



Guidance for Closing Accredited Programmes

For AfN-accredited degree programmes



Introduction

The Association for Nutrition is sorry to note that you are closing your Accredited programme. There are a number of aspects that we would like you to consider as you go through the process of rolling out your programme. To this end, AfN is committed to working in partnership with institutions to ensure the continued delivery of the accredited programme within a supportive framework, so as to enhance the opportunities available to students currently enrolled.





Accreditation Status

You will retain your accredited status until such time as your last student graduates from the programme. Please note that:



The onus is on the programme team and institution to ensure that the standards and core competencies are maintained as the programme rolls out – this includes, but is not limited to:

- Standard 4b “There must be sufficient and relevant teaching and learning resources in place to deliver and assess the programme in its entirety”;
- Standard 5a “There must be AfN Registered Nutritionists (RNutr) involved in the leadership of the programme, who will take a role in ensuring that staff delivering the programme maintain their knowledge and skills in respect of the Core Competencies”
- Standard 5b “There must be sufficient AfN Registered Nutritionist (RNutr) to deliver a programme which aligns with the philosophy, values and ethics of AfN and the nutrition profession. As a minimum, there must be two FTE AfN Registered Nutritionists (RNutr) contributing to the design, delivery and assessment of the Core Competencies for each programme”
- Standard 5d “There must be sufficient appropriately qualified and experienced staff to deliver and assess the Core Competency requirements. This may included Registered Associate Nutritionists (ANutr) and staff from other relevant disciplines”



Standards must be maintained even through a process of redundancy, voluntary severance and also where staff leave organisation voluntarily through retirement or career advancement.



Current Students



AfN is committed to ensuring that students currently enrolled on the programme are not adversely affected by the programme closure and are able to fully avail themselves of opportunities to study and gain employment once they have graduated.



There is a considerable onus on the institution to ensure that students and staff are fully briefed on the situation. It is not the role of AfN to appease the fears of students or staff on accredited programmes.



During the rolling out process the programme is still subject to both the Annual Accreditation Review and the Annual Fee.



Roll out



In circumstances where students are still enrolled on the programme following the final cohort graduation – i.e. through resits or illness, there is an expectation that those students will be fully supported to the point of graduation.



Where students are still enrolled on the programme after the final cohort has graduated the programme will be asked to complete the Annual Accreditation Review process, however, the annual fee will be waived.



Governance



Accreditation Committee is the decision making body of AfN on behalf of Council with respect to Accreditation matters.



Accreditation Committee may ask programmes to demonstrate compliance with all standards and Core Competencies if concerns are raised that the institution is falling short of the expected commitment to the AfN accreditation status.



Accreditation Committee can request additional mapping during the AAR process to ensure continued compliance with the Standards mentioned above and to ensure that the programme can still deliver the Core Competencies to the remaining cohort(s).



AfN is strongly committed to working with programmes which are closing.

During the roll out process please feel free to discuss any aspects of the programme and compliance with the Standards and Competencies with the Quality Assurance Team, please contact us at accreditation@associationfornutrition.com



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