



21 April 2015

**HEQSF reference number:** H06/14577/HEQSF

**Qualification reference number:** 4539K

**Authorised Qualification name:** Bachelor of Science Honours Quantity Surveying

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 Programme Design table reflects that there are no changes to the modules. The module Integrated Project 1V has however been added according to the Institution's explanations under question 1. This module (Integrated Project 1V) should however be a minimum of 30 credits not 12 as per HEQSF requirements as it is the research component of the programme. This is confirmed in the information provided in the table "Exit Level Outcomes." Information Management and Communication 1V on the other hand has been allocated 32 credits perhaps in error and should be corrected. It is not clear why Construction Science 11 is included at Honours Level when Construction Science 11 and 111 is part of the BSc Degree in Quantity Surveying. The allocation of learning time to learning activities for this programme, which is offered in the "distance" mode, is identical to the BSc Honours in Quantity Surveying "contact" mode. There is therefore no distinction between the programmes."*



## Response

The comments made above are indeed fair and accurate. At the end of 2014 a quality enhancement review was conducted on the programme offering of the Department of Quantity Surveying and Construction Management. The recommendations from the panel included the qualification offerings be revisited in terms of content. The panel also suggested re-thinking and redeveloping the course content in such a way that it differentiates Quantity Surveying and Construction Management more explicitly, by better outlining the curricula for each of the variants. The recommendations from the panel also included that the qualification presented as “distance” is in actual fact is not presented in a distance mode of delivery, since the students have access to the same material, resources and facilities than those enrolled for the contact version of the qualification. The only difference was that the student did not have to come to the Bloemfontein Campus to attend class because the lecturers went to a central location to teach them closer to their vicinity. It was recommended that the qualification offerings be revisited and that the contact/distance mode of delivery be re-considered and to develop the qualification in the contact mode of delivery only. In terms of content the panel also suggested re-thinking and redeveloping the course content in such a way that it differentiates Quantity Surveying and Construction Management more explicitly. It has therefore been decided by the Department, Faculty and institution to rather phase out the “distance” version of the qualification. The contact offering in the Department has been adjusted and packed out to better align and be defined as a contact programme.

It was difficult to express how the curriculum design is implemented and managed on the prescribed HEQSF-online format. Because the upload did not allow us to indicate a module as compulsory and 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. The research module, however, did not go through to the online template correctly and indicated the wrong description next to it. In addition it should also been indicated as added. The Integrated Project is not the research module as the comments suggested. It is small project students have to complete as part of the requirements as stipulated by the South African Council for the Quantity Surveyors Profession (SAQSP). An additional typographical error slipped through in terms of the *Construction Science 11 and 111*. These are modules specifically for the honours qualification that follow on that of the undergraduate qualification. It was rectified and removed in the description to avoid confusion. Therefore, it is requested that the following amendments are made to reflect the institutional decision:

Module Code	Module name	NQF Level	Credits per module	Compulsory/ Optional	Year	Total Credits per year
<b>Bachelor of Science Honours in Quantity Surveying</b>						
<i>Core modules</i>						
DQFR4804	Descriptive Quantification	8	16	Compulsory	1	132
MCIR4808	Mini-script: Research Project	8	32	Compulsory	1	132
COER4804	Building Economics	8	16	Compulsory	1	132
CSCR4803	Construction Science	8	12	Compulsory	1	132
PDER4802	Property Development Economics IV	8	8	Compulsory	1	132
PPRR4802	Professional Practice	8	8	Compulsory	1	132
APMR4803	Advanced Project Management	8	12	Compulsory	1	132
INPR4803	Integrated Project	8	12	Compulsory	1	132
<i>Select one of the following modules</i>						
CFNR4804	Construction Finance	8	16	Electives	1	132
PVPR4804	Property Valuation Practice	8	16	Electives	1	132
PFMR4804	Property Facilities Management	8	16	Electives	1	132
			<b>Compulsory Credits: 116</b>			
			<b>Total Credits: 16</b>			
			<b>Total Credits on NQF 8: 132</b>			

As part of the clarification in terms of this qualification (as a contact offering), the following amendment has been also requested to be made to reflect the institutional decision to have the distance variant phased out in the deferral submission upload for that qualification:

1. Re-categorise the qualification *Bachelor of Science Honours in Quantity Surveying (4539A) (H06/14578/HEQSF)* to C, to be phased out by the date to be determined by the Minister of Higher Education and Training.

Only the contact version of the Bachelor of Science in Quantity Surveying (4539K, H06/14577/HEQSF) is requested to be deemed aligned and accredited for the institution.

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

Kind regards



Ms SJ Paulse

Deputy Director: Directorate for Research and Institutional Planning