

2023/24

OPEN LETTER TO APPLICANTS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Dear prospective applicant for accreditation

1. Application Process

Umalusi accepts applications for accreditation from registered independent schools offering the National Curriculum Statement in Grades 1 to 12, leading to the National Senior Certificate.

The accreditation process is as follows for a new applicant:

	Step in Process	Explanation
1.1	Letter of intent to apply for accreditation	<p>a. An Independent School completes an online "Letter of Intent to apply for accreditation" (LOI) found on the Umalusi website: www.umalusi.org.za "Accreditation for Private Providers";</p> <p>b. An invoice for processing the LOI is generated on the online system and can be printed from the system;</p> <p>c. Once payment is verified, Umalusi screens the applicant's expression of intent and approves or rejects it or requests further information.</p>
1.2	Attendance of a Quality Promotion (QP) Meeting	<p>a. All applicants must attend a compulsory online Quality Promotion (QP) meeting before completing their self-evaluation report (application). These meetings are meant to ensure that applicants are fully aware of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How to complete the self-evaluation (which constitutes an application); ii. The evidence required; iii. An overview of what to expect for the site visit (a pre-site visit meeting will be held closer to the time of the site visit); iv. Fees applicable and payment methods. <p>b. Attendance of these meetings will be per invitation only. Applicants will be informed of the date and will be sent a link to join the online meeting once confirmation of attendance has been received. Only the applicants who have submitted their online intent to apply for accreditation and whose letter of intent has been accepted will be invited.</p> <p>c. After attending the QP meeting, the applicant will be granted access to the online self-evaluation instrument and will be invoiced to submit the self-evaluation report.</p>

	Step in Process	Explanation
		<p>d. Applicants will also be granted access to the application guideline document that explains in detail what is expected, particularly regarding the evidence required.</p>
1.3	Submission of online Self-Evaluation report (E&A IS 5A) and Portfolio of Evidence	<p>a. Once the self-evaluation invoice has been paid and payment verified, applicants will be able to submit their self-evaluation report and the required evidence on Umalusi's online system.</p> <p>b. If the evidence submitted is insufficient or does not meet the requirements, the self-evaluation report will be returned to the applicant to rework and resubmit with the correct evidence. An additional fee is payable on each resubmission.</p> <p>c. Only two resubmissions will be permitted.</p> <p>d. If there is no improvement after the second resubmission, the entire submission will be rejected. The applicant will then be required to make a new application and pay for the new application from the beginning of the process. On reapplication, there will be no access to the documents previously uploaded.</p> <p>e. A school is considered to have made an application for accreditation once a self-evaluation report meeting the requirements has been submitted.</p> <p>f. The school's stage in the accreditation process on 31 August will be reported to the provincial departments of education and assessment bodies each year. The assessment bodies consult these lists in considering applications for registration as examination centres for the following year.</p>
1.4	Site verification visit	<p>a. When the self-evaluation report meets the minimum requirements, the applicant will receive an invoice for the next phase of the accreditation process, the site visit. The site visit may be online or a physical site visit.</p> <p>b. A site visit will only take place once the requisite site visit fee has been paid.</p> <p>c. An unannounced confirmation physical site visit may take place after an online site visit.</p> <p>d. Applicants who request a delay of the site visit will retain the status of "unaccredited" until they are found to be compliant with the accreditation criteria.</p> <p>e. A delay in the site visit (caused by the school) of more than six months will lead to the lapse of the application, with no refund of costs and no access to the documents previously submitted.</p>

	Step in Process	Explanation
		f. An online pre-site visit meeting will be held before an online site visit. The programme for the site visit and all logistical requirements will be explained during the pre-site visit meeting.
1.5	Accreditation report submitted to the Accreditation Committee of Council (ACC)	<p>a. After a site visit, a consolidated report will be presented to the Accreditation Committee of Council (ACC) for consideration of the outcome of the application. This ensures that the accreditation process is fair and that the decisions are consistent with the evidence presented and evaluated.</p> <p>b. The decisions which can be made are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation • Two years provisional accreditation • Does not meet the requirements – “window period” to improve • No accreditation (after provisional accreditation or a window period to improve) <p>c. The criteria for accreditation are indicated in Annexure A (page 6).</p>
1.6	Correspondence sent to schools for which the ACC recommends "a window period to improve" or provisional accreditation for the initial application	<p>a. Schools that do not meet the minimum requirements for accreditation will be notified of the areas found not meeting the requirements and the time that the school is granted to meet the minimum requirements for accreditation. At the point of re-evaluation, the school must meet the minimum standards in all criteria, not only those listed in the feedback report.</p> <p>b. An additional fee is payable for the evaluation of evidence following provisional accreditation or a window period to improve.</p> <p>c. An unannounced or online follow-up site visit may be conducted to verify the new evidence submitted.</p> <p>d. An unannounced confirmation site visit may follow an online site visit.</p> <p>e. Non-submission of the required evidence or non-payment of the required fee within the specified period will lead to a final "no accreditation" decision.</p> <p>f. After verification of the evidence submitted, the report will again be presented to the ACC for consideration.</p> <p>g. Note that all accreditation criteria must be met at the time of review. That means, if criteria were met at the first presentation of the report to the ACC and were therefore not stated as areas needing attention, but the standards drop and the school no</p>

