Postgraduate Diploma in Critical Care Nursing

The institution should clarify the following as requested by the evaluator: According to the application, the postgraduate diploma leads to registration at SANC. The implication is a prescribed number of hour of work-based WIL but the table only indicates non-work-based WIL. The non-work-based WIL constitutes 60% of learning time which is not logical for a clinical nursing programme.The non-work-based WIL constituting 60% of the learning time needs further information. In addition, clarification is needed on the assessment strategy as the theoretical modules appears to be inappropriately assessed.

UCT response:

Regarding the assessment of theoretical outcomes. There are two assessment components in the clinical practice A and B modules. Students need to compile a portfolio of 13 cases designed to cover major conditions at each level of care. These are written cases and include an oral assessment. The second is a study of a critically ill individual who is hospitalised. Specific to the clinical practice B module is the formal presentation of patient in hospital including anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, tests, medication, and nursing care.

Regarding the WiL component, as per the DHET definition, we have drawn a distinction between practical learning that is integrally linked to the formal tuition process as opposed to workplace based learning that takes place after the formal instruction (WIL as per DHET definition). The HEQSF definition of WIL covers both forms. In this qualification, all practical/experiential learning takes place within the duration of the qualification. During the academic year, in the theoretical learning component, there are clinical practice days. In addition, the SANC has a set number of hours for practical learning - 962. We have therefore allocated 60% of the learning activities to practical learning. Students have supervised clinical learning experience and keep a logbook of clinical learning experiences, including hours, and particular skills that are assessed and signed for by an assessor. In line with the specialisation, students undergo clinical experience in cooperation with authorities at the clinical platform. UCT is responsible for placing the student and the convenor is responsible for monitoring. The experiential learning is done on a formal contractual basis and there is a formal process of feedback from the health facility and UCT input. Students may not enter the final exam without completing a minimum of 50% of the clinical learning time. Students are not allowed to graduate without having completed these hours.