



## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

### RE: NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND LEVELS OF NUST AND POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA PRE-NQF QUALIFICATIONS

The Namibia University of Science and Technology and its predecessor institution, the Polytechnic of Namibia, were established by Act of Parliament of the Government of the Republic of Namibia (Act 33 of 1994) in the case of the Polytechnic, and Act 7 of 2015 in the case of NUST. The Polytechnic ceased to exist on 16 November 2015 and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) came into being on that date. NUST is empowered to award qualifications, including degrees, which are nationally recognised in Namibia and abroad.

Namibia's National Qualifications Framework (NQF) was promulgated in August, 2007 and the process of re-curriculating qualifications and registering them on the NQF is an ongoing one, in which all Namibia's national institutions are currently engaged. Pre-NQF or 'legacy' qualifications were not placed on the NQF in Namibia. It is therefore not appropriate to claim NQF levels for qualifications in Namibia at present, unless such qualifications are formally registered on the Framework.

The best way to assess NUST and Polytechnic Pre-NQF qualifications at present is to measure the volume and standard of learning in ways that pre-date the NQF. As such, the following information is relevant and should be read in conjunction with the academic record or transcript presented by the holder of the qualification:

1. **National Certificates** – between 10 and 14 semester courses, usually requiring at least one year of full-time study. Learning hours are at least 1400 to 1600. In some cases, such as some Engineering programmes, a further semester of practical work-based learning is also required. **National Higher Certificates** – between 18 and 20 semester courses, requiring at least two years of full-time study, inclusive of the National Certificate. Learning hours are at least 2200 to 2600. **National Diplomas** – between 24 and 30 semester courses, requiring at least three years of full-time study, inclusive of the National Higher Certificate. In the case of Engineering and other practical disciplines, one or two semesters of work-based learning are required, in addition to the above number of semester courses. Learning hours are at least 3600, but most often exceed this volume.
2. **Three year Bachelor degree** – between 26 and 30 semester courses, requiring at least 3 years of full-time study. Learning hours are at least 3600, but most often exceed this volume.
3. **Bachelor of Technology degree** – between 40 and 44 semester courses including a Research Project. Duration of at least four years of full-time study, inclusive of the National Diploma. Learning hours are at least 5000, but often exceed this volume.
4. **Masters degree** – combination of course work and thesis that match the requirements, at least 2400 hours of learning are required.

Users in South Africa are asked to note that the Polytechnic, as other Namibian institutions, is not required, nor enabled to register its qualifications with SAQA. It is therefore not possible to give a straightforward SAQA NQF level for qualifications, as is often requested by users in South Africa.

**All Programmes at the Namibia University of Science and Technology and the Polytechnic of Namibia are/were offered through the English Medium of instruction.**

We trust that this information will assist users in making informed decisions about these qualifications.

Further information on specific qualifications can be obtained from our website at: [www.nust.na](http://www.nust.na) or by email from: [registrar@nust.na](mailto:registrar@nust.na).

Yours sincerely

  
**Corneels H. Jafta**  
**REGISTRAR**  
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