	Step in Process	Explanation
		longer meets the criteria at the point of review, the school will be considered not compliant in those areas when deciding on the outcome of the application for accreditation.
1.7	The decision by the CEO	<p>a. Once the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has approved the recommendation of the ACC, the outcome will be communicated through a letter emailed to the institution.</p> <p>b. An appeal process is in place should the applicant wish to appeal the outcome of the decision based on the evidence available at the time of the application.</p>
1.8	Monitoring	Umalusi will monitor accredited independent schools.

2. Payment of Invoices

- a. The fees for the accreditation process are indicated in Annexure B (page 9) of this letter.
- b. Payment must be made per step of the accreditation process before the next step can take place.
- c. No step will be executed before the amount the applicant is invoiced for is settled.
- d. Umalusi will not refund any payments made towards an executed step. Should an institution wish to cancel their application, there will be no refund. We, therefore, appeal to institutions to be sure about their application.
- e. Invoices issued for any process step must be settled within three calendar months. Failure to do so may result in the rejection of the application, irrespective of the step at which the applicant is.
- f. Applicants whose invoices were not settled and their applications rejected will be required to re-apply for accreditation at full cost to the applicant. There will be no transfer of funds from previous applications that have been rejected. The applicant will not have access to documents already submitted in the case of the rejection of an application.

3. Reporting of accreditation status

- a. In line with the requirements for registration of schools as examination centres, Umalusi reports the accreditation status of schools to the Provincial Education Departments and the Private Assessment Bodies. To this end, Umalusi will submit such a report to the assessment bodies on the stage in a school's accreditation process as of 31 August of that year. The stage reported will remain as such for the

purposes of the Provincial Education Departments and Private Assessment Bodies for the following academic year.

- b. Accredited independent schools will receive a letter of accreditation and an Accreditation certificate.
- c. Accredited independent schools will be indicated on Umalusi's website, www.umalusi.org.za.

4. Additional information

Additional information on this accreditation process can be obtained from the guideline documents found on the Umalusi website and during attendance of the Quality Promotion meetings. You are also free to contact our offices in this regard.

Contact details are as follows:

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ANNEXURE A

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS		
Criteria	Description in Policy¹ and Regulations²	Core Indicators for Accreditation
Criterion 1 Leadership, Management and Communication	<p>(a) The school's leadership is instructive and provides strategic direction and governance oversight based on acceptable practices.</p> <p>(b) The school is sufficiently resourced and sustainable.</p> <p>(c) The management strategies, policies and processes are effective in facilitating the achievement of the school's stated objectives and national objectives, and in raising school performance.</p> <p>(d) The management leads, monitors and continuously improves the capacity of the school as well as the quality and standard of the implementation and delivery of the curriculum/programme.</p> <p>(e) School resource, financial and management records, as well as learner records, are comprehensive, authentic and reliable.</p> <p>(f) The school leadership and management consult and communicate effectively with</p>	<p>i. The school leadership and its governance structure provide strategic direction and consult and communicate with all relevant stakeholders;</p> <p>ii. The Head of the school has a professional teaching qualification and current registration with SACE.</p> <p>iii. The school's offering aligns with the school's registration regarding the name, physical address and grades offered.</p> <p>iv. There is evidence that the school is financially sustainable and can meet its financial obligations as they fall due.</p> <p>v. The management strategies, policies and processes are effective in facilitating the achievement of the school's and national objectives, and raising school performance;</p> <p>vi. The management of learner records is comprehensive, authentic and reliable;</p> <p>vii. There is a valid Health and Safety Certificate (not older than two years) for the school AND hostel.</p> <p>viii. There is adequate serviced fire equipment (serviced within 12 months).</p> <p>ix. The Health and Safety Committee is active and ensures the implementation of policy.</p> <p>x. There are suitable, safe and sufficient facilities (school and hostel where applicable) to discharge education as envisaged in the school's vision and mission statement.</p>

