****

**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NAME OF INSTITUTION:** | **UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of qualification** | | **Master of Psychology in Research Psychology** | | | |
| **Resubmission: Yes/No** | | **No** | |  | |
| **Date of previous submission:** | | **Not applicable** | |
|  | | | | |
| **GENERAL INFORMATION** | | | | |
| G1 | Is this qualification (a) a new qualification in an approved field of study, (b) a new qualification at a higher level in an approved field of study, (c) in a new field of study? | | **(a) A new qualification in an approved field of study** | |
| G2 | Indicate if the proposed qualification will be replacing any existing qualification/s on the approved PQM and if so state/ list this/ these qualification/s with expected last dates of enrolment. | | **The proposed qualification will not be replacing any existing qualification/s on the approved PQM** | |
| G3 | Indicate the delivery mode of the new qualification. | | **Contact Mode of Delivery** | |
| G4 | Indicate the number of credits that will be offered in (a) contact and (b) distance mode of delivery. | | **(a) contact – 240 credits**  **(b) distance – 0 credits** | |
| G5 | Indicate on which campus/es or site/s of delivery the new qualification will be offered. | | **Bloemfontein Campus of the UFS** | |
|  | | | | |
| **SECTION A: HEQSF INFORMATION REQUIRED** | | | | | |
| A1 | Full title of proposed new qualification. | | **Master of Psychology in Research Psychology** | | |
| A2 | Abbreviation of title. | | **MPsych (Research Psychology)** | | |
| A3 | [HEQSF](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201410/38116gon819.pdf) qualification type (e.g., 240-or 360-credit Diploma, Advanced Diploma, 360-or 480-credit Professional Bachelor’s Degrees, Professional Master’s degree etc.) | | **Professional Master’s Degree** | | |
| A4 | NQF exit level of qualification. | | **NQF Level 9** | | |
| A5 | Credits: Give total credits at (a) qualification level  (b) each NQF level and (c) number of credits for research where appropriate. | | **(a) Credits at qualification level – 240 credits**  **(b) Credits at NQF level 9 – 240 credits**  **(c) Credits for research – 112 credits** | | |
| A6 | Designator (for degrees only). | | **Psychology** | | |
| A7 | If designator is not Arts, Commerce, Science or Social Science, indicate which first or second order CESM categories the proposed designator is consistent with. | | **The designator Psychology - CESM 18: PSYCHOLOGY**  **1810 Research Methodology for Psychology**  **181001 Research Methodology for Psychology**  An area of study focusing on theorising, concepts and hypotheses; the planning and execution of research projects, selection of research participants, ethical standards; hypothesis testing, power and control, statistical inferences and the writing of research reports; the various types of experimental design, such as designs for independent groups, dependent groups, mixed groups and single participant studies; non-experimental designs, such as quasi-experimental, longitudinal, cross-sectional designs, case studies and correlational studies; observational research and surveys, as well as programme evaluation, archival  research and meta-analytic designs. | | |
| A8 | Qualifier 1 (state the field of specialisation). | | **Research Psychology** | | |
| A9 | Qualifier 2 (optional). | | **Not applicable** | | |
| A10 | Indicate in which second or third order CESM categories (a) Qualifier 1’s field of specialisation falls, and (b) Qualifier 2’s field of specialisation falls (if applicable). | | **The second or third order CESM categories**  **(a) Qualifier 1’s field of specialisation falls in:**  **1810 Research Methodology for Psychology**  **181001 Research Methodology for Psychology** | | |
| A11 | Indicate what % of the curriculum for the proposed qualification falls into (a) Qualifier 1’s field of specialisation, and (b) Qualifier 2’s field of specialisation. (Use the NQF credit values of courses for this calculation). | | **(a) Qualifier 1’s field of specialisation – 100 %** | | |
| A12 | Indicate what % of the curriculum for the **final year** of the proposed qualification falls into (a) Qualifier 1’s field of specialisation, and (b) Qualifier 2’s field of specialisation. (Use the NQF credit values of courses for this calculation). | | **100% of the curriculum for the final year of the proposed qualification falls into (a) Qualifier 1’s field of specialisation The Master of Psychology in Research Psychology is a Master’s Degree by coursework and mini-dissertation offered over two years with the total number of credits at 240.**  **The second year of study includes the mini-dissertation accounting for 112 credits, thus the final year.** | | |
| A13 | Specify the institution’s minimum admission requirements for the proposed qualification. | | **Admission into the MPsych (Research Psychology) by coursework and mini-dissertation is subject to the General Rules for Undergraduate Qualifications, Postgraduate Diplomas, Honours Bachelor’s Degrees, Master’s Degrees, Doctoral Degrees, Higher Doctoral Degrees, Honorary Degrees and the Convocation. In addition, students who apply must also fulfil the admission requirements of the Rulebook of the Faculty of the Humanities.**  **Additionally, the following minimum admission requirements apply:**  **1. Prospective students must have at least an NQF Level 8 qualification in Psychology; or the equivalent thereof.**  **2. Students who are still enrolled in an Honours Degree in Psychology at an accredited and recognised higher education institution at the time of application should ensure that the cumulative weighted average for their undergraduate degree is no less than 70% (70% or more) and that they successfully complete the Honours Degree by the end of the academic year.**  **3. Students who have completed an Honours Degree in Psychology at an accredited and recognized higher education institution should have graduated with a cumulative weighted average of no less than 60%.**  **In accordance with the vision and mission of the UFS, the best and most diverse student corps will be recruited and therefore a selection process will be followed. All selection procedures are informed by, and in alignment with university policies and institutional guidelines (as well as national legislative frameworks). Furthermore, in addition to the general guidelines provided by the institution, the Department of Psychology has selection procedures to ensure that the most promising students are selected for postgraduate research studies. Thus, the ethos in the Department, as well as selection principles and processes applied in related master’s programmes in the Department will be considered.**  **To ensure that postgraduate students have the potential to meet the requirements of postgraduate research studies, the selection criteria for this programme will focus mainly on three aspects, namely academic achievement, research skills, and personal characteristics suitable for training as a research psychologist. The selection process consists of three phases, that is General Information, Biographical Information and Checklist, Concept Research Proposal and Referee Form.** | | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A14 | Indicate the courses/ modules at entry level that facilitate vertical or diagonal articulation into the proposed qualification. | **Modules completed in the Honours Degree in Psychology facilitate vertical articulation into this Master’s Degree where the 32-credit compulsory modules as part of the structured coursework at entry level in the first year of study facilitate progression, that is Research Psychology Leadership and Project Management, Advanced Psychosocial Research Methodology, Psychosocial Research in Context, and Psychometrics to prepare students to successfully complete the Research component (Mini-dissertation/One publishable article).** |
| A15 | Indicate the type of Workplace Based Learning/Work Integrated Learning component for the proposed qualification. | **An internship not contributing to the total number of credits is required and not WIL** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SECTION B: HEMIS INFORMATION REQUIRED** | | |
| B1 | HEMIS qualification type code. | **73 Master’s Degree (Professional)** |
| B2 | Major fields of study by second or third order CESM category. | **1810 Research Methodology for Psychology**  **181001 Research Methodology for Psychology** |
| B3 | HEMIS course level of majors in final year of study. | **47** |
| B4 | HEMIS research credits expressed as a decimal of total HEMIS credits. | **46.6** |
| B5 | HEMIS minimum total time. | **2 years** |
| B6 | HEMIS minimum Workplace Based Learning/ Work Integrated Learning credits expressed as decimal of total HEMIS credits. | **0 credits** |
| B7 | Indicate total subsidy units. | **2** |
| B8 | Indicate the funding level of the proposed qualification. | **Masters or equivalent funding group 1** |

