

CHANGES TO HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

- 1** *Single, unified qualification framework*
- 2** *How does the NATED 151 (current) and the HEQSF qualification structure differ?*
- 3** *What are the new minimum admission requirements for HEQSF-aligned qualifications?*
- 4** *How will I progress from one qualification to another?*
- 5** *Frequently asked questions*





Single, unified qualification framework

Government has introduced a single unified national qualification framework for education in South Africa that applies to all Higher Education institutions and improves the ability of students to move easily and more effectively from one qualification to the next, as well as between institutions.

These changes are guided by the Revised Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF) as published in the Government Gazette on 2 August 2013. As a result, all public and private higher education institutions in the country, including Universities of Technology, were required to revise and align existing qualifications or develop new qualifications that meet the requirements of the new sub-framework.

Most Universities of Technology have already introduced some of the revised and aligned qualifications or new qualifications. As guided by law, all higher education institutions will be allowed to register new students for the last time in non-aligned qualifications in January 2019 for year courses and July 2019 for semester courses.

What are the changes?

- 1** *New qualification types.*
- 2** *New names for qualifications.*
- 3** *New minimum admission requirements.*
- 4** *Expanded National Qualification Framework (NQF levels and new progression pathways).*





How does the **NATED 151** (current) and the **HEQSF** qualification structure differ?

The table below gives an indication of the **NATED 151** (non-HEQSF aligned qualifications) and **HEQSF** qualification types with associated NQF levels.

Non – HEQSF Aligned Qualifications NATED 151		HEQSF Aligned Qualifications	
QUALIFICATION TYPE AND CREDITS	NQF LEVEL	QUALIFICATION TYPE AND CREDITS	NQF LEVEL
Doctor Technologiae (D Tech) Doctoral Degree (PhD) (240 credits)	NQF level 8	Doctoral Degree (360 credits)	NQF level 10
Magister Technologiae (M Tech) Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) Master's Degree (120 credits)	NQF level 8	Master's Degree (180 credits)	NQF level 9
No equivalent Non-HEQSF aligned qualification exists		Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits)	NQF level 8
Professional Bachelor's Degree (480 credits)	NQF level 7	Professional Bachelor's Degree (480 credits)	NQF level 8
Bachelor Honours Degree (120 credits)	NQF level 7	Bachelor Honours Degree (120 credits)	NQF level 8
No equivalent Non-HEQSF aligned qualification exists		Advanced Diploma (120 credits)	NQF level 7
Baccalaureus Technologiae (B Tech) (120 credits)	NQF level 7	No equivalent HEQSF aligned qualification exists	
Bachelor's Degree (360 credits)	NQF level 6	Bachelor's Degree (360 credits)	NQF level 7
		Bachelor of Education (480 credits)	NQF level 7
National Diploma (360 credits)	NQF level 6	Diploma (360 credits)	NQF level 6
		Diploma (240 credits)	NQF level 6
No equivalent Non-HEQSF aligned qualification exists		Advanced Certificate (120 credits)	NQF level 6
National Higher Certificate (120 credits)	NQF level 5	Higher Certificate (120 credits)	NQF level 5

What are the new minimum admission requirements for HEQSF-aligned qualifications?



The HEQSF (2013) outlines minimum admission requirements for entry into HEQSF-aligned qualifications. It should be noted that possession of a qualification does not automatically guarantee a student's progression and admission to a programme of study (HEQSF, 2013). Specific institutions' faculty prospectuses would provide detailed admission requirements for different qualifications, and therefore needs to be consulted for more detailed information.