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Criteria	Description in Policy ¹ and Regulations ²	Core Indicators for Accreditation
	all stakeholders in respect of strategic and management related matters.	
Criterion 2 School ethos	The school gives expression to an ethos that promotes and is not in conflict with the values of the South African Constitution and displays values that reflect the specific character of the school, as articulated in the school's vision and mission statement, with specific attention to safety and discipline as required in the <i>South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No. 84 of 1996)</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The vision and mission of the school promote an ethos that is not in conflict with the South African constitution; ii. In the application/execution of its ethos, the school expresses an ethos that promotes and does not conflict with the values of the South African Constitution, applicable legislation and the principles of the NQF. iii. There is no form of unfair discrimination evident in the school.
Criterion 3 Teaching and learning	<p>(a) The school is professionally staffed to support the qualifications it offers.</p> <p>(b) The school implements the curriculum/programme and assessment requirements at the required standard and in accordance with the policy requirements of the qualifications registered on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-framework.</p> <p>(c) The school provides appropriate learner support.</p> <p>(d) The school manages and conducts internal continuous assessment of an acceptable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. At least 80% of the teachers hold a professional teaching qualification and current registration with SACE. ii. The school demonstrates the capacity to develop and implement learning programmes, lesson plans and assessment programmes in line with the minimum outcomes of the CAPS. iii. The school has a suitably qualified, functional academic board. iv. The school is sufficiently resourced and sustainable and has adequate teaching and learning resources, suitable facilities, premises and financial resources to manage the programmes offered and enhance the quality of teaching and learning; v. The school demonstrates the capacity to administer quality assessment at the required standard and in line with the minimum requirements of the CAPS and the regulations pertaining to the

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Criteria	Description in Policy ¹ and Regulations ²	Core Indicators for Accreditation
	<p>standard and provides developmental feedback to learners.</p> <p>(e) Where appropriate, the school is registered as an examination centre that undertakes external assessment in compliance with the directives of the national policy that governs the qualification, policies and directives of Umalusi Council and the relevant assessment body.</p> <p>(f) An appropriate and developmental extra-curricular programme is implemented.</p>	<p>NSC examination and provides developmental feedback to learners;</p> <p>vi. The teachers demonstrate capacity in conducting internal assessment and developing School Based Assessment tasks that are of acceptable standards.</p> <p>vii. The school demonstrates alignment of the outcomes of the curriculum with the learning outcomes of the National Curriculum Statement at the exit grades of grades 3, 6, 9 and 12.</p> <p>viii. The school demonstrates alignment of records of learner achievement in grades 3, 6, 9 and 12.</p> <p>ix. The school provides appropriate learner support</p> <p>x. The school provides adequate opportunities to learners for co-and/or extra-curricula participation.</p>
Criterion 4 School Results	The quality of school performance is evaluated and used to inform continuous improvement in the quality of provision with specific reference to the quality of learner achievements and assessment outcomes, and stakeholder satisfaction levels.	<p>i. The school's Grade 12 results are not inferior to the national average.</p> <p>ii. Learner results are analysed and used to inform improvement in provision and learner support.</p>

¹ Policy and Criteria for the Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Monitoring of Independent Schools and Private Assessment Bodies (Government Gazette 35830 of 29 October 2012, as amended).

² Regulations regarding the Criteria for the Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Monitoring of Independent Schools and Private Assessment Bodies (Government Gazette 41206 of 27 October 2017).

		Foundation Phase	Primary School	High School	Combined School	Combined School
		Grades 1 - 3	Grades 1 - 7	Grades 8 - 12	Grades 1 - 9	Grades 1 - 12
Step 1	Letter of Intent (LOI)	R 1 107	R 1 107	R 1 107	R 1 107	R 1 107
Step 2	Attendance of online Quality Promotion Meeting	-	-	-	-	-
Step 3	Self-evaluation (initial)	R 7 552	R 11 672	13 732	R 15 787	R 19 905
	Self-evaluation (reapplication)	R 5 568	R 5 568	R 5 568	R 5 568	R 5 568
Step 4	Site Visit	R27 337	R 32 827	R 32 827	R 43 811	R 43 811
Step 5	Biennial Accreditation Fee	R 4 500	R 4 500	R 4 500	R 4 500	R 4 500

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		College	Intermediate Phase	Senior Phase	Combined School	Combined School
		Grades 10 – 12	Grades 4 – 6	Grades 7 - 9	Grades 4 - 12	Grades 4 – 9
Step 1	Letter of Intent (LOI)	R 1 107	R 1 107	R 1 107	R 1 107	R 1 107
Step 2	Attendance of online Quality Promotion Meeting	-	-	-	-	-
Step 3	Self-evaluation (initial)	R 9 610	R 9 610	R 9 610	R 17 851	R 13 732
	Self-evaluation (reapplication)	R 5 568	R5 568	R 5 568	R 5 568	R 5 568
Step 4	Site Visit	R 32 827	R 32 827	R 32 827	R 43 811	R 43 811
Step 5	Biennial Accreditation Fee	R 4 500	R 4 500	R 4 500	R 4 500	R 4 500

Re-evaluation of self-evaluation report (per event)	R 7 367
Evaluation of evidence submitted after a "window period" or outcome of provisional accreditation	R 8 106
Follow up monitoring process for institutions which fail to maintain the required accreditation standard	R 8 106
Extension of Scope (per one additional phase or High School / Primary School)	R 30 005
Extension of Scope (per additional phase over and above one phase for extension of scope at the same time – in addition to the amount indicated above).	R 10 980
Change of site	R 8 106
Consideration of an appeal	R 8 106

All fees are subject to annual increase.