|  |
| --- |
| **SECTION C: OUTLINE OF PROGRAMME DESIGN** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year of instruc-tion** | **Compulsory (core/fundamental) or Optional Module** | **Module name** | **CESM** | **Credit Allocation of Module** | **NQF Level of Module** | **Existing/ New** |
| Year 1 | Compulsory | Research Psychology Leadership and Project Management | 1810 Research Methodology for Psychology | 32 | 9 | PSAL7908 |
| Year 1 | Compulsory | Advanced Psychosocial Research Methodology | 1810 Research Methodology for Psychology | 32 | 9 | PSAR7908 |
| Year 1 | Compulsory | Psychosocial Research in Context | 1810 Research Methodology for Psychology | 32 | 9 | PSAC7908 |
| Year 1 | Compulsory | Psychometrics | 1817 Psychometrics and Applied Psychological Assessment | 32 | 9 | PSAP7908 |
| Years 1-2 | Compulsory | Research component:  Mini-dissertation  **OR** | 1810 Research Methodology for Psychology | 112\* | 9 | PSAD7900 |
| One publishable article | 1810 Research Methodology for Psychology | 112\* | 9 | PSAA7900 |
| Year 2 | Compulsory | Internship |  | 0 |  | PSAI7900 |
| **TOTAL CREDITS** | | | | **240** |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **SECTION D: BRIEF JUSTIFICATION FOR THE APPLICATION** |
| **Psychology is not an absolute science and is often referred to as a ‘Social Science’ or a ‘Soft Science.’ This is because it deals with human thoughts, feelings, and behaviour, and as we are all aware, humans are not always predictable and reliable. Instead, we interact with our environment in ways that alter how we behave, how we think, and how we feel (Creswell, 2014). Change one thing and the domino effect can change everything else. Nevertheless, research plays an extremely important role in psychology. Research helps us understand what makes people think, feel, and act in certain ways; allows us to categorize psychological disorders in order to understand the symptoms and impact on the individual and society; helps us to understand how intimate relationships, development, schools, family, peers, and religion affect us as individuals and as a society; and helps us to develop effective treatments and intervention programmes to improve the quality of life of individuals and groups.** |

