

Lifelong Learning and National Qualifications Frameworks: Leaders for Learning

A University of Western Cape (UWC) Continuing Education course, in partnership with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

There are over 130 NQFs in various stages of development internationally. South Africa has established one of the first generation NQFs, under the auspices of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), in order to promote equity, redress and social justice. NQFs are intimately linked to the fostering of lifelong learning. Lifelong learning is a core concern of the University of Western Cape (UWC), so it is fitting that UWC, in partnership with SAQA, is offering a continuing education course on Lifelong Learning and NQFs. The course includes both face-to-face and eLearning components and is intended for both national and international participants.

The purpose of the course

One of the key purposes of the course is to promote 'leaders for learning' by facilitating the further development of an international community of practitioners and scholars who are involved in the promotion and implementation of lifelong learning and NQFs, as researchers, managers, activist-scholars or administrators. The central questions underlying this course are:

- Why are NQFs developing at this time? What are their social, political, educational, or economic purposes? What forms are they taking and why?
- How do they link with lifelong learning and in which ways? How effectively are they promoting lifelong learning in order to achieve sustainable socio-economic and environmental development?
- How can we deepen understandings of the intellectual and practical issues which lifelong learning and NQFs surface? How can people who are in a position to be 'leaders for learning' ensure their effectiveness?



The nature of the course

This is a one year continuing education course which is certificated by UWC. It comprises both face-to-face and eLearning components:

- An eLearning introduction to the course.
- Two, 5 day, face-to-face, residential workshops in Cape Town.
- An extended period of eLearning in which participants are required to engage in course work and also a project relating to the course content and to their own practice, supported electronically both by other participants and by course tutors through the web-based eLearning platform.

Is this a credit-based qualification?

The course content is valued at 60 credits, equating to 600 notional hours of learning. At this point the course is recognised by UWC for further study. We are currently pursuing articulation options with qualifications at Level 8 of the NQF to facilitate wider recognition.

Who should participate?

If you are a middle- to senior-level staff person involved in the development, management or implementation of lifelong learning and NQFs, this course is suitable for you. You may work for an agency or institution which makes regular use of NQFs. You may work in a government department at national or provincial level, a college or university, an education authority, trade union or quality assurance body. You may come from South Africa, or the international community. You should be interested in thinking deeply about the history, development, management and implementation of NQFs and lifelong learning in the promotion of a 'learning society'.

You will need an undergraduate degree or equivalent, a reasonable level of computer literacy, regular access to the internet, and fluency in English.

Cost?

We will provide you with an eLearning tutor, electronic and hard copy materials and teachers from the leadership of UWC's internationally recognised Division for Lifelong Learning and SAQA. For the two face-to-face blocks, we will provide transport from Cape Town International Airport to a modestly-priced,

comfortable venue where you will live and work. The fee for the 2014 course, including accommodation, is R35,000.

What are the expected outcomes?

We expect that when you complete the course you will be able to reflect critically on your practice in relation to NQFs within a Lifelong Learning approach, and in particular to:

- Explain the history, development and expansion of NQFs across the world in the 21st century
- Understand the social, political, educational and economic purposes of NQFs and the forms they are taking in different contexts
- Explain the nature of and relationship between NQF discourses and the discourse of lifelong learning
- Compare the effectiveness of different NQFs and how they promote lifelong learning to achieve sustainable socio-economic and environmental development
- Explore different identities and interventions by key role players to ensure NQF effectiveness and the advancement of lifelong learning principles
- Engage with current NQF and Lifelong Learning research and evaluate the merits and constraints of different NQF models, applying lessons to case studies of practices in your own country.

Further Information and Applications

For further details and application procedures please email Tania Opper at University of Western Cape toppel@uwc.ac.za or mail to DLL, UWC, Private Bag X17, Bellville, South Africa 7530. Please include your name and contact details.

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