The table below provides an indication of the minimum admission requirements that might be set by a specific higher education institution:

Qualification type	Minimum admission requirements HEQSF aligned programmes
Doctoral Degree (NQF 10)	Appropriate Master's degree (NQF 9 – 180 credits)
Master's Degree (NQF 9)	A relevant Bachelor Honours Degree or a relevant Postgraduate Diploma. A relevant Bachelor's Degree at NQF 8 may also be recognised as meeting the minimum entry requirement to a cognate Master's Degree programme (NQF 8 – Postgraduate Diploma & Bachelor Honour - 120 credits; Professional Bachelor – 480 credits)
Postgraduate Diploma (NQF 8)	Appropriate Bachelor's Degree or appropriate Advanced Diploma (NQF 7 – 120 credits)
Advanced Diploma (NQF 7)	A relevant Diploma or Bachelor's Degree (NQF 6 - 360 credits) + meet institutional programme requirements
Bachelor's Degree (NQF 7 – 360 credits/ NQF 8 - 480 credits)	National Senior Certificate or the National Certificate (Vocational) with appropriate subject combinations and levels of achievement. Alternatively: - Higher Certificate (NQF 5 – 120 credits), or - Advanced Certificate (NQF6–120 credits), or - Diploma (NQF 6 – 240 and/or 360 credits) in a cognate field may satisfy the minimum admission requirements
Advanced Certificate (NQF 6)	Higher Certificate (NQF 5 - 120 credits)
Higher Certificate (NQF level 5)	National Senior Certificate or the National Certificate Vocational with appropriate subject combinations and levels of achievement

Important note:

Individual institutions may have requirements that differ from these minimum requirements, that is, students may be required to satisfy additional requirements/criteria.

How will I progress from one qualification to another?



Students in the different qualifications streams (Vocational, Professional and General/Academic streams) will follow different pathways (see examples in figure 1, 2 and 3 below).

Below is an example of new Vocational progression pathway from a Diploma up to the Doctoral level. The majority of UoT students are registered in the Diploma pathway.



Below is an example of the General/Academic progression pathway from a Bachelor degree up to the Doctoral level.



Below is an example of new generic Professional pathway from a Professional Bachelor degree (NQF level 8) up to the Doctoral level.





FAQ

How will the introduction of the HEQSF-aligned qualifications affect me if I'm a current student or a graduate?

Students currently enrolled in a Non-HEQSF aligned or HEQSF aligned qualification can complete their studies and graduate. All non-aligned qualifications that have been awarded previously also remain valid.

But what about the Baccalaureus Technologiae (BTech) qualification? It is not on the framework? How will it affect me?

Depending on the admission requirements of the specific higher education institution and department, students with a Baccalaureus Technologiae may be required to do additional modules in order to comply with the admission requirements of the HEQSF-aligned master's degree.

Can I continue with my studies if I am in the possession of a National Diploma?

Yes, the current National Diploma is on a NQF level 6. You can progress through the framework by registering for a NQF level 7 qualification (Bachelor's Degree / Advanced Diploma), depending on the specific admission requirements of the specific higher education institution.

When will the Non-HEQSF aligned qualifications be phased out?

The phase-out date for all non-aligned qualifications will be 31 December 2019. The last date of registering new or first time entering students in the non-aligned qualifications will be January 2019 for year courses and July 2019 for semester courses. Continuing students or repeating students who were registered for Non-HEQSF aligned qualification prior to 2019 or in 2019 will be able to complete these qualifications or may be given the opportunity to articulate to HEQSF aligned qualifications offered by the institution.

Students, who are registered in the non-aligned qualifications by 31 December 2019, will be given a certain time period to complete the qualifications as guided by institutional policies and guidelines.

Graduates holding non-aligned qualifications will still be able to progress with their studies into the HEQSF aligned qualifications provided that they meet the institutional admission requirements.

Where to find more information?

The respective institutional faculty prospectuses and other marketing materials will provide detailed information with regards to curriculum changes and requirements for specific qualifications.

Universities of Technology websites:

Cape Peninsula University of Technology: www.cput.ac.za

Central University of Technology: www.cut.ac.za

Durban University of Technology: www.dut.ac.za

Mangosuthu University of Technology: www.mut.ac.za

Tshwane University of Technology: www.tut.ac.za

Vaal University of Technology: www.vut.ac.za