

**WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY (19)**

**FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES**

**Master of Science in Geography (MSCG)**

**Question 1:**

The institution needs to describe how the curriculum of this programme has been redesigned so that it aligns with the HEQSF, specifically in relation to the programme title (including the use of designators and/or qualifiers), intended purpose, exit level outcomes and assessment criteria for this programme. It is not clear whether this is a masters by full dissertation or coursework and mini-dissertation. Programme design details need to be clarified and more details provided in terms of modules, NQF levels and credits.

**Response:**

The Master of Science in Geography is based on a full approved dissertation whose duration is two years full time and three years part time. The programme has been modified as follows:

The three modules GEO5101; GEO5102 and GEO5103 have been removed and replaced by one advanced research project GEO5101: DISSERTATION.

The credits have also been changed from 240 to 180 as per SAQA requirements.

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| **Programme Details : Master of Science in Geography** | | | | | | |
| Title of all modules | Compulsory (C)/Elective (E) | NQF level | Credits | No. of contact hours | Mode of delivery | Module status: Removed/Added/Modified/ Unchanged |
| Approved Proposal  GEO5101 | C | 9 | 40 | 400 notional hours | Contact | Removed |
| Dissertation GEO5101 | C | 9 | 180 | 1800 notional hours | Contact | Modified |
| Presentation at Congress  ZOO5103 | C | 9 | 20 | 200 notional hours | Contact | Removed |

**Assessment Approach**

Since the MSc programme is based on an approved dissertation and as such focuses on designing, implementation and writing up of a scientific research project, assessment involves:

**Literature survey:** To assess that the candidate understands the title of the dissertation and can translate it into a rigorous research plan, the candidate carries out a comprehensive literature survey which culminates to the successful presentation of the research proposal.

**Project implementation:** To assess that the candidate can successfully execute the project with the resources available (e.g. time, money, etc), progress is monitored through preparation, submission and presentation of progress reports.

**Presentation of results/findings:** To assess that the candidate is able to communicate scientific concepts clearly to a scientific audience, the candidate prepares and submits the final write-up of the findings in the form of a dissertation and presents results in local and/or international conferences.

Finally the dissertation is marked by the internal examiner and two external examiners.

The time allocated to Independent self-study has been increased to 60% as students need to devote more time on research.

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| **Types of learning activities** | **Hours** | **% Learning time** |
| Direct contact time (Lectures, face to face, limited interaction or technology-assisted, tutorials, Syndicate groups) | N/A | N/A |
| WIL (Practical experiential learning, **simulated learning, laboratory work** , practicals etc. excluding workplace-based learning) | 200 | 11.11% |
| WIL (Workplace-based learning only) **\* N/A** | N/A | N/A |
| Independent self-study of standard texts and references and specially prepared materials (study guides, books, journal articles, case studies, multi-media) | 1080 | 60% |
| Assessment ( Examinations, tests, assignments , **presentations, Field work reports**, Practical tests ) | 88 | 4.88% |
| Other (specify) Consultation | 432 | 24% |
| **Total** | 1800 | 100% |

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