



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Grabamstown • 6140 • South Africa



The Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning

invites applications for a two-year, part-time

Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education

for

Academic Developers

(2015 – 2016)

The Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning (CHERTL) at Rhodes University has been awarded funding from the DHET for 25 bursaries for academic developers to enrol for the Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education (PG Dip (HE)) for academic developers for 2015 and 2016. The qualification will be offered by CHERTL staff in collaboration with academic development colleagues from the University of Venda, Mangosuthu University of Technology and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Purpose of the qualification

The aim of this qualification, registered on the NQF at honours level, is to enhance the knowledge and competencies of staff in teaching and learning units/centres whose role it is to offer professional development for academic staff as educators in higher education institutions.

Due to the current low pass rate of the increasingly diverse South African higher education student body it has become crucial to ensure greater success for more students. To achieve this, professional development for academic staff is a priority for the sector.

The course provides a lens through which one can conceptualise ideal AD practices in an institution.

Thank you so much for this opportunity. You are adding much value and meaning to our development through your willingness to share your expertise

Everyone has grown and developed over the last year and we are seeing the world differently

The purpose of this PG Dip (HE) is to advance academic developers' knowledge of higher education as a field of study and to enable them to conceptualise, design and implement formal and informal academic development initiatives (with a particular focus on academic staff development) appropriate to their specific contexts.

Outcomes

After engagement with the course processes and materials, participants should:

- be able to analyse the higher education context (at international, national, institutional, departmental and disciplinary levels) in order to understand the developmental needs of academic staff in their contexts
- develop an understanding of the university as an academic workplace and as a community of practice
- develop in-depth knowledge of the conceptual domain of teaching and learning in higher education, including the purposes of higher education, theories of learning (and teaching), theories of knowledge, social theories
- engage with knowledge and research related to the practice of teaching in higher education including curriculum development processes, assessment of student learning and academic literacy
- engage with the theory, research and practice related to the development, enhancement and assurance of quality teaching and learning in higher education
- develop the strategic competence to know how, when and where to engage with academic staff
- develop a philosophy to underpin the conceptualisation and implementation of staff development initiatives appropriate to their institutional contexts
- develop expertise to facilitate, manage and assess academics' professional learning.

The course is very informative and practical. It is a life-changing experience. The facilitators have vast experience and are passionate about academic staff development.

Admission requirements

1. Applicants need to be currently employed in academic development or teaching and learning centres or hold positions in which they have responsibility for the strategic development of teaching and learning in a faculty or across an institution.
2. Applicants should preferably hold at least a masters degree (in any discipline).

3. Applicants should be computer literate and have reliable access to the Internet to ensure access to the on-line Learning Management System used to support teaching and learning in the course.

Structure of the course

In order to obtain the qualification participants are required to meet the outcomes of six compulsory modules (20 credits each).

1. The higher education context
2. Teaching and learning
3. Curriculum development
4. Assessment of student learning
5. Development, enhancement and assurance of quality teaching and learning
6. Conceptualising and designing contextually appropriate staff development initiatives.

Assessment of the course

Participants will be required to complete module tasks and assignments for formative assessment purposes. The qualification will be summatively assessed by means of an integrated professional portfolio in which they will be required to provide evidence that they have met the exit level outcomes of the qualification.

Time commitment

Participants are required to attend at least **six one week block contact sessions** at Rhodes University over the two years.

Contact time is supplemented through the use of 'RUconnected' - an on-line Learning Management System (LMS). Using the LMS, participants will be required to engage in course processes and submit tasks between block contact sessions. Contact time to independent learning has been estimated as 1:4.

The course is worth attending as it gives the theoretical background of teaching and learning in higher education and also provides strategies for improving / re-thinking teaching and learning. This is a good course, I don't regret enrolling in it.

Bursaries

Each participant will receive a bursary of R40000.00 per annum. This money will need to cover all tuition and course fees as well as travel and subsistence for the block teaching

sessions. The bursaries will be administered by CHERTL. Bona fide course-related expenses will be reimbursed on production of receipts.

Cost

Tuition fees will be approximately R14000.00 per year. Additional costs will include initial registration fees (approximately R100) and cost of materials approximately R550 per year. A non-refundable fee of R700 is payable on acceptance of an academic place at Rhodes University.

Application processes

Prospective candidates are required to complete an application form which can be obtained from and returned to Nozi Fihlani (n.fihlani@ru.ac.za). There is no cost attached to this initial application process. Once candidates have been notified of successful selection by the advisory board they will be required to complete further application forms through Rhodes University's Registrar's Division. Normal application and acceptance costs are then payable (see the Rhodes University Fees Booklet for further information).

For further information please contact Dr Jo-Anne Vorster

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