

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Monday, 24 October 2016

Dear Student,

There have been changes at national level brought about by the new *Policy for Higher Education Qualifications*. Such changes were required by the policy document titled *Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF), Government Gazette No. 36721 (02 August 2013)*. The introduction of the HEQSF in the Higher Education sector required all public and private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), to revise all its qualifications to ensure alignment with the HEQSF.

As outlined in the HEQSF policy (2013), the HEQSF provided for the establishment of a single qualifications framework for higher education in order to facilitate the development of a single national coordinated higher education system. In addition, the objective of the HEQSF is to provide a mechanism for improving coherence of the higher education system and to indicate the articulation route between the qualifications, thereby enhancing the flexibility of the Higher Education (HE) system and enabling students to move more efficiently from one qualification to the other as they pursue their academic or professional careers. The development of the sub-frameworks by the Quality Councils (QCs) and the advice provided by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) took into account the need to foreground articulation, understood as relationships and linkages between and within the sub-frameworks in order to facilitate access to learning and to avoid duplication of learning already covered (HEQSF, 2013).

A. What are the changes brought about by the HEQSF?

Changes brought about by the HEQSF include:

- New names of qualifications;
- New qualification types;
- New minimum admission requirements;
- New NQF Levels; and
- New progression pathways.

B. How does the NATED 151 (current) and the HEQSF qualifications structure differ?

Table 1 below gives an indication of the NATED 151 (current) and HEQSF qualification types with associated NQF Levels.

NATED qualifications		HEQSF- aligned qualifications	
Qualification type	NQF Level	Qualification type	NQF Level
Doctor Technologiae	NQF Level 8	Doctoral Degree	NQF Level 10
Magister Technologiae and Master of Business Administration	NQF Level 8	Master's Degree	NQF Level 9
Professional Bachelor's Degree (480 credits)	NQF Level 7	Professional Bachelor's Degree (480 credits)	NQF Level 8
Bachelor Honours Degree	NQF Level 7	Bachelor Honours Degree	NQF Level 8
No prior qualification: new HEQSF qualification		Postgraduate Diploma	NQF Level 8
No prior qualification: new HEQSF qualification		Advanced Diploma	NQF Level 7
Baccalareus Technologiae ¹	NQF Level 7	No new qualification: Old NQF qualification	
No prior qualification: new HEQSF qualification		Bachelor of Engineering Technology – BEng Tech (420 credits)	NQF Level 7
Bachelor's Degree	NQF Level 6	Bachelor's Degree (360 credits)	NQF Level 7
		Bachelor of Education (480 credits)	NQF Level 7
National Diploma	NQF Level 6	Diploma (240 credits)	NQF Level 6
		Diploma (360 credits)	NQF Level 6
No prior qualification: new HEQSF qualification		Advanced Certificate	NQF Level 6
National Higher Certificate	NQF Level 5	Higher Certificate	NQF Level 5

C. What are the minimum admission requirements for the HEQSF-aligned qualifications?

HEQSF (2013, pp. 27-41) outlines minimum admission requirements for entry into HEQSF-aligned qualifications. It should be noted that possession of a qualification does not guarantee a student's progression and admission to a programme of study (HEQSF, 2013, p. 21). The Faculty Prospectus would provide detailed admission requirements for different qualifications – please consult your Faculty Prospectus for more detailed information.

¹ Please also refer to section E

Table 2 below provides an outline of the minimum admission requirements:

Qualification type	Minimum admission requirements
Doctoral Degree	Appropriate Master's degree.
Master's Degree	A relevant Bachelor Honours Degree or a relevant Postgraduate Diploma. A relevant Bachelor's Degree at NQF Level 8 may also be recognised as meeting the minimum entry requirement to a cognate Master's Degree programme.
Postgraduate Diploma	Appropriate Bachelor's Degree or appropriate Advanced Diploma.
Bachelor Honours Degree	An appropriate Bachelor's Degree or appropriate Advanced Diploma.
Advanced Diploma	An appropriate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree.
Bachelor's Degree (360 and 480 credits)	National Senior Certificate or the National Certificate (Vocational) with appropriate subject combinations and levels of achievement. Alternatively, a Higher Certificate or an Advanced Certificate or Diploma in a cognate field may satisfy the minimum admission requirements.
Diploma (240 and 360 credits)	National Senior Certificate with appropriate subject combinations and levels of achievement. Alternatively, a Higher Certificate or Advanced Certificate in a cognate field will satisfy the minimum admission requirements.
Advanced Certificate	Higher Certificate in the appropriate field.
Higher Certificate	National Senior Certificate or the National Certificate Vocational with appropriate subject combinations and levels of achievement.

D. How will students' progress through the HEQSF?

Different students in the different qualifications streams (Vocational, Professional and General/ Academic streams) will follow different pathways (see examples in figure 1, 2 and 3 below).

