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HEQSF reference number: H06/14699/HEQSF

Qualification reference number: 6780 (as per HEQSF)

Authorised Qualification name: Master of Accounting

Directorate: Accreditation

Council on Higher Education

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Dear Colleagues

RESPONSE TO THE DEFERRAL OF THE HEQSF-ALIGNMENT AND ACCREDITATION

HEQSF review comment

"In the section under "assessment methods", it is stated that assessment will be done in the form of the presentation of scientifically-based results, in verbal and/or written format. The Institution should categorically state whether it is going to assess the dissertation in presentation made by the student as well as the written dissertation. Surely the dissertation cannot be assessed verbally alone. If the assessment option is to be done by 3 publishable articles then the condition should be that these articles must be in accredited journals, an assurance that the work is that of the student and the student is able to defend the contents of the articles verbally."

Response

The information in the submission was indeed stated ambiguously and is therefore clarified here. The presentation of research or scientifically-based results is only done verbally during the approval and execution phases of the research (research proposal). Students are required to submit a dissertation or publishable articles or manuscripts (in written format).



General Rule A75 for this programme applies:

A75 REQUIREMENTS IN RESPECT OF A MASTER'S DEGREE RESEARCH DISSERTATION OR PUBLISHABLE, INTERRELATED ARTICLES OR A COURSEWORK MASTER'S DEGREE MINI-DISSERTATION

(a) The salient characteristic of this particular qualification is that a person must make an advanced-level contribution to the development of knowledge.

(b) The following requirements are stipulated in respect of this study:

(i) A Master's Degree research dissertation or publishable, interrelated articles are written under the guidance of a supervisor or a supervisor and a co-supervisor(s) (minimum 180 credits at NQF Exit Level 9).

(ii) A coursework Master's Degree mini-dissertation is written under the guidance of a supervisor or a supervisor and a co-supervisor(s) (minimum 60 credits).

(c) No Master's Degree research dissertation or publishable, interrelated articles or mini-dissertation may contain work that is identical to work that a student previously presented for a qualification.

(d) A publishable article(s) implies a peer-reviewed publication in scientific journals (for example ISI or IBSS journals).

(e) The requirement in respect of a Master's Degree by research is a minimum of at least one, but preferably two publishable articles in the form of a manuscript that should be submitted to the supervisor. After a Master's Degree by coursework (structured coursework programme) with a mini-dissertation, at least one publishable article is required.

The assessment of the research output or scientifically-based results is then done by external (and internal, if applicable) assessors, as per the Institutional General Rules (Rule A83.4). The assignment of external assessors will be done in line with the UFS Policy on Masters and Doctoral degrees; the UFS Policies on Masters and Doctoral Studies: 2013, and the UFS General Information for and Instruction to Assessors of a Dissertation.

We trust that you will find this response adequate to validate its accreditation and HEQSF alignment.

Kind regards



Ms SJ Paulse

Deputy Director: Directorate for Research and Institutional Planning