

SACAP Validation Statement 14 August 2013

Higher Certificate in Architectural Technology Offered by the Inscape Education group

Validation Visiting Board members:

Maureen Gerrans
Mostert van Schoor
Gerald Steyn (Chair)
Yashaen Luckan
Jake de Villiers (Secretary)

Recommendation to SACAP Council

The Visiting Board recommends to Council that the Qualification "Higher Certificate in Architectural Technology" (NQF 5) be awarded status of deferred validation because, currently, the programme has not yet yielded a cohort of graduates.

Current students, once they qualify, will nevertheless be allowed to register as candidate architectural draughtspersons.

This deferred status will be reconsidered after a visit by a three-person Board has been successfully concluded on the basis of and assessment of a full body of graduates' work. It is recommended that this visit will not be for the account of Inscape.

Observations

Material supplied in advance to the visit:

The material was comprehensive, delivered timeously and of high quality, especially concerning the courseware of the programme.

Material on display:

Well laid out; venue well chosen and laid out; high level of preparation.

A full body of student work was not available in view of the fact that a cohort of graduated has not yet been produced. However, the work on display, combined with the staff and students interviews, allowed the Board to form a comprehensive impression.

Introductory presentation

Excellent; well articulated and informative

Student interviews

Interviews were honest and spontaneous. Students clearly valued the programme. They said that they considered this course to be a stepping stone to further qualifications.

Staff interviews

Discussions were fruitful and relaxed. Staff were very supportive of course content. They mentioned that they gained inspiration from teaching at Inscape. The currency and relevance of the course contents were praised by lecturing practitioners.

Advice to Inscape

1. Material should support current debates and developments. Expand library resources, such as e-library facilities and collaboration with local universities.
2. Assessment: it was difficult to understand from the material at hand to determine whether students received clear and formative feedback thereby allowing for continuous improvement.
3. Specialist lecturers should be considered for specialised modules
4. It is critical that current legislation governing the built environment be incorporated in the courseware.
5. Experiential training, being the largest module in terms of credit value should be very thoroughly structured and assessed.
6. Considering that this is a one year programme and that graduates are expected to be work-prepared, it is strongly recommended that CAD-proficiency be developed at an early stage.

Conclusion

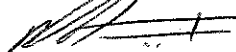
This report refers to a contact course only. Once the envisaged distance course has been introduced, the latter will be assessed separately.

Signed

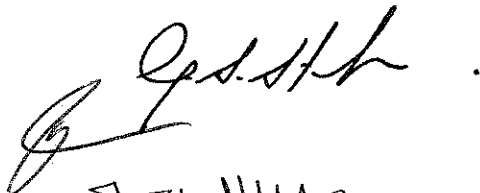
Maureen Gerrans



Mostert van Schoor



Gerald Steyn (Chair)



Yashaen Luckan

Jake de Villiers (Secretary)

