

UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

Response to the HEQC on category B programmes

1. Qualification reference No: 8334. Bachelor of Complementary Medicine in Naturothapy

1.1 HEQC Request:

The change in credits from 280 to 645 excludes a Category B classification. The reduction of 15 credits must be indicated in the programme planning and an explanation is required regarding the 45 additional credits in the five year programme. The lack of work-based WIL in the learning activity table needs to be corrected."

1.2. UWC Response:

The university, in its initial presentation stated why this programme has been classified as a category B and the reasons for it as agreed with the HEQC is indicated in that last sentence below underlined.

It is provided again:

"This programme is a specialisation qualification in Naturopathy required in order to register with the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA) as a primary health care practitioner (Doctor of Naturopathy). This programme is an extension of the Bachelor of Science in Complimentary Health Sciences (BSc CHS), and focuses on the consolidation of diagnostics and clinical skills (with integration with basic sciences and pathology), Naturopathy principles, practices and philosophies, herbal sciences, patient management and the engagement with and development of research methods and interpretation. The original design of the Naturopathy programme is therefore structured as a 3 year BSc (CHS) (380 credits) followed by a 2 year Bachelor of Complementary Medicine (BCM): Naturopathic Medicine (280 credits). However, the BCM (Naturopathy) programme is currently not aligned to the current qualifications framework as outlined in GG36721. Within Appendix 1 of the GG36721 (Permitted Exceptions), there are details of an Advanced Bachelor's Degree that is 'circulated so that it consists of a minimum of 240 credits and provides the necessary preparation for a Master's level study as well as the development of research capacity in the methodology and techniques of the discipline'. The current curriculum for BCM qualifications fulfils these requirements. However, the programme has now, in the interim been combined into a 5 year programme for the purpose of the HEQSF until such time that the AHPCSA has restructured the design of the programmes for the particular profession."

The other similar programmes have already been deemed aligned and accredited.

However, I have detected that the total credits and the learning time is not compatible. It should be 6450 credits instead of 6250 as initially indicated. A new table is now presented.

Types of learning activities	Hours	%
Direct Contact (face to face, limited interaction or technologically mediated)	2192	34%
<i>Practical workplace experience (experiential learning/work-based learning etc)</i>		
Work-based learning Only*	1414	22%
Independent self-study of standard texts, specially prepared materials (study guides, case studies, multi-media, etc)	2549	40%
Assessment	295	5%

Total	6450	100%
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Thank You

Vincent Morta

Institutional Planning

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