

01 July 2016

Dear Institution

JOINT COMMUNIQUE: SAQA ID NUMBERS AND RE-REGISTRATION PERIODS

The Higher Education Quality Committee of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) is responsible for the accreditation of higher education learning programmes by virtue of the provisions of the Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997 (as amended) and the National Qualifications Framework Act, 68 of 2008.

The CHE has noted that a number of private higher education institutions (PHEIs) have requested further clarity regarding why SAQA issues new Qualification ID numbers for qualifications registered on the NQF when, as part of the HEQSF alignment process, only title changes have been made.

One purpose of the Qualification ID is to ensure that when a student graduates with, for example, a Certificate in Graphic Design, the Qualification ID specifically reflects a Certificate in Graphic Design and not a Higher Certificate in Graphic Design. If, in the HEQSF alignment process, an institution's submission of the Certificate on the Category A list was approved and its new title was a Higher Certificate in Graphic Design, this programme is considered to be a replacement qualification on the NQF which must have a new Qualification ID that will reflect a Higher Certificate. Consequently, all title changes automatically require that SAQA issues a new Qualification ID even if the content of the aligned qualification is exactly the same as that of the non-aligned qualification. Doing this ensures that all qualification documents (certificates) issued by higher education institutions correctly reflect the qualification received by the graduate.

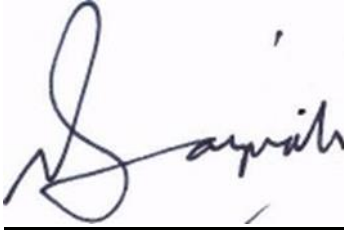
Furthermore, PHEIs have been requesting clarity with regard to the registration periods of qualifications. All qualifications are registered on the NQF for a period of three years at a time. If a qualification needs to change in any way, a new Qualification ID will be issued and the changed qualification is viewed as a replacement qualification and the three-year registration period will

The CHE is an independent statutory body established by the Higher Education Act, no. 101 of 1997. As the Quality Council for Higher Education it advises the Minister of Higher Education and Training on all higher education issues and is responsible for quality assurance and promotion through the Higher Education Quality Committee.

Council Members: Prof N. Themba Mosia (Chairperson) Mr Luzuko Buku, Prof Chris de Beer, Prof André Keet, Mr Cassie Kruger, Dr Bandile Masuku, Prof Pamela Maseko, Prof Shireen Motala, Ms Nombulelo Nxesi, Dr Kimberley Porteus, Prof Selby Ripinga, Prof Beverley Thaver, Dr Mvuyo Tom, Prof Mala Singh, Prof Sophie Mogotlane, Prof John Mubangizi, Dr Thomas Auf Der Heyde, Dr Sagren Govender, Mr Suren Govender, Ms Joyce Mashabela, Dr Diane Parker, Dr Mafu Rakometsi, Mr J Samuels, Dr Molapo Qhobela; Prof Narend Bajinath (CEO).

start at that point in time (with a further transition and teach-out period, unless the CHE requests otherwise).

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Narend Bajinath', written over a horizontal line.

Prof Narend Bajinath
Chief Executive Officer