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NEW INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION ROOTED IN AFRICA

Stellenbosch University wishes to inform its continental partners that it has established a new Unit for International Credentialing within SU International, which (amongst others) will be certifying the results and quality assuring a new international school-leaving qualification being implemented by the South African-based Independent Examinations Board (IEB)-International.

The IEB-International is an arm of a South African non-profit organisation and an internationally well-respected assessment Board that conducts assessment for school-leavers in the independent school sector for qualifications such as the South African National Senior Certificate (NSC), which was also previously offered in SADC countries. IEB-International has now requested Stellenbosch University to quality assure “a high-quality qualification that is internationally comparable but is Africa-centred, developed and delivered by a South African organisation” internationally. This qualification is referred to as the IEB International Secondary Certificate (IEB-ISC). The Stellenbosch University Unit for International Credentialing (SU-UIC) housed within the Africa Centre for Scholarship (ACS) in SU International will be responsible for the quality assurance processes for the IEB-ISC. The SU-UIC will quality assure the IEB international qualification as UMALUSI, South Africa’s national quality assurance body, has no jurisdiction to quality assure a qualification offered outside the borders of South Africa. The IEB has also established an operational unit within the IEB that will be known as IEB-International, under the auspices of which the new qualification will be offered. IEB-International will therefore manage the development, conduct, external assessment and examinations of the IEB-ISC, while the oversight role of external quality assurance will be carried out under the auspices of Stellenbosch University.

The IEB-ISC qualification is an international qualification with its roots in Africa. The qualification has been evaluated by Universities South Africa (USAf) and a candidate who obtains the IEB-ISC will have met the minimum requirements for admission to degree study



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programmes in South African Public and Private Higher Education Institutions, with the proviso that the IEB offers the qualification in a foreign country and the candidate obtains the qualification with Merit or at the Advanced level and is offered a place at a South African University. Furthermore, the IEB has engaged UK ENIC (previously known as UK NARIC), the institution that represents the UK in all matters relating to international qualifications, to benchmark the qualification and specific subject curricula internationally.

The first Grade 12 examinations for the IEB-ISC will take place in October 2022 and therefore qualifying candidates would be applying to universities for 2023. The Schools that offer the IEB-ISC are independent schools, appropriately registered in their own countries, fulfilling all legal requirements applying in the country in which they operate. Similarly, other institutions that wish to offer the IEB-ISC would be obliged to fulfil the legal requirements which apply in the country in which they operate.

This exciting new international qualification will present an affordable, African alternative to other school-leaving qualifications offered by foreign bodies.

For more details

International Secondary Certificate

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