



20 February 2018

To whom it may concern

**RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG TO TEACH HIGHER EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA**

In response to your query, I am providing the following explanation regarding the recognition given to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits) to offer higher education programmes. This recognition is given by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) of South Africa (prior to 2009, the department was known as the Department of Education, DoE).

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) is a single integrated system for the "classification, registration, publication and articulation of quality assured national qualifications", as indicated in Section 4 of the NQF Act, 2008 (Act No 67 of 2008). It comprises, as specified in Section 7 of the NQF Act, three coordinated qualifications sub-frameworks for:

- General and Further Education and Training, contemplated in the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act, 2001 (Act 58 of 2001) overseen by Umalusi.
- **Higher Education, contemplated in the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act 101 of 1997) overseen by the Council on Higher Education.**
- Trades and Occupations, contemplated in the Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act 97 of 1998) overseen by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations.

Wits is registered with the DHET as a public higher education provider in terms of the Higher Education (HE) Act 101 of 1997, as amended. Whilst the HE Act requires that private higher education institutions operating in South Africa to each obtain a registration number from the DHET (to comply with Chapter 7 Section 55(b) of the HE Act), this is not a requirement for a public university such as Wits. A hard copy of this Act can be made available on request; alternatively, all Acts related to education can be downloaded from the official government website for the South African education ministry by visiting <http://www.dhet.gov.za/SitePages/Home.aspx> and from the home page click on Documents, then on Legislation.

The DHET subsidizes public higher education providers, and before such subsidy is granted for the teaching of particular qualifications (degrees, diplomas and nationally-recognized certificates), approval must be granted by the DHET. The DHET recognizes Wits as a university with English as the language of instruction. A list of qualifications and associated programmes which each public HE institution may teach is maintained by the DHET and is termed the Programme and Qualification Mix (PQM) of an institution. A hard copy of Wits' PQM can be provided on request. A soft copy of the most recent PQM, finalized in 2014, is not available from the website of the DHET but it should be possible to request such a copy from the DHET – see contact details on their website, <http://www.dhet.gov.za/SitePages/Home.aspx>


The same Act created the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) as the Education and Training Quality Assurance body (ETQA) for higher education; therefore the University does not need to obtain accreditation through the Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) ETQAs, although Wits may align its courses with SETA and/or SETA ETQA requirements. Instead, the HEQC is recognised directly by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) as the ETQA for higher education, and the University sees the merits of the 'one provider, one ETQA' principle.

By virtue of Wits' registration with the DoHET as a public university, Wits is accredited by the HEQC to teach certain qualifications. By virtue of the status of the HEQC as an ETQA for higher education, SAQA requires the HEQC to regulate the registration and accreditation of short courses offered by institutions such as Wits. The HEQC has

chosen to do this by delegating this responsibility to institutions, thus allowing Wits and other institutions to regulate short courses for themselves and Wits does this by, for example, conducting its own approval process for its short courses.

SAQA has entrusted the HEQC to regulate short course provision in higher education institutions, this means that the recognition of Wits' short courses by SAQA can only be indirect. This means that there is no legal requirement for Wits to register its short courses directly with SAQA and, in fact, there is no channel for this, as short courses cannot be registered on the NQF; only qualifications and unit standards are registered by SAQA on the NQF.

Yours sincerely



Carol Crosley

**Registrar**

**University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg**

Fax to PC: 086 553 6145

e mail [Carol.Crosley@wits.ac.za](mailto:Carol.Crosley@wits.ac.za)



Office of the Registrar  
University of the Witwatersrand  
1 Jan Smuts Avenue  
Braamfontein, Johannesburg  
Post: Private Bag 3, Wits, 2050  
South Africa