

University Capacity Development Programme and the utilization of the University Capacity Development Grant (2018-2020)

Introduction

Based on the findings of a recent review of higher education funding, the Ministerial Statement on University Funding 2016/17 and 2017/18 indicated that once the current 3 year funding cycle for earmarked grants conclude (31 March 2017), teaching and research development grants will be combined in a single University Capacity Development Grant (UCDG). The new grant will both consolidate and extend the functions of the current Teaching Development Grant (TDG) and Research Development Grant (RDG). The purpose of the former has been described as “improving student success and enhancing student learning through a sustained focus on improving the quality and impact of university teachers, teaching and teaching resources” (DHET 2013a) while that of the latter was expressed as “enhancing research capacity of universities and improving research productivity through a focus on developing the research capabilities of academic staff in need of development in this area” (DHET 2013b).

The University Capacity Development Programme

It is envisioned that these purposes will be achieved through the implementation of a holistic University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) of which the primary goal is to address transformation imperatives in the university system to enable the following:

- High levels of student success
- The establishment of an academic pipeline that allows for the recruitment of adequate numbers of new academic staff that in order to eventually transform the academic workforce
- The provision of quality research and teaching development opportunities for all academic staff
- The development of professional staff (including management staff)
- The development of new academic programmes that are of strategic and importance and aligned with national priorities
- The review and renewal of curricula to enable the delivery of programmes that are responsive to transformation imperatives in higher education

The UCDP is underpinned by the principles of quality, equity and success and is explicitly people-focused. In particular it consists of three separate sub-programmes being student development, staff development and programme development.

Distribution of UCDG funding

Programme	Allocation
Student development	20-35%
Staff development	20-35%
• Nurturing Emerging Scholars Programme	0-5%
• Existing Staff Capacity Enhancement Programme: Teaching Development	10-25%
• Existing Staff Capacity Enhancement Programme: Research Development	10-25%
• Supplementary Staff Employment Programme	0-5%

Programme Development	0-5%
Management of UCDG	0-5%
Total of grant dedicated to university managed programmes	70%
New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP)	25%
Higher Education Leadership Management Programme	1%
Collaborative Development activities	4%
Total of grant dedicated to nationally coordinated programmes	30%

Implementation of UCDP: Actions required

- Develop and submit a plan for the phase-out of the current TDG and RDG (to cover 1 April 2017-31 December 2017). Plan to be submitted by 15 December
- Develop and submit a University Capacity Development Plan for the remainder of the 3-year cycle that ends 31 March 2020
- Establish a model for integration and collaboration between the various functions responsible for the different elements of the UCDP

Criteria for the approval of UCDG plan

- Plan must be aligned to institutional strategic plans
- Plan must have clear targets to be achieved over three years
- Plan must be evidence based and data-informed
- Plan must reflect coherence and integration
- Plan must be cost-effective and efficient

References

DHET 2013a. Ministerial Statement on the Management and Utilization of the Teaching Development Grants

DHET 2013b. Criteria for the Management and Utilization of the Research Development Grant to Universities