



UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
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FREISTATA



UFS·UV

DIRECTORATE FOR INSTITUTIONAL
RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PLANNING (DIRAP)
DIREKTORAAT VIR INSTITUSIONELE
NAVORSING EN AKADEEMIESE BEPLANNING (DINAB)

06 November 2015

Directorate Programme Accreditation
Council on Higher Education
PO Box 94
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Dear Professor Naidoo

**RE.: REPRESENTATION TO REVERSE THE RE-CATEGORISATION TO C OF THE MA TO HEQSF-
ALIGNED AND DEEMED ACCREDITED: Master of Arts (coursework and mini-dissertation variant):
H06/14641/HEQSF, Qualification reference 1831**

HEQSF review comment

*"The institution should submit separate MA programmes with qualifiers for each of the different areas
Of specialisation."*

Response

This final representation argues and will motivate for the Master of Arts by coursework and mini-dissertation to be HEQSF-aligned and that it should be deemed accredited. Similar to the MSc and MCom by coursework variant, found by the CHE to be HEQSF-aligned and deemed accredited, this Master of Arts is structured with electives in field of specialisation, as ONE programme. This has been approved as one programme by the Humanities Faculty Board on 25 May 2014.

This MA by coursework and mini-dissertation consists of a total minimum of 180 credits and includes a mini-dissertation. This programme offers five areas of specialisation, each with a mini-dissertation with a credit range between 64 and 92 credits. The specialisations offered are History, Africa Studies, Gender Studies, Afrikaans and Language Practice. Language Practice has been added for academically sound reasons: The MA Language Practice, as standalone programme (referenced H06/14645 and 1709) has been re categorised to C, on UFS request. Language Practice can be accommodated under this "general" MA, as the CESM 11 is approved as major field of study on the ministerial PQM and satisfies the purpose and outcomes of this MA.

It must also be noted that, due to the institution's continuous reflection on its academic offerings, the new Master of Philosophy in Africa Studies (both dissertation and coursework variants) has since been accredited by the CHE (with one short term condition). This implies that this specialisation may be removed from this MA.



Furthermore, the purpose and general outcomes of the MA by coursework remain unchanged and satisfy ALL five fields of specialisation, as contained in the SAQA registration, ID 9249:

Purpose and Rationale of the Qualification

- Apply educational knowledge, skills, principles and methods and
- Critically position him/herself regarding ideological perspectives, theoretical frames and traditions of practices in a special field of learning.
- Develop special areas of interest, knowledge, expertise and research experience.
- Conduct a supervised research project in the fields of art and culture and human and social studies.
- Take an active part in civil society as a specialist in a particular field of learning and follow any career where advanced knowledge in such fields is in demand.

Exit Level Outcomes

Practical Competency:

- The demonstrated ability/skill to achieve the major Skills/Applied Competency of the qualification.

Foundational Competency:

- The demonstrated understanding, by the Learner, of the embedded knowledge that underpins the end result/outcome.

Reflective Competency:

- The demonstrated ability/skill to integrate or connect our performances and to reflect on, evaluate and adopt the above competencies.

The learner will be capable of:

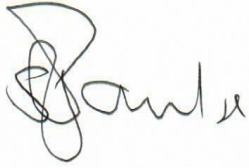
- Advancing an integrated perspective on a selection of theories, institutions and practices in a special field of learning.
- Establishing an individual area of research specialisation and expertise.
- Progressively developing independent perspectives.
- The learner will be able to:
 - Access basic and advanced resources and databases; surveying critical positions in the relevant literature and being informed regarding current research developments and critical debates in a field of learning.
 - Advance research priorities; shaping research designs; developing research hypotheses, defining concepts; formulating problem statements; mastering research procedures; integrating a research project within a framework of relevant theories and research findings.
 - Write a research report on a specified field, with conclusions accounted for in terms of problem statements and with the text and data in accordance with technical requirements.

Another significant fact is that the Faculty of Humanities offers other MA degrees, as dictated by its purpose and outcomes. These are:

- Master of Arts in Governance and Political Transformation
- Master of Arts in Drama and Theatre Arts
- Master of Arts in Communication Science
- Master of Arts in Fine Arts

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

Kind regards



Ms SJ Paulse

Deputy Director: Directorate for Research and Institutional Planning