

Terms of Reference for the Panel of Consistency Reviewers



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ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA APPROVAL RECORD			
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1. NAME OF THE PANEL

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) through the Education Committee hereby establishes a panel to be known as the Panel of Consistency Reviewers hereafter referred to as “the Panel”.

2. MANDATES

2.1 Mandate of the Engineering Council of South Africa

The Engineering Profession Act, (Act 46 of 2000) establishes the Engineering Council of South Africa to regulate the practice of the engineering profession in South Africa. The Engineering Council of South Africa’s mandate is:

- to provide for the registration of professionals, candidates and specified categories in the engineering profession;
- to provide for the regulation of the relationship between the Engineering Council of South Africa and the Council for the Built Environment; and
- to provide for matters connected therewith.

The above is done through:

- i) Generating qualification standards in the field of engineering, and recommendation to the HEQC for approval;
- ii) Recognition of engineering programmes as a prerequisite for professional designation;
- iii) Accreditation
- iv) Registering engineering professionals, candidates and specified categories practitioners; and
- v) Regulating the engineering practice.


2.2 Mandate of the Education Committee

As per E-10-P, the mandate of the Education Committee is:

- to operate within the framework of the ECSA’s Standing Orders for Council and Committees of Council;

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- to ensure sufficient capacity for the list of persons acting as Visit Leaders, Team Leaders and Team Members;
- to keep the Executive Committee and Council informed of decisions taken in terms of these delegated powers and to report on trends or other matters of professional and public concern arising from its activities;
- to grant accreditation for a defined period and provisional accreditation to programmes after consideration of the full report from the accreditation team and to approve recommended Interim or Final visits;
- to withhold accreditation from non-accredited qualifications and programmes and to withdraw accreditation from non-compliant existing programmes;
- to approve accreditation visit schedules, reporting deadlines and dates of the Education Committee meetings; and
- to recommend reviews as necessary to ensure that the accreditation standards of the ECSA are substantially equivalent to those of accrediting bodies with whom the ECSA has entered into a mutual recognition agreement

The Education Committee delegates these duties to the Executive: Regulatory Functions

3. ACCOUNTABILITY

The Panel accounts to the Education Manager who then communicates with Visit Leaders who in turn report to the ECSA Education Committee.

4. COMPOSITION

4.1 The Education Officer appoints the Panel to review the report from Visit Leader


4.2 The Panel shall comprise of a maximum of three (3) but not less than two (2) members.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

In accordance with **E-10-P**, the following are the specific responsibilities and functions of the Panel. The Panel shall:

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5.1 determine if the reports reflect a logically consistent judgement of the evidence against the criteria and whether recommendations on deficiencies and concerns, if any, relate to the accreditation criteria or not;

5.2 confirm that the reports conform to the prescribed format and the writing is of adequate quality for the various audiences, which include the Education Committee, university senior management, Deans, Heads, academics involved in the programme and the Council on Higher Education;

5.2.1 The Panel shall confirm if the written reports are of an adequate quality for the various audiences in a manner that is respectful and collegial at all times;

5.2.2 The Panel shall edit the language of the report in a manner that may not be deemed offensive to the Visit Leaders or Team Leaders and also a manner that does not edit the factual correctness of the report.

5.3 The consistency reviewers shall refer reports back to the Visit Leaders or Team Leaders for improvement, however, cannot make judgements on the programme(s).

6. REPORTING

6.1 The Panel advises the Visit Leaders and the Team Leaders; however, it is only the Visit Leaders who report to the Education Committee as indicated in Section 3 above.

7. TERM OF OFFICE


The Panel operates on an ad hoc basis to deal with the responsibilities and functions identified under section 5 of these Terms of Reference.

8. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

Appointment of a member shall terminate after submitting the reports back to the Education Officer / Visit Leader/ Deputy Visit leader or Team Leaders and the report has been accepted.

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9. AMENDMENT TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference:

- 9.1 May be revised upon recommendation by the ECSA Education Committee;
- 9.2 Will be approved by the ECSA Research, Policy and Standards Committee.

10. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Terms of Reference for The Panel shall become effective upon approval by ECSA Research, Policy and Standards Committee.

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