particular expertise in blended and online learning is also sought.

Previous nominees or applicants need not apply as their details are already in the list of nominees. Updated CVs may be provided where personal details may have changed.

Please submit all nominations/applications through an updated CV and contact details by email to:

Dr Precious Sipuka
Email: sipuka.p@che.ac.za
Council on Higher Education
PO Box 94, Persequor Park, 0020

Closing date for receipt of nominations/applications: 30 August 2024

Yours sincerely

Dr Whitfield Green
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 23 July 2024

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