Postgraduate Diploma in Diabetes Mellitus Nursing and Education

The main question revolves around the WIL planned for the programme. The proportion of credits confirm the clinical basis of the programme and it is therefore asked why no work-based WIL. More information is required. More information is also required regarding how NQF Level 8 was achieved with no change in the programme.

UCT response:

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.

Regarding the change to NQF 8, the programme was introduced as a stream in the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing in 2012, and therefore was designed at NQF 8 to meet the requirements of the HEQSF. Therefore, no change to NQF 8 was necessary.