Below is an example of new **Vocational progression pathway from a Diploma up to the Doctoral level**. The majority of TUT students are in the Diploma qualifications.



Figure 1: Progression pathway for Diploma students

Below is an example of the General/Academic progression pathway from a Bachelor degree up to the Doctoral level.

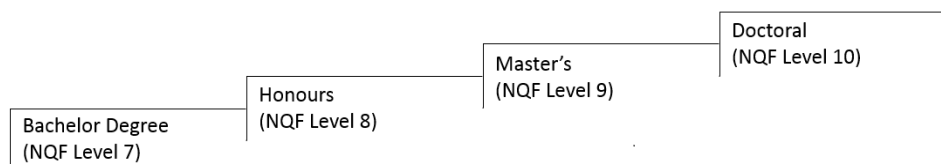


Figure 2: Progression pathway for Bachelor degree (NQF Level 7) students



Below is an example of new generic Professional pathway from a Professional Bachelor degree (NQF level 8) up to the Doctoral level.



Figure 3: Progression pathway for Professional Bachelor degree (NQF Level 8) students

E. How will students with Baccalaureus Technologiae qualifications articulate vertically to the Master's degree?

New qualification names and new NQF Levels have resulted in changes in admission requirements of certain qualifications (e.g. higher certificates, diplomas, bachelors, master's and doctoral degrees).

Once the new HEQSF-aligned qualifications are implemented, students in the vocational /diploma stream will be required to complete NQF Level 7 (Advanced Diploma) and NQF Level 8 (Postgraduate Diploma) in order to enrol for a master's degree (see table 1 and figure 1). However, students with a Baccalaureus Technologiae may be required to do additional modules in order to comply with the admission requirements of the HEQSF-aligned master's degree.

F. How does the HEQSF affect you as a current TUT student?

All current qualifications will phase out in one of the following ways:

- The name of the qualification that a student is currently registered for, might have changed and realigned to the HEQSF (for e.g. National Diploma: Logistics to Diploma in Supply Chain Management);
- The NQF Level may have changed (Honours degree changed from NQF Level 7 to NQF Level 8); and/or
- The qualification has been phased out and a new qualification has been introduced (for e.g. Baccalaureus Educationis (Hons): (Get: Intermediate/Senior Phase) to Bachelor of Education Honours in Early Childhood Development and General Education and Training.)

It is not necessary for students who have completed and graduated in the non-aligned qualifications to apply for replacement or conversion of their qualifications as the non-aligned qualifications remains valid. For example, a student who has graduated with National Diploma: Logistics will be able to progress to Advanced Diploma in Supply Chain Management, provided they meet the minimum admission requirements. However, pipeline students should complete and graduate in their current qualifications they are registered for. For example, a student who is in first or second year in 2016 in a NATED



qualification (e.g. National Diploma: Logistics) should continue and complete the qualification; there is no need to convert to the Diploma in Supply Chain Management when it is implemented.

G. When will TUT introduce new HEQSF-aligned qualifications?

The implementation of new HEQSF-aligned qualifications will commence in 2017 with some of the diplomas, B Ed Honours, bachelor degrees, master's and doctoral qualifications. Such qualifications are included in the 2017 Faculty Prospectuses for Engineering and the Built Environment, Humanities, Information and Communication Technology, Management Sciences and Science. All the other new HEQSF-aligned qualifications will be phased-in annually as from 2018.

H. When will the current Nated qualifications be phased out?

The Minister of Higher Education and Training has pronounced the phase-out date for all non-aligned qualifications as 31 December 2019 (refer to Government Gazette No: 40123). This means that current qualifications which are not HEQSF aligned will be phased out completely in line with the date pronounced by the Minister (refer to government gazette No: 40123). The last date of registering new students in the non-aligned qualifications will be January 2019 for year courses and July 2019 for semester courses.

However, students who will still be registered in the current qualifications by 31 December 2019, will be given a certain time period to complete their qualifications which will be guided by institutional policies and guidelines. Graduates with NATED 151 qualifications will still be able to progress with their studies into new qualifications if there is one available and provided they meet admission requirements for new HEQSF-aligned qualifications.

I. Will the current Nated qualification still be valid?

In terms of the transitional arrangements, TUT would like to emphasise that all NATED qualifications are accredited and registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and they remain valid and recognised by the Tshwane University of Technology, Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Council on Higher Education (CHE), South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), professional bodies, industry, employers and other relevant stakeholders. The respective Faculty Prospectus and other marketing materials will provide detailed information regarding the changes in your specific qualifications that you are registered for.

TUT is striving to implement the HEQSF as effectively and efficiently as possible. You will be kept informed of all the changes and developments with regard to the implementation of HEQSF-aligned qualifications.



For any enquiries, please contact the relevant academic department.

Regards

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Registrar (Acting)

