

Announcement: College of Science, Engineering and Technology, School of Engineering

NOTICE TO ALL NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Dear students,

As previously announced, the National Diplomas qualifications offered by UNISA's School of Engineering (NDEID, NDEMC, NDMIN, NDMSR, NDECI, NDEEN, NDENG and NDPPT) have now been phased out, and the modules which formed part of the qualification were offered for the last time in the academic year of 2023. No students can register for these qualifications in 2024.

Students who did not manage to complete their National Diploma qualification by 2023 are automatically transferred to the corresponding Diploma qualifications. UNISA's credit exemption rules will apply to such transfers. Students should note that although the National Diploma and Diploma qualifications are at the same NQF level, the two qualifications are essentially different and therefore only a limited number of modules can be credited in the Diploma based on completed National Diploma modules.

Additional Assessment opportunities for ND students

In order to assist students who are close to completion of the National Diplomas, the School of Engineering has put in place the following two additional concessional assessment opportunities.

1. Automatic second/third examination opportunities for 2023 registered students

The following automatic additional assessment opportunities will be made available for 2023 (year, semester 1 or semester 2) registered students.

- For all modules with timetabled examinations where the student wrote an examination in May/June 2023 or Oct/Nov 2023 and did not pass, the student will be automatically given an additional examination opportunity in Jan/Feb 2024. This excludes the module EUP1501, and the following modules offered by other colleges: FAC1501, ENG1503, BSM1501, BSM1602, MAC1501, MAC2602, FMA401V, HRM2605 and MGP437U. The students will be



automatically identified for the examinations and notified about the examinations, which will be taking place at the CSET Examinations platform according to the usual examination rules.

- For WIL modules as well as for practical and portfolio modules for which the student was registered in 2023, there will be additional opportunities to submit the work; details will be provided by the module lecturer.

2. Additional final concession opportunities.

In addition to the additional examination opportunities listed in Section 1 above, given to 2023 registered students, students may be eligible for additional assessment opportunities for at most two modules remaining from the National Diploma qualification (not counting the modules in Section 1 above) with which they would be able to complete their National Diploma.

These must be modules for which they have been previously registered. The modules can be modules assessed through examinations or by continuous assessment, or WIL modules. The opportunity excludes practical and project modules not registered for in 2023, and it also excludes the module EUP1501 and the following modules offered by other colleges: FAC1501, ENG1503, BSM1501, BSM1602, MAC1501, MAC2602, FMA401V, HRM2605 and MGP437U.

This additional assessment opportunity will be in the form of a once-off 3 hours invigilated online examination during February/March 2024, or through activities during 2024 for WIL modules.

The following rules apply to the additional concession opportunities:

- The additional opportunity will only be for modules which the student has been previously registered for since 2013. Students cannot be assisted to complete any modules which they have not previously registered for at UNISA.
- This additional opportunity only applies to students registered for one of the National Diplomas (NDEID, NDEMC, NDMIN, NDMSR, NDECI, NDEEN, NDENG, NDPPT) offered by the School of Engineering at UNISA. Students registered for the National Diplomas at other institutions and doing non-degree purpose studies at UNISA are not eligible for the concessions.
- The one or two modules identified for the additional final concession assessment, together with any modules that the student may also be allowed



to rewrite as listed in Section 1 above, must be modules outstanding to complete the qualification.

- Students are only offered an opportunity to be assessed for the module. No additional tuition will be made available to the students. The assessment will be based on the 2023 content and outcomes of the modules which will be made available for the identified students.

Implementation of the additional assessment opportunities for ND students

The qualifying students will be automatically identified and notified about the additional assessment opportunities, and therefore no action is required from the part of the students.

The criteria for the additional final concession opportunities in Section 2 above will be applied strictly as stated in this document. Beyond these additional assessments, no further assessment opportunities will be offered. Students who fail an automatic second/third examinations opportunity as in section 1 above will not be allowed any other additional assessment opportunity for that module.

Please note that this additional assessment process is expected to conclude by April 2024 and after that no further correspondence regarding the National Diplomas in Engineering will be accommodated.

Frequently asked questions

Why were the National Diplomas phased out?

The phasing out of the old National Diploma qualifications was in accordance with the new Higher Education Qualifications Framework. The NDs are not aligned to the new framework, and accordingly were phased out, not just at UNISA but all across South Africa. According to the teach-out plans of the National Diplomas, as agreed to with the Department of Higher Education, the last time that the registrations were allowed for modules which form part of the qualification was in 2023.

Why can UNISA not allow students to complete the National Diplomas?

UNISA is no longer allowed to offer the National Diplomas as they will no longer be accredited.



How much time were students given to complete the National Diploma?

The last time that students were allowed to register for these qualifications was in 2019. The National Diplomas are 3-year qualifications. Department of Higher Education gave Unisa permission to offer its Engineering National Diplomas until end of 2023. Therefore, the last cohort of students were given 5 years.

Why can I not get credit for all my ND modules in the new diploma?

It is vital to emphasise that even though these qualifications are on the same NQF level, their outcomes are different and, as such, they are assessed differently. Although the content of some modules may be similar, the module assessment and outcomes are different.

I have one module left in my ND which I have not registered for, can I be assisted?

The National Diploma modules no longer exist, and therefore no student can be registered for ND modules anymore; and according to UNISA rules students can only be assess modules they have been registered for. So unfortunately, nothing can be done for students for modules not previously registered for.

Why is the additional concession opportunity limited to two modules only?

This is in line with the UNISA final year concession policy which limits concessions to two modules. However, the concession here goes beyond the UNISA FI concessions since School of Engineering extends the opportunity to modules from previous years.

If you have any queries about the additional assessment opportunities for the National Diplomas, please submit your query on the following web form. The web form will be open until 12th February 2024

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jluayqM-mUekPIUQOY56OypnSl3qactJk1i-RXYuKzRUN0JXVUVFSjNRRDISUDJLN0Q1RkdNRjVKNS4u>

