

06 August 2020

Music Teachers of South Africa



RE: RESPONSE TO A LETTER REGARDING THE PGCE QUALIFICATION FOR MUSIC TEACHERS

The above matter bears reference.

Our response to the letter regarding the PGCE qualification for music teachers is based on SACE's considered conviction, as a committed tenant of basic and higher education laws, policies, regulatory frameworks and all other relevant rules in South Africa, as a Constitutional and Democratic Country.

Your letter highlighted that the South African music teachers are permanently employed yet, they are discriminated against and unjustly refused permanent registration with SACE. Your concern is based on the fact that they are required to produce the PGCE qualification in order to be awarded the full SACE registration status. Additionally, it mentioned that SACE does not consider degrees and years of experience when registering these teachers.

In line with your concerns, you made a suggestion to develop a Music subject-based PGCE qualification that would be recognised and approved for registration by SACE. Coupled with this, was the issues around the recognition of teaching diplomas and licentiates from UNISA and other internationally recognised Examination Boards (ABRSM, TRINITY, LCM).

On the basis on the above raised concerns, SACE wants to indicate that, in terms of the SACE Actno.31 of 2000, along with, Council-Approved SACE Registration Criteria, the registration of prospective and practicing teachers takes place according to the three categories as follows:

- **Full Registration Status Category** – Professionally qualified educators with BEd OR first Degree / Diploma and PGCE only;
- **Provisional Registration Category** – BEd and PGCE student teachers in all public and recognized private Higher Education Institutions;
- **Conditional Special Registration Category** – created to recognise the national priorities in schools and sectoral needs that are necessary in our schools but do not fit neatly into the typical professional registration requirements (*Performing Arts inclusive of Music, Visual Arts, Therapists and Psychologists, Areas in Focus Schools, Three Stream Model inclusive of Artisans, Schools of Skills, Technical High Schools, Waldorf and Montessori Schools, Christian / Jewish / Muslim Schools, TVET and CET*).

Conditional Registration Status limits and ties a registration applicant to a specific Subject / Phase / Institution / Sector only. Thus, an applicant in this category cannot teach any other subject or phase or sector, unless qualified otherwise. Notably, some of the applicants in this category hold dual membership for SACE and their professional councils (**e.g. Therapists and Psychologists – HPCSA, Aviators – Civil Aviation Authority and others**)

Based on the received Music Teachers' professional registration applications by SACE, the majority falls under the Conditional Special Category Registration with the following conditions:

- This registration status that is no longer renewable every three years since July 2020;
- An update of the conditional special registration category status will only take place if a PGCE qualification is achieved in order to move to full registration status OR a new area of specialization is acquired and, in that case, a new conditional registration will be issued in the new area of specialisation;
- A different colour coded conditional special registration certificate will be issued, indicating the limitation to teach in the area of specialisation only.

In cases where an applicant submits a qualification and SACE is not clear on which category to allocate, the DHET assists in evaluating the qualification accordingly. Thus, certain individual application cases will be treated on their own merit.

Regarding the recognition of prior learning and experiences, SACE and the Department of Higher Education and Training do not offer any qualification, neither can professional registration be done on the basis of RPL. Therefore, RPL is done by the higher education institutions where the applicant intends to study. Also, the music international qualifications must be evaluated by the SAQA for comparability with South African qualifications before they can be considered by the SACE for registration.

For any additional queries kindly direct your email to Ms Charmaine Landsberg for the attention of the CEO (ccl@sace.org.za / 012 663 0410)

Yours in the Profession



Ella Mokgalane
(Chief Executive Officer)