

UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

Response to the HEQC on category B programmes

1. Qualification reference No: 3975. Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences

1.1 HEQC Request:

"The institution should revise its module structure so that the programme comprises one module of 360 credits. Coursework and proposal development are non-credit bearing activities. The institution should revise its allocation of time to different learning activities so as to align with the requires of a doctoral qualification."

1.2. UWC Response:

The PhD does not have any coursework. In terms of our internal structure there are two modules assigned to the PhD programme that are PhD specific. The formal time of the PhD is two years. We cannot award 360 credits to one module for two years as requested. This is in contrast with HEMIS structure of the qualification. The 180 credits is a true reflection per annum. See page 14, par 29. of the HEQSF document published by the CHE which states:

An average full-time equivalent student is expected to study for a 40-hour week, thus requiring a minimum credit-load of 120 credits per academic year for Certificates, Diplomas and Bachelor's Degrees and 180 credits per academic year for Master's Degrees and Doctorates.

The code 901 reflects the 1st enrolment for the degree and the code 902 for 2nd year and subsequent years of registration. Upon completion of the programme the students gets a full 360 credits. See annexure A and B attached as an example.

Nowhere in our submission have we referred to a summative assessment that reflects that there is coursework. Students do not register and write up their doctoral studies. In the first year students normally work closely with their supervisors and under their guidance prepares their research proposal that is an important part of doctoral studies. This is then approved by the governance process. No marks are allocated to the research proposal. Doctoral studies are a continuous iterative process between the student and the supervisor until the student is ready to submit the doctoral theses for external assessment.

Types of learning activities	Hours	%
*Supervision (face to face, limited interaction or technologically mediated)	750	21%
Practical workplace experience (experiential learning/work-based learning etc)	300	8%
Work-based learning Only*		
Independent self-study of standard texts, specially prepared materials (study guides, case studies, multi-media, etc)	2000	56%
Assessment	200	6%
Other	350	10%
Monthly faculty and departmental seminars programmes are also held to promote a		

research culture. *Specific supervisor- student meetings are held to ensure that the research project are on course and meets all expectations		
Total	3600	100%

Thank You

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Institutional Planning

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