



higher education  
& training

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# **Draft Policy Framework on Internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa**

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# Overview

- Background
- The Status Quo
- Rationale for Policy Framework on Internationalisation of HE in SA
- Necessary Elements for Effective Policy Framework on Internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa

# Background

- The DHET has been working on the development of Policy Framework on Internationalisation of Higher Education (HE) in South Africa
- The DHET appointed a Working Group in 2013 to suggest a policy framework on the offering collaborative qualifications/degrees

## Background (cont.)

- Another Working Group was appointed in November 2014 to assist with the development of the policy framework on internationalisation and incorporate the recommendations on collaborative degrees
- Now, the performance target is to have the policy published in the government gazette by 31 March 2017 after consultation with the sector

# Status Quo

- Meantime, the DHET and CHE agreed on the interpretation and extrapolation of current policy as status quo, which is,
  - ✓ that, the policy does not bar knowledge mobility; institutions from entering into collaborative research and teaching; or joint degree/qualification offerings; and,
  - ✓ that, all programme offerings which are a local component of collaborative offerings and qualifications must be accredited by the HEQC as with all other HE programmes

# Rationale

- HEIs in SA are involved in a number of international collaborative research; knowledge, academic and scholarship exchanges; mobility of programmes, students and scholars; joint programme offerings and qualifications; and co-curriculum development;
- A policy framework that enhances internationalisation of Higher Education (HE) in SA, in order to accrue its benefits both to HE and the economy is required.

# Elements for Effective Policy Framework

- The policy should, foremost, seek to benefit South African HE and economy, without necessarily being commercial (e.g. embrace SADC Protocol on HE and Training);
- It must be overarching, inform and provide for alignment of individual institutional policies;
- It must incorporate the offering of collaborate or joint degrees or qualifications;

# Elements for Effective Policy Framework

- The policy framework must facilitate rather than impede knowledge development and mobility, and enhance HE in SA;
- It must be transformative with a view to also benefit HDIs;
- It must not compromise on the quality of programmes offered in collaborative degrees/qualifications and allow for institutions to maintain their independence and autonomy;

# Elements for Effective Policy Framework

- The policy framework must seek to have measures that guard against potentially negative effects associated with internationalisation (e.g. convergence &/or isomorphism);
- It must build in measurability of its impact on HE system in SA (thus, it must be evaluated); and
- It must primarily focus on post-graduate studies and knowledge mobility;

**END**