|  |
| --- |
| **In this sense, psychological research is typically used for the following (Heffner, 2016):**  **a) Study development and external factors and the role they play on individuals’ mental health**  **b) Study people with specific psychological disorders, symptoms, or characteristics**  **c) Develop tests to measure specific psychological phenomenon**  **d) Develop treatment approaches to improve individuals’ mental health.**  **Research psychologists are involved in the planning, developing and applying of psychological research methods. They are often involved in the development of psychological measures. Monitoring and evaluation of psychological interventions usually fall within their scope of practice. Most research psychologists work for universities, government offices and private corporations (Cooper, 2012; Babbie, 2013).**  **Many pleas have been made for the psychology profession to become more relevant to the South African context (Cooper, 2014; Pretorius, 2012). Pretorius (2012) argues for a move away from the prominent focus on one-on-one counselling, towards more curative, preventative and developmental interventions. Research psychologists have a major role to play in the development of the discipline, the contextualisation of psychology as a science, and the informed development of psychological assessments and interventions.**  **Research psychology is the most under-represented of the various categories of registration as a psychologist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (Rascher, 2016). Laher (2005) is also of the opinion that research psychology as a field is side-lined in South Africa, and that the status of research psychology in South Africa is underrated.**  **Amongst others, the rationale behind developing a structured Master of Psychology in Research Psychology, MPsych (Research Psychology) is driven by the need to provide more Research Psychologists. According to a National Survey (Research Report, 2017) only 3.1% of all registered psychologists in South Africa are Research Psychologists, which means that of the 8 030 registered psychologists only 248 were registered as research psychologists. Many of these psychologists (up to 12%) are also registered in other categories, which has an influence on the real number of practising research psychologists. Institutions of Higher Education are also experiencing a scarcity of registered research psychologists. Of the 26 public universities only eight universities present this qualification in South Africa (Fynn & Van der Walt, 2020). Research is one of the important components of academic tuition; therefore, more well-qualified research psychologists in Psychology are essential. Research Psychology is recognised by the Department of Health (2011) as one of nine scopes of practices within the profession of Psychology. Research is one of the pillars of a university; therefore, more qualified Research Psychologists are essential in the field of Psychology. Developing researchers in Psychology who, with their research knowledge, can contribute inter alia towards research methods, the development of research measures, and advice on policy development that will enhance the general health of individuals and society. Great challenges exist in the South African society, amongst others, to develop programmes that can be used preventively to address and prevent mental disorders and dysfunctions in particular contexts. To this aim, distinguished research based on scientific principles is of great importance.**  **Derman (2002), who investigated employment trends in research psychology in South Africa, reported an increase in the demand for research skills, with specific focus on a background in community psychology and development contexts. Rascher (2016) also found that former research psychology master’s students pursue a variety of different career paths, including working in academia, health/social research, marketing and corporate research, monitoring and evaluation, and psychometrics.**  **Therefore, the vision of the programme firstly focuses on equipping the student with the necessary knowledge and skills to plan, execute and present a scientific research product. Consequently, the theoretical modules will be attuned to equip the student with the necessary knowledge required for contributing knowledge to research psychology, while the mini-dissertation will be used to apply the knowledge effectively in practical circumstances. The programme will give the graduate the option to follow a career as a Research Psychologist, or to work as an academic. Being a practising Research Psychologist from a practice will create job opportunities and will provide a service to the community. The course work, together with the mini-dissertation, will provide deepened education and training to students so that they will have the necessary skills to follow the above-mentioned careers.**  **The Department of Psychology seeks to enhance research, teaching, scholarly and community outreach and is already accredited for training in two programmes, namely clinical and counselling psychology. This specific programme MPsych (Research Psychology) will be specialised with regard to research methodology, which will give students an additional option from an Honour’s Degree, exiting at NQF Level 8, to equip themselves with a professional qualification. Consequently, graduates with this qualification may become registered practitioners (after passing the Board Examination and registration with the HPCSA as Research Psychologist) or follow an academic career in Research Psychology.**  **The Department of Psychology in the Faculty of the Humanities at the UFS has the academic capacity and infrastructure and will establish relationships with accredited organizations in South Africa for internships of our students. Their progress will be monitored by Research Psychologists in the Department of Psychology. Since 2019, the Department has a computer lab in the Psychology Building which will improve the quality of training. The purpose of the MPsych (Research Psychology) by means of coursework and mini-dissertation is mainly to equip students to initiate, plan, execute and document distinguished research about a relevant topic in psychology successfully. After the successful completion of the coursework modules, the internship at an accredited training institution and the Psychology Board examination, students can register as a Research Psychologist with the HPCSA. Therefore, this programme differs from an ordinary research dissertation, because the graduate is, by obtaining the qualification, able to indeed register as a professional Research Psychologist (after an internship and Board examination). The graduate should pass the Psychology Board examination in order to register as a practising Research Psychologist.** |

**SECTION E:** **ENDORSEMENT BY PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL/BOARD WHERE APPLICABLE**

**Is the endorsement letter from a Professional Board/Council appended? (Please tick the appropriate box)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | **X** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CERTIFICATION BY INSTITUTION THAT APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY SENATE** | |
| **DATE OF SENATE APPROVAL: Academic Committee of Senate: 27 July 2021** | |
|  |  |
| **NAME: Dr Engela van Staden** | **SIGNATURE:** |
| **DESIGNATION: Vice Rector Academic** | **DATE: 16 August 2021** |