Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing Education

The main question is related to the NQF Level change as well as the reduction is credits with an unchanged curriculum. Information is required how this was achieved. The role of research in the programme must also be explained.

UCT response:

This programme is aligned to SANC regulation 118 of 1987. It was designed and submitted at NQF 8 to meet specific requirements. The programme breakdown is different to the postgraduate diplomas in Nursing as it falls under different regulations – those pertaining to nursing education, which are still in effect. The programme was in its design, at NQF 8 and to meet the criteria of the HEQSF.

Regarding the role of research, the qualification has been recurriculated over time. The fundamental components were originally in four separate modules. These have been combined into the module Professional Development Studies. Therefore, the four original components were integrated into one module. This module now includes interpersonal and communication skills, leadership in management in a primary healthcare approach, ethics, human rights and social determinants of heath, and research competencies. All aspects of this module are continuously evaluated and there is also an integrated final assessment. When the students are assessed on research, they are assessed on research knowledge and utilisation of research in practice. There is no requirement that students must be able to *conduct* research as this is not HEQSF requirement. It must be noted though that advanced health professionals studying at a PGDip level will be required to utilise research in their professional practice.   
The fundamental research knowledge/literacy that is taught in Professional Development is assessed in an MCQ (Multiple Choice Questionnaire) as a formative assessment and the *application* of the skills is utilised and tested in the clinical courses. An example of this is where students are required to use the literature to evaluate a curriculum and critically review a subject area of interest. All health care practitioners are expected to practice evidence-based practice, within which research literacy is embedded and is therefore developed at this level of study.