

Beyond Higher Certificates @ Unisa

A complete guide to preparing
yourself for career opportunities



Define tomorrow.

UNISA | 
university
of south africa

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The information in this document was correct as of 1 December 2020. Visit the [Directorate: Counselling and Career Development website](#) for the latest version of this document.

How will this brochure help me?

- As a prospective or registered Unisa student, it will assist you to reflect on your career and related study choices and to understand the role of the Higher Certificate in terms of your study planning
- It will provide you with information about the application process and how to change from one qualification to the next
- It will provide you with information about how to explore further career and study opportunities

Overview of Unisa qualifications

Unisa has seven Colleges offering a wide range of qualifications at an undergraduate level. These Colleges are:

- Accounting Sciences
- Economic and Management Sciences
- Law
- Human Sciences