

HEQSF: IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

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CHE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCREDITATION

- QC for all whole qualifications (L 5 – L10 on NQF) - HEQSF
- Accredite per provider, per qualification, per mode of delivery
- One programme, one QC accreditation
- Approximately 600 applications per year
- No delegation of responsibility



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THE HEQSF

- A single qualifications framework for a single coordinated higher education system
- 11 qualification types
- Progression within framework (pg. 21, point 63)
 - Vertical, horizontal, diagonal progression



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THE HEQSF CONTINUED

- Articulation with other frameworks (pg. 7 and pg. 24, point 78)
 - relationships and linkages between and within the sub-frameworks in order to facilitate access to learning and to avoid duplication of learning already covered.
- Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT)
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
 - HEQC has recently approved a policy specifically related to the HEQSF



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AIMS OF HEQSF

- Single qualifications sub-framework for HE integrated into NQF
- Enable articulation of programmes and transfer of students between programmes & HEIs (Access)
- More rungs for HE to occupy – 11 qualification types mapped onto 6 levels of NQF
- Offers a nested approach to qualification design: qualification types / designators / qualifiers etc.
- Intended to simplify HE and make it more flexible



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HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATION SUBFRAMEWORK (HEQSF)

LEVEL 10	DOCTORATE (GENERAL & PROFESSIONAL)
LEVEL 9	MASTERS (GENERAL & PROFESSIONAL)
LEVEL 8	BACHELOR (PROFESSIONAL) / PGDIP
LEVEL 7	BACHELOR (GENERAL) / ADVANCED DIPLOMA
LEVEL 6	DIPLOMA / ADVANCED CERTIFICATE
LEVEL 5	HIGHER CERTIFICATE



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HEQSF ALIGNMENT PROJECT

- Qualifications offered at the point in time of submission were submitted by each institution for alignment to the HEQSF – public and private
 - Category A
 - Minimal changes required
 - Category B
 - More significant changes required, but less than 50%
 - Category C
 - More than 50% change required and therefore not alignable.



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HEQSF programme data

- Aligned programmes
 - 6 323
 - Category A: 5069
 - Category B: 1254
- Non-aligned programmes
 - 3806
 - Category C
- Programmes submitted for accreditation post 1 January 2011 are considered aligned



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Implementation process of the HEQSF

- Engage with CHE regarding the process
- No one knows exactly how this will conclude.
 - CHE never new what this entire process would look like from start to finish.
 - Done in collaboration with sector
 - CHE is partner with institutions
 - **Iterative process**
 - Learn and improve
 - Make necessary adjustments until desired results are achieved.



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Implications

- What are some of the strategic and operational implications for you as providers?
 - Offering aligned programmes
 - Phasing out non-aligned programmes



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Government Gazette

- 6 July 2016, Vol. 613, No. 40123 states that the Minister of Higher Education and Training stipulates that:
 - “the last date for first time entering students enrolling in academic programmes that are not aligned with the Higher Education Sub-Framework to be the 31st of December 2019.”



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Implications for HE institutions non-aligned programmes

- Plan phase out of non-aligned qualifications, i.e. Category C programmes.
 - 3806 non-aligned programmes which may need to be replaced with new programmes.
- Diversity of possible considerations/issues
 - What considerations/issues come to mind?



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Analysis and approval

- Each institution
 - Analysis of situation
 - Understand the diversity of considerations/issues
 - Approval of phase-out of programmes by Academic Planning Committee of Senate
 - The phase-out process must not be informal.
 - Institutional audits
 - CHE may check that the institution has appropriately phased out its non-aligned programmes as per approved plan



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Viability

- Is the plan viable?
 - Will replacement programmes be accredited within hoped for timeframes?
 - Have DHET and SAQA processes/timeframes been factored into institutional planning?



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CHE processes and timeframes

- Replacement programmes for non-aligned programmes
 - Large volume anticipated
 - Accreditation Directorate capacity is finite
 - 100-120 programmes per AC and HEQC
 - +/- 5 ACs and HEQCs per year
 - Submit new programmes by 3rd quarter 2017
 - Last date for enrolment is 31 December 2019
 - New programmes ideally need to be accredited and offered well before this date
 - DHET and SAQA processes should be factored in to the timeframes.



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CHE processes and timeframes continued

- Institutions may need to accelerate institutional planning to facilitate submission of programmes by 3rd quarter 2017.



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Articulation

- How will students who graduate with qualifications on the previous levels progress vertical and diagonally up the NQF?

Level	Old NQF	New NQF
10		Doctorate Degree
9		Master's Degree
8	Master's Degree / Doctorate Degree	Honours Degree
7	Honours Degree	Bachelor's Degree / Advanced Diploma
6	Bachelor's Degree / Advanced Diploma	Advanced Certificate / National Diploma
5	National Certificate / National Diploma	Higher Certificate
4	Grade 12 / NSC	Grade 12 / NSC
3	Grade 11	Grade 11
2	Grade 10	Grade 10
1	Grade 9	Grade 9



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Mechanism

- Mechanisms to assist students' progression should be put in place by each institution
- No financial burden on affected students
 - Mechanisms to assist students to progress up the NQF
 - Approved by Senate
 - New rules published in general rules admission
 - Fairly and openly applied



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Mechanism continued

- Example, NQF level 8 MBA to PhD at NQF level 10
 - There can be no automatic transfer of students registered for the NQF level 8 to the NQF level 9 programme.
 - Nor can students with an NQF level 8 MBA progress into a level 10 PhD.
- Modules may be common between NQF level 8 and 9 programmes.



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Mechanism continued

- It would, therefore, seem that simply transferring students into the level 9 programme would be straight forward. The following should be considered:
 - The programme may not be equivalent in terms of
 - Admission requirements
 - Level at which modules are pitched
 - Research requirements



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Mechanism continued

- The rules set in the HEQSF for each qualification type need to be adhered to
 - E.g. the NQF level 9 professional Master's degree requires a minimum of 180 credits
 - at least 120 must be at level 9
 - single research study or a technical report or a number of projects that constitute at least a quarter of the total credits of the qualification, i.e., 45 credits



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Mechanism continued

- HEQSF allows a maximum of 60 credits at NQF level 8 to be transferred through credit accumulation and transfer (CAT) towards the NQF level 9 qualification.



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Phasing out non-aligned programmes

- Preparation for phase out of non-aligned programmes
 - Phase out now or wait until 2019?
 - Make students aware of repercussions of staying in/enrolling for non-aligned programmes
 - Progression vertically and diagonally up the NQF
 - Repercussions should be published
 - Students should sign an acknowledgement of understanding
 - We receive many complaints re lack of knowledge from students



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Phasing out of non-aligned programmes continued

- Approval of teach out plan is responsibility of DHET
- Where possible and legitimate within the rules of the HEQSF move current students from non-aligned to aligned programmes.
 - This needs to be carefully planned and approved by the senate of each institution



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Professional bodies

- The timing of phasing out non-aligned programmes must take into account the planning of professional bodies
 - E.g. Nursing programmes and SANC requirements



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SAQA qualification ID numbers

- Aligned programmes
 - 6 323
 - Category A: 5069
 - Category B: 1254
- Programmes aligned in the HEQSF process
 - require new SAQA qualification IDs
 - Problems of advertising and offering on old SAQA qualification ID.



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Problems

- Recruiting and offering without new SAQA ID number
 - Students linked to incorrect programme ID on NLRD
 - Affects learnerships
 - Any changes including name changes require new SAQA qualification ID number
 - Challenges in obtaining new SAQA qualification ID
 - Contact CHE to discuss with SAQA



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Problems continued

- Timeframes
 - Acknowledge that timeframes for accreditation and registration (DHET and SAQA) take long. Consequently, initiatives
 - Re-engineering of accreditation process
 - Hope by 2020 comprehensive system that all bodies work off



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Questions



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Thank you

- Queries: hegsf@che.ac.za



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