

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

Centre for Innovative & Lifelong Learning

Postgraduate Diploma in Quality Assurance in Higher Education- LC 515 [In collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning]

1. Overview

In recent decades, tertiary education has seen a massive increase in external and internal quality assurance (QA) activity around the world. A number of new QA agencies are being formed and reformed as universities and colleges grow in size, number and diversity. A new profession is emerging to meet the demands of QA - one that requires structured academic programmes to educate QA practitioners, stimulate research and inform new initiatives. Developed by the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and contextualized, converted as an eLearning programme by the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC), the Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in Quality Assurance will be offered and awarded by the University of Mauritius and offered in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) through VUSSC.

Unlike most education and training for the QA profession, which is in the form of short courses, this is a comprehensive academic programme for the training and professional development of QA professionals.

2. Objectives

- Develop well-informed perspectives on the issues and challenges for tertiary education systems and institutions, with a particular emphasis on the role of QA in a dynamic sector.
- Apply the knowledge and skills to engage more confidently and effectively in the tasks of leading people, influencing policy, and implementing QA policies and processes at both the system and the institutional level.
- Research and document higher education systems with recognised methods and approaches.
- Ensure quality provisions in higher education sector both in the public and the private sector.
- Develop mechanisms to implement quality assurance systems with respect to transnational higher education provisions.

3. General Entry Requirements

- Successful completion of an Undergraduate Degree with at least a Second Class or 50%, whichever is applicable, or GPA not less than 2.5 out of 4 or equivalent, from a recognized higher education institution.
- Or alternative and/or equivalent qualifications acceptable to the University of Mauritius. Mature candidates will be considered on a case-to-case basis.

4. Programme Requirements

- Minimum of three years working experience in the Higher Education related sector.

5. Specific Programme Provisions

- Prospective students who have completed equivalent modules of the programme from a recognized Higher Education institution can apply for exemption for a maximum of 12 credits.

- Prospective students who have completed individual modules as stand-alone modules at the University of Mauritius, can accumulate credits up to a maximum of 18 credits prior to official enrolment on the programme, subject to satisfying the requirements at Section (3) & (4).

6. Programme Duration

The programme is offered fully online on a flexible modality. The duration of the programme should normally not exceed 24 months.

	Normal	Maximum
Postgraduate Diploma	24 months	36 months

As per provisions of Section (5), the normal and maximum period mentioned above, are applicable for a minimum enrolment of 6 credits and a maximum of 12 credits.

7. Credits per year

Students have to register for a minimum of 6 credits per academic year, when they officially enroll on the programme, to ensure completion within the maximum period.

8. Assessment

The programme will be assessed fully by coursework. Assessment will include individual and group work and will cover a wide range of assessment techniques (journals and portfolios, reports and online participation). Assessment will be module specific as specified in the module specification sheet.

The pass mark for a module in the programme will be 50% given the nature of assessment, which is entirely through coursework.

9. Award of Postgraduate Diploma

- A Postgraduate Diploma will be awarded for participants who have accumulated a total of 24 credits.
- Given the flexible nature of the programme based on the credit accumulation principle, the award of a Postgraduate Certificate will only be considered for participants who have successfully completed a total of 18 credits.

10. List of Modules- Postgraduate Diploma in Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Code	Module Name	Hrs/Wk	Credits
CIL 6245	Higher Education in a Global World: The Context of Quality Assurance	DEOL	6
CIL 6246	External Quality Assurance	DEOL	6
CIL 6247	Operating and External Quality Agency	DEOL	6
CIL 6248	Maintaining Quality within the Institution	DEOL	6

The programme is offered in a sequential basis, in the order as described above. CIL6245, CILL6246 and CIL6248 are initially offered as stand-alone modules, under a credit accumulation system, which are transferred to the programme, upon official enrollment.

11. Modules Outline

CIL 6245: Higher Education in a Global World: The Context of Quality Assurance (6 credits)

An understanding of the higher education context in which quality assurance agencies operate is an essential foundation for the design of good quality assurance practices and accountability. This module, as the title suggests, sets out to introduce you to the trends in higher education at a time when national boundaries are melting away and the world has become more globalised than it has ever been.

CIL 6246: External Quality Assurance (6 credits)

This module highlights the complexity of the concept of quality and the various Quality Assurance frameworks and processes used to define and measure quality. The focus is on external quality assurance (EQA) agencies, that is, systems external to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and their internal QA systems.

CIL 6247: Operating and External Quality Agency (6 credits)

This module takes an organisational perspective on the establishment and management of an external quality assurance agency. It describes the functions to be performed such as determining scope of operations and the development of methodologies to be used for reviewing and other activities. The module outlines a variety of frameworks used by agencies to link theoretical aspects of quality, purpose of review and the practice of quality assurance.

CIL 6248: Maintaining Quality within the Institution (6 credits)

This module provides an introduction to the contexts and approaches of internal quality monitoring, addressing at a range of cultural, methodological and practical considerations. It also explores how institutions can plan quality strategies and operations, and different methods for assessing and evaluating quality. Forms of evaluation, review and monitoring are considered which conclude with a discussion of options for managing quality improvement.