



21 April 2015

HEQSF reference number: H06/14690/HEQSF

Qualification reference number: 5710

Authorised Qualification name: Master of Sustainable Agriculture

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

"The Institution has to make adjustments with regards the programme structure. In the narrative it is stated that the training programme consists of 5 compulsory modules, 3 optional modules and an extended research essay, a complete research project and report. Yet in the programme design details, none of the modules are stipulated as compulsory. The year level is also wrongly interpreted. The Institution needs to clarify which modules will be offered in year 1 of the Master's programmes and which modules will be done in year 2 of the programme offering."

Response

It was difficult to express how the curriculum design is implemented and managed on the prescribed HEQSF-online format. Students have specific streams (specialisations) they can follow, for which the institution makes provision for different module codes to ensure students stay within their stream, even though the core of the



curriculum remains the same. Because the upload did not allow us to indicate modules as compulsory and/or elective as well as the fact that the total tally at the end of the modular section will not reflect how the curriculum worked, it was loaded as electives. No space was provided to specify the rules of combination for the constituent modules and, where applicable, progression rules from one year to the next.

This programme consists of four compulsory modules (4 X 24 credits), three optional modules (3 X 24 credits) in a choice of three specialisation areas and an extended research project consisting of a final research report in the form of a mini-dissertation (72 credits), script or article publishable in a peer reviewed journal. This accounts to 240 credits over the two year. The following table illustrates the curriculum:

Module code and description	Credits	NQF Level	Year	Total Credits per year
<i>Core Compulsory Modules</i>				
SAEX7916 - Rural Agricultural extension: issues and concepts	24	9	1	Minimum 120 depending on electives
SAUR7916 - Sustainable utilization of natural resources and environment	24	9	1	Minimum 120 depending on electives
SAFM7926 - Farm management for sustainable agriculture	24	9	1	Minimum 120 depending on electives
SARM7906 - Research Methodology and project proposal	24	9	2	Minimum 120 depending on electives
<i>Compulsory Research Component</i>				
ONE OF:				
SASC7900 - Extended Script	72	9	2	Minimum depending on electives
SAMD7900 - Mini-dissertation	72	9	2	Minimum depending on electives
SAPA7900 - Publishable Article	72	9	2	Minimum depending on electives
<i>Compulsory Electives(3X24 credits) - Choose one of:</i>				
<i>Focus Area Social</i>				
SARD7926 - Rural Development sociology	24	9	1	Minimum depending on electives
SACT7926 - Communication and Technology transfer for Sustainable Agriculture	24	9	1	Minimum depending on electives
SAPM7926 - Project management in agriculture and rural development	24	9	1	Minimum depending on electives

<i>Focus Area Ecological</i>				
SATN7916 - Agricultural technology for developing countries	24	9	2	Minimum depending on electives on electives
SACP7916 - Sustainable Plant Production Systems	24	9	2	Minimum depending on electives
SALP7916 - Sustainable Livestock Production Systems	24	9	2	Minimum depending on electives
<i>Focus Area Economical</i>				
SAVA7916 - Agricultural product processing and marketing	24	9	2	Minimum depending on electives
SAAM7916 - National and international agricultural marketing	24	9	2	Minimum depending on electives
SASM7916 - Strategic management and planning in agriculture	24	9	2	Minimum depending on electives

Compulsory Credits: 168

Elective Credits: 72

Total Credits: 240

Total Credits on NQF 9: 240

Thank you for your consideration and continued support in relation to the response in relation 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