

Update: Preparations for the institutional audit site visit well underway

Stellenbosch University, along with other higher education institutions are currently undergoing an institutional audit, conducted by the Council on Higher Education (CHE).

An institutional audit is an external quality assurance mechanism. Its aim is to evaluate the coherence and effectiveness of an institution's internal quality assurance system in enabling student success and improving the core functions of learning and teaching, research and community engagement (social impact).

As part of the process, earlier this year, the Council approved the self-evaluation report that had been compiled to initiate the University's institutional audit. Our self-evaluation covers the period 2018 to 2021. The self-evaluation report and accompanying portfolio of evidence was submitted to the CHE at the end of June.

The Deputy Vice-Chair: Learning and Teaching, Prof Deresh Ramjugernath says the peer review panel, who is due to visit Stellenbosch University from 31 October to 4 November this year, is currently reading through the University's [self-evaluation report](#) and portfolio of evidence.

"Their preparation will include a critical reading of our [self-evaluation report](#) to identify questions to ask staff and students," he says.

Information on the institutional audit and the upcoming hybrid site visit is available on the [institutional audit website](#). The main focus of the peer review panel will be on the University's quality management system, which according to the University's self-evaluation, is running smoothly.

"As is typical with a collective sense-making and reflection activity like this we welcome external perspectives on our quality judgements and look forward to the triangulation of findings and the recommendations the peer review panel will make."

As part of its preparations for the site visit, the University has already identified a few short- and medium-term improvement areas. These include actions to improve the student feedback system, and to make better use of information for improvement from employers, industry stakeholders and recent graduates.

"As we say in our self-evaluation report: 'SU can never be self-satisfied in thinking it has "arrived". Excellence requires collective, daily efforts and diligence in service of the public good benefitting students, staff, local community, society and the global community. To this journey, we remain committed'."

*For updates on the institutional audit process visit the [institutional audit website](#).