



29 August 2022

Public webinars get underway this week to clarify the new draft policy for higher education institutions

A series of three workshops organised by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in collaboration with Universities South Africa gets underway this week. The workshops are intended to explain the spirit and purpose of the **Draft Policy for the Recognition of South African Higher Education Institutional Types**, which the DHET published for public comment in a *Government Gazette* on 8 August 2022. Moreover, the engagements will serve as a source for further information which could be used to improve the policy.

This information drive follows a barrage of public commentary and media inquiries that followed the publication and the DHET's media statement on same on 11 August. The comments expressed shock, misunderstanding and misperceptions of the Draft Policy intent.

The online webinars will take place this week, starting on Wednesday, 31 August with an engagement targeted at private higher education providers. The second, on Thursday, 1 September, is for public higher education institutions including vocational education and training, and other colleges. The general public may attend the last in the series of these workshops, set for Friday, 2 September.

Leading the discussion will be DHET's Chief Director responsible for Higher Education Policy and Research Support, Mr Mahlubi Chief Mabizela, who will explain the background to this development and unpack the scope and range of institutional types as proposed in the Draft Policy. He will be accompanied by several of his DHET peers from the Governance, Policy and Private Higher Education directorates. Universities South Africa, whose role will be to facilitate discussions and make a representation on behalf of public universities, will be represented by USAf's Director: Operations and Sector Support, Dr Linda Meyer.

According to Professor Ahmed Bawa, there could be no better opportunity to obtain understanding on the **Draft Policy for the Recognition of South African Higher Education Institutional Types**, other than by participating in at least one of these engagements. The three platforms provide ample opportunity to hear directly from the policy makers and to inquire deeply and widely, as well as benefit from the audience's additional questions.

Registration to attend the preferred one of these upcoming workshops is provided for, below.

31 AUGUST 2022 – PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

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