

1 April 2019

OPEN LETTER TO APPLICANTS

Private Further Education and Training Colleges

Dear prospective applicant for accreditation

1. Application Process

Umalusi accepts applications for accreditation from private Further Education and Training Colleges wishing to offer the following programmes/qualifications:

- NATED Report 190/191: N1-N3 Engineering Studies
- NC(V) Levels 2 - 4

The accreditation process is as follows for a new applicant:

	Step in Process	Explanation
1.1	Letter of intent to apply for accreditation	<p>a. A private college completes an online "Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for accreditation" found on the Umalusi website: www.umalusi.org.za "Accreditation for Private Providers";</p> <p>b. An invoice for processing of the LOI is generated on the online system and can be printed from the system;</p> <p>c. Once payment is verified, Umalusi screens the applicant's expression of intent and approves, or rejects it, or requests further information.</p>
1.2	Attendance of a Quality Promotion (QP) Meeting	<p>a. All applicants must attend a compulsory Quality Promotion (QP) meeting prior to completing their self-evaluation report (application). These meetings are meant to ensure that applicants are fully aware of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. How to complete an application; ii. The evidence required; iii. Preparation for the site visit - logistical arrangements and the programme. (Individual pre-site visit meetings will not take place); iv. Fees applicable and payment methods. <p>b. Attendance at these meetings will be per invitation only. Applicants will be informed of the date and venue. Only the applicants who have submitted their online intent to apply for accreditation, and whose letter of intent has been accepted, will be invited.</p>

	Step in Process	Explanation
		<p>c. Applicants will be invoiced for this attendance and may only attend after confirmation of payment for the QP meeting.</p> <p>d. After attendance of the QP meeting, the applicant will be granted access to the online self-evaluation instrument and will be invoiced for the submission of the self-evaluation report.</p> <p>e. Applicants will also be granted access to the application guideline document that clearly explains in detail what is expected, particularly in terms of the evidence required.</p>
1.3	Submission of online Self-Evaluation report and required Evidence	<p>a. Once the self-evaluation invoice has been paid and payment verified, applicants will be able to submit their self-evaluation report and the required evidence online by uploading on Umalusi's online system.</p> <p>b. If the required evidence is not satisfactorily submitted, the self-evaluation report will be returned to the applicant to rework and resubmit with the correct evidence. An additional fee is payable on each re-submission.</p> <p>c. Only two re-submissions will be permitted.</p> <p>d. If there is no improvement after the second re-submission, the entire submission will be rejected. The applicant will then be required to make a new application and pay for the new application from the beginning of the process. On reapplication there will be no access to the documents previously uploaded.</p>
1.4	Registration with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	<p>a. Once the self-evaluation report meets the minimum requirements, Umalusi will advise the DHET thereof.</p> <p>b. The DHET will then conduct their processes leading to provisional registration as a private college and examination centre if the college meets the minimum requirements.</p> <p>c. A site visit will only take place once the private college is registered or provisionally registered by the DHET, the qualification/programme has been implemented and an external examination has been written, and the requisite site visit fee has been paid and verified.</p> <p>d. Applicants which do not meet the requirements for provisional registration with the DHET will not be able to continue with the accreditation process, since registration is a requirement for accreditation. The accreditation</p>

	Step in Process	Explanation
		<p>application will remain valid for a period of 12 months, during which time the applicant must actively pursue registration with the DHET. Should the applicant not receive registration (or provisional registration) within 12 months, the application for accreditation will be terminated, with no refund of costs for the services already provided. A new application, at full cost to the applicant, will then need to be made should the applicant still seek accreditation by Umalusi.</p>
1.5	Site verification visit	<p>a. Once the provisionally registered private college has conducted an external examination the next phase of the accreditation process, which is the site visit to verify implementation of the qualification/programme, will take place.</p> <p>b. A site visit will only take place once the requisite site visit fee has been paid and verified.</p> <p>c. Applicants who request a delay of the site visit will retain the status of “unaccredited” until such time as they are found compliant with the accreditation criteria.</p> <p>d. A delay in the site visit (caused by the institution) of more than 6 months will lead to the lapse of the application, with no refund of costs, and no access to the documents previously submitted.</p>
1.6	Accreditation report submitted to the Accreditation Committee of Council (ACC)	<p>a. After a site visit a consolidated report will be presented to the Accreditation Committee of Council (ACC) to ensure that the accreditation process was fair and that the decisions are consistent with the evidence found.</p> <p>b. The decisions which can be made are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 years accreditation • 2 years provisional accreditation • Does not meet the requirements – “window period” to improve • No accreditation
1.7	Correspondence sent to colleges for which the ACC recommends “a window period to	<p>a. Private colleges which do not meet the minimum requirements for accreditation will be notified of the conditions and the time period in which the conditions must be met for the college to be granted accreditation.</p>

	Step in Process	Explanation
	improve" or provisional accreditation for the initial application	<p>b. An additional fee is payable on submission of evidence of meeting the conditions.</p> <p>c. An unannounced follow-up site visit may be conducted to verify the new evidence submitted.</p> <p>d. Non-submission of the evidence during the specified time period or non-payment of the required fee, will lead to a final "no accreditation" decision.</p> <p>e. After verification of the new evidence submitted, the report will again be presented to the ACC to ensure that the decisions are consistent with the evidence found.</p> <p>f. Note that at the time of review, all accreditation criteria must still be met. Therefore, if criteria were met at the first presentation of the report, and therefore were not stated as conditions to be met, but the standards drop and the college no longer meets the criteria, that will be taken into account in making a decision on the outcome of the application for accreditation.</p>
1.8	Decision by the CEO	<p>a. Once the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has approved the recommendation of the ACC the outcome will be communicated to the institution by means of a letter.</p> <p>b. A copy of the letter will be sent to the DHET registration Directorate. The DHET will review the provisional registration of the applicant based on the outcome of the application for accreditation.</p> <p>c. An appeal process is in place should the applicant wish to appeal the outcome of the decision, based on evidence available at the time of the application.</p>
1.9	Monitoring	Umalusi will monitor accredited private education institutions in the second and fourth years of their seven year accreditation and further as required.
1.10	Reapplication	All accredited private colleges must reapply for accreditation in their sixth year of accreditation.

2. Payment of Invoices

- a. The fees for the accreditation process are indicated on page 7 of this letter.

- b. Payment must be made per step of the accreditation process. This means that payment for each step must be made before the next step can take place.
- c. No step will be executed before all amounts the applicant is invoiced for are settled. This includes invoices for other services provided by Umalusi, such as certification fees.
- d. Umalusi will not refund any payments made towards an executed step. Should an institution wish to cancel their application, there will be no refund. We therefore appeal to institutions to be sure about their application.
- e. Invoices issued for any step of the process must be settled within 3 months. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of the application irrespective of the step at which the applicant is.
- f. Applicants whose invoices were not settled and their applications rejected will be required to re-apply for accreditation at full cost to the applicant. There will be no transfer of funds from previous applications that have been rejected. The applicant will not have access to documents already submitted in the case of the rejection of an application.

3. Reporting of accreditation status

- a. In line with the Department of Higher Education and Training's requirements for registration of private colleges, Umalusi is required to report the accreditation status of colleges to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). To this end, Umalusi will submit such a report to the DHET.
- b. Accredited private education institutions will receive a letter of accreditation and an accreditation certificate.
- c. Accredited private education institutions will also be displayed on Umalusi's website www.umalusi.org.za.

4. Applications prior to 01 April 2016

- a. All private education institutions that submitted a letter of intent and were invoiced but **did not pay** the first tranche prior to 01 April 2016 will have to reapply.

5. Additional information

Additional information on this accreditation process can be obtained from the guideline documents found on the Umalusi website and during attendance of the Quality Promotion meetings. You may also contact our offices in this regard.

Contact details are as follows:

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All fees are subject to an annual increase

PRIVATE FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING COLLEGES ACCREDITATION FEES EFFECTIVE 1 APRIL 2018					
		NC(V) (one programme)	Cost per additional NC(V) programme with initial application (max 2 additional programmes per application)	NATED N1-N3 Engineering Studies (up to 9 subjects)	One NC(V) programme and NATED N1-N3 (up to 9 subjects) only
Step 1	Letter of Intent (LOI)	R 911.00	-	R 911.00	R 911.00
Step 2	Attendance at Quality Promotion Workshop (per person)	R 546.00	-	R 546.00	R 546.00
Step 3	Self-evaluation	R 7 919.00	R 7 919.00	R 7 919.00	R 11 311.00
Step 4	Site visit	R 27 037.00	R 9 044.00	R 27 037.00	R 36 102.00
Step 5	Biennial Accreditation Fee	R 3 034.00	Linked to original application	R 3 034.00	R 3 034.00 per qualification

Extension of scope (one additional programme / up to 3 NATED N3 subjects – once the private college is accredited)	R 33 434.00
Re-evaluation of self-evaluation report (per event)	R 6 068.00
Evaluation of evidence submitted after a “window period”	R 6 674.00
Evaluation of evidence submitted after an outcome of provisional accreditation	R 6 674.00
“Change of site” fee	R 6 674.00
Appeal : Desktop evaluation	R 6 674.00
Appeal: Verification Site Visit	R 6 674.00 in addition to Desktop evaluation appeal fee
Follow up monitoring process for institutions which fail to maintain the required accreditation standard	R 6 674.00

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