



higher education  
& training

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# HEQSF PQM Implementation & Academic Programme Approval

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## Presentation Content

Part 1:  
HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of  
HEQSF Aligned PQMs (3 – 14)

Part 2:  
Systemic & University-specific Issues for  
Consideration (15 & 16)

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#### HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- CHE completed its process of analysing and aligning academic programmes submitted to the HEQC as Category A programmes at the end of March 2014.
- DHET noticed that there were a number of anomalies in the lists of Cat A Deemed Accredited programmes and that these programmes could not be placed on the PQMs of universities.

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#### HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- Formed the DHET HEQSF Reference Group
- Purpose: to act as an advisory body for the Department of Higher Education (DHET) on matters relating to the alignment of Category A and Category B qualifications and programmes on universities' Ministerial Approved PQMs and HEQSF PQMs.
- The reference group was not consulted when the Cat B deemed accredited programmes were published – unnecessary.

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#### HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- Each reference group member was assigned three or four institutions.
- Not assigned types of universities the same as the institution at which the reference group members are employed.
- Provided with the Ministerial Approved PQM; the HEQSF PQM; and the lists of Category A programmes deemed accredited as supplied by the CHE.

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#### HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- Identified each programme on the Category A list against an existing programme on the Ministerial Approved PQM and/or HEQSF PQM of the institution.
- Then evaluated whether nomenclature of the new programme name represents the original context (purpose, scientific field of study, and scientific field of specialization, etc.) of the original programme on the institution's Ministerial Approved PQM.

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#### HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- If yes: the programme was accepted as aligned with the HEQSF and included on a spread sheet containing programmes that are ready to be placed on a university's HEQSF Aligned PQM
- Where programmes were not in the member's opinion Category A programmes as per the definition, they were placed on a spreadsheet indicating that the programme is not by definition Category A programmes
- Reasons or motivations for each decision/opinion was provided.

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#### 1.

#### HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- Institutions submitted individual programmes leading to the same qualification to the CHE
- Therefore: Individual programmes are deemed accredited, instead of qualifications on the PQM
- Approved naming conventions created difficulties for UoTs and Comprehensive Universities in particular, and specifically in the case of Master of Technology (M.Tech) qualifications.
- No natural academic articulation pathway from entry level to master's level studies creating large gaps in the PQMs of these institutions.

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## HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- Hidden major fields of study (MFOSs) due to new **2008 CESM codes** while PQMs used 1982 codes (e.g.: South African Sign Language now under 1119; previously under 12 as “Language other”)
- New MFOS placing qualification into new funding level
- In certain cases where a new MFOS is used it may require extensive curriculum redevelopment

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## HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- Each RG member provided feedback of their analyses of Cat A programmes indicating
  - Is it in fact a Cat A programme?
  - If so, it was placed on the HEQSF Aligned PQM with Cat A programmes
  - If not, reasons were provided for example:
    - Not on Ministerial Approved PQM of 2004/2005
    - MFOSs suggest designator must be Commerce instead of Arts
    - **Duplications (Full research vs Structured)**

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### HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- A delegation from the DHET's Chief Directorate: University Academic Planning and Management Support met with a delegation from each university (23 in 2014)
- Outcomes of the analyses were discussed:
  - Requests for clarifications on comments
  - How many Cat programmes were submitted (several discrepancies)
  - Proof of accreditation for programmes that were not on Ministerial Approved PQMs but submitted as Cat A requested.

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### HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- Institutions requested to
  - use the HEQF PQM as a template (therefore HEQF aligned programmes that was already HEQSF aligned were already on the templates (maintain colour coding)
  - Added a column for the SAQA ID (Qual/LP ID)
  - Transferred programmes from the Ministerial Approved PQMs that did not need alignment to the HEQSF Aligned PQM or are Cat C programmes
  - ~~Strike through~~ programmes on the Ministerial Approved PQM that was longer offered or was transferred to the HEQSF Aligned PQM
  - Indicate teach-out dates or dates of last FTEN enrolments on Ministerial Approved PQM (if before 31/12/2019)
  - Included Cat A programmes agreed to by the DHET

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### HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- CHE announced deemed accredited Cat B programmes on its HEQSF Alignment website in .....
- Cat B lists contained one of three outcomes per programme:
  - Deemed Accredited
  - Needs Improvement (deferrals and resubmissions)
  - Not Cat B (representation)
  - Not HEQSF aligned (representations)
- Institutions given 30 April 2015 as deadline to resubmit programmes that needed improvement
- First batch of deferrals/representation tabled at the HEQC Board Meeting of 10 June 2015
- Remaining Cat B deferrals/representations were tabled on 02 September 2015.
- DHET advised institutions to wait for final outcomes of deferrals/representations before placing Cat B programmes on HEQSF Aligned PQMs
- Some institutions did not have any Cat B programmes – Finalised their HEQSF - Aligned PQMs

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### HEQSF Alignment Process and Populating of HEQSF Aligned PQMs

- Once CHE has completed Cat B institutions requested to add Cat B deemed accredited programmes to HEQSF-Aligned PQMs
- DHET could “see” all Cat Bs of all institutions and monitored transfer
- Deadline was 30 November 2015 and HEQSF Aligned PQMs signed of by Minister in April 2016

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## 2. Systemic & University-specific Issues for Consideration

- HEMIS sections in new application forms and why the information is compulsory
  - Qualtype Codes
  - Clev Codes
  - HEMIS credits
  - CESMs
  - Recording of HEMIS data against what is on the HEQSF-Aligned PQM (including Foundation Programmes)
  - HEMIS data used in Enrolment Planning and funding implications of incorrect HEMIS data (This afternoon)

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## 2. Systemic & University-specific Issues for Consideration

- Implications of final enrolment date into non-Aligned programmes...
  - Registering students on B.Techs and M.Techs until 31/12/2019
  - 01 January 2020... Qui Vadis?
    - Seriously! No FTENs into non-aligned programmes
    - Transferring of existing students onto new programmes and how to capture the data on HEMIS
    - CAT and Exemption implications
    - Maintaining existing students on old programmes, and for how long...sticking to teach-out dates
  - Implications of New Enrolment Plans

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