

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

RE: NOTICE TO ALL ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Dear Students

This notice seeks to provide clarity to all registered and prospective engineering students on the new engineering qualification on offer at the University of South Africa, College of Science, Engineering and Technology, School of Engineering.

The Higher Education Qualifications Framework (HEQF), which was promulgated in October 2007 (Government Gazette No 30353 of 5 October 2007), provided for the establishment of a single qualifications framework for higher education to facilitate the development of a single national coordinated higher education system. The revised HEQSF was promulgated in August 2013 as approved by the Minister of Higher Education and Training (Notice 1040 of 2012; Government Gazette No. 36003 of 14 December 2012) in terms of the National Qualifications Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 Of 2008) and as contemplated in the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997).

[https://www.unisa.ac.za/static/corporate_web/Content/Register%20to%20study%20through%20Unisa/Documents/Unisa-NQF-HEQSF.pdf]

Currently, the School of Engineering offers two types of undergraduate programmes, namely:

- (1) 12 National Diploma qualifications (NQF level 6)
- (2) 13 Baccalaureus Technologiae (BTech) degrees (NQF level 7)

1. Current qualifications

The following qualifications will be phased out effective 2020 and no new first entrant engineering students will be allowed to register in 2020.

Table 1: Current Diploma Engineering qualifications to be phased out in 2020

Qualifications	Code	Area of Specialisation
National Diploma	(NDECI)	Civil Engineering
National Diploma	NDEEN - CEN	Electrical Clinical Engineering
National Diploma	(NDEEN - COS)	Electrical Computer Systems
National Diploma	(NDEEN - EEC)	Electrical Electronics and Electronic Communication
National Diploma	(NDEEN - MEC)	Electrical Mechatronics
National	(NDEEN -	Electrical Power Engineering



Diploma	PEN)	
National Diploma	(NDEEN - PIN)	Electrical Process Instrumentation
National Diploma	(NDEID)	Industrial Engineering
National Diploma	(NDEMC)	Mechanical Engineering
National Diploma	(NDMSR)	Mine Surveying
National Diploma	(NDMIN)	Mining Engineering
National Diploma	(NDPPT)	Pulp and Paper Technology

Table 2: Current BTech Engineering qualifications to be phased out in 2020

Qualifications	Code	Area of Specialisation
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTENC)	Chemical
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTECE)	Chemical (Environmental)
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTECV - ENV)	Civil Environmental Engineering
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTECV - STR)	Civil Structural
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTECV - URB)	Civil Urban Engineering
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTECV - WAT)	Civil Water
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTELN - CEN)	Electrical Clinical Engineering
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTELN - COS)	Electrical Computer Systems
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTELN - PEN)	Electrical Power Engineering
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTELN - PIN)	Electrical Process Instrumentation
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTELN - TEL)	Electrical Telecommunication
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTENI)	Industrial Engineering
Baccalaureus Technologiae	(BTMEE)	Mechanical Engineering

2. The “teach-out” plan for students who are already registered for the qualifications shown in Tables 1 and 2 is the following:

2.1 2019 was the last year that new students could enrol for the current undergraduate qualifications, i.e. National Diploma (ND) and Bachelor of Technology (BTech). In 2020, no new students will be allowed to register for these “old” qualifications.



2.2 Engineering students already registered for these qualifications are required to finish their studies according to a teach-out plan in line with Unisa rules. This plan stipulates the following:

2.2.1 Students have to complete the **National Diploma qualifications** within **five years**. This means that students must complete the National Diploma no later than **2023** when the offering ends.

- The students who do not manage to obtain the National Diploma in this timeframe will be transferred to an equivalent NQF level qualification (i.e. Diploma) after 2023. Unisa's credit exemption rules will apply to such transfers.
- From 2020 to 2023, only the students already in the system, that is, those students that enrolled in 2019 or earlier, will be allowed to register modules and finish their qualification.

2.2.2 The students have to complete the **BTech qualifications** within **three years**. This means they must complete the qualifications no later than **2021** when the offering ends.

- The students who do not manage to obtain their BTech degree in this timeframe will be transferred to an equivalent NQF level qualification (i.e. Advanced Diploma) after 2021. Unisa's credit exemption rules will apply to such transfers.
- From 2020 only the students already in the system, that is those students that enrolled in 2019 or earlier, will be allowed to enrol and finish their qualification.

2.3 The introduction of the new HEQSF qualifications will enable engineering students to further their studies from Diploma up to Doctoral levels, nationally or internationally, as Unisa promotes lifelong learning.

3. Students articulation from old to new qualifications

Students who hold old qualifications will be able to articulate to new qualifications as tabulated in Table 3.

Table 3: Articulation to new engineering qualifications

From Old Qualification (If you hold the following old qualification)	Area of specialisation	Student may articulate to the following new qualification
National Diploma	Any engineering	Advanced Diploma
BTech	Any engineering	Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Honours)
Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Honours)	Any engineering	Meng
MEng/MTech	Any engineering	PhD (Eng)



4. Students currently registered under Alternative Pathway

What will happen to students who are registered under Alternative Pathway?

All students who are registered under the Alternative Pathway will not be affected by the unavailability of the new engineering qualifications. They will be automatically transferred to the mainstream qualifications that they had chosen at the point of application, i.e. the current engineering qualifications. The Alternative Pathway students should note however that they must first pass all access modules (i.e. MAT0511 and SMI181Q) they are currently registered for before they can register for other modules in their qualification.

5. New engineering qualifications

Due to the new Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF), Unisa will offer 16 new undergraduate qualifications and ten postgraduate engineering qualifications aligned HEQSF (as listed in Table 4) as soon as they are accredited and registered by CHE and SAQA respectively.

Currently there are no engineering qualifications on offer due to approval processes by CHE and SAQA that have to be fulfilled. **This means that currently no new applications are possible for all engineering qualifications until further notice.** Once Unisa receives relevant approval for engineering qualifications, the information will be publicised broadly for those who intend to apply.

Table 4: The new engineering qualifications

Undergraduate qualifications			
Name	Abbreviation	Minimum study duration	NQF level
Diplomas (Engineering)	Dipl (Eng)	3 Years	6
Advanced Diploma (Engineering)	AdvDipl (Eng)	1 Year	7
Postgraduate qualifications			
Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Honours)	BEngTech(Hnrs)	1 Year	8
Master of Engineering (MEng)	MEng	3 Years Plus	9
Doctor of Philosophy (Engineering)	PhD(Eng)	4 Years Plus	10



6. Admission requirements for the new engineering Diploma qualifications

A National Senior Certificate (NSC) (Diploma endorsement) or equivalent with at least 50% in the language of teaching and learning, 50% in Mathematics or Technical Mathematics and 50% in Physical Science or Technical Sciences, if any Physics or Chemistry modules form part of the curriculum of a selected qualification, or at least N4 Mathematics passed with a minimum of 50% and N4 English, or N4 Communication, or N4 Communication Technology passed with at least 50%, and at least N4 Engineering Science passed with a minimum of 50%, if any Physics or Chemistry modules form part of the qualification. or a Senior Certificate (SC) with at least a D symbol on HG or a C symbol on SG in the language of teaching and learning, and with at least a D symbol on HG or a C symbol on SG in Mathematics, and a D symbol on HG or a C symbol on SG in Physical Science, if any Physics or Chemistry modules form part of the curriculum of a selected qualification, or at least N4 Mathematics passed with a minimum of 50% and N4 English, or N4 Communication, or N4 Communication Technology passed with at least 50%, or and at least N4 Engineering Science passed with a minimum of 50%, if any Physics or Chemistry modules form part of the qualification. Applicants who do not comply with the above requirements should consider applying for a lower level qualification for which they meet the statutory and additional requirements, such as the Higher Certificate in Physical Sciences.

7. New alternative admission for those who do not meet the minimum admission requirements to access the new engineering Diploma qualifications

If you do not meet the minimum admission requirements for the new Diploma engineering qualifications, you may choose to apply for the Higher Certificate in Physical Sciences which is available in 2020. Successful completion of the Higher Certificate in Physical Sciences gives you the opportunity to apply for the Diploma qualifications as they become available.

Should you seek any further clarity, please contact the School of Engineering at

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Yours Sincerely,

The School of Engineering

