



21 April 2015

HEQSF Reference number: H06/14596/HEQSF

Qualification reference number: 8739

Authorised Qualification name: Master of Science in Physiotherapy

Directorate: Accreditation

Council on Higher Education

P.O. Box 94

Persequor Park

PRETORIA

0020

Email: heqsfonline@che.ac.za

Dear Colleagues

RESPONSE TO THE DEFERRAL OF THE HEQSF-ALIGNMENT AND ACCREDITATION

HEQSF review comment

"The university needs to clarify the purpose of the Research Methodology module in the programme. This does not appear to be a structured master's degree."

Response

The institution offers both a Master of Science in Physiotherapy by dissertation and a Master of Science in Physiotherapy by coursework; the latter variant being deemed accredited and aligned as part of the HEQSF alignment process. As part of the clarification, it should be noted that in the structured variant of this qualification a research module is included as part of the course work component to prepare students to complete the mini-dissertation. The principles guiding the institutional curriculum review included a principle stating that certain developmental modules could be included to build foundational required knowledge and skills without including them as part of the credit bearing modules.



Some concerns were also raised by the Faculty and the Department in relation to research quality and preparedness of students. Therefore, it was decided to include the Research Methodology (PTMM7900) module in the dissertation variant of this qualification as a non-credit bearing compulsory module towards this qualification. This was done in an effort to better prepare students to conduct research and be successful in completing a Master's by dissertation. Therefore, it is requested that the following amendments are made to reflect that this qualification is indeed a Master's degree by dissertation:

1. The qualification type should be changed to a *Master's degree*, and not a *Master's degree (Professional)* as currently indicated on the HEQSF system.
2. The professional class currently indicates *Professional* and should be changed back to indicate *Non-professional* on the HEQSF system.
3. Removing the name of the professional body, *Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)* and change to indicate *not applicable*.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support pertaining to the response addressing the comments made by the accreditation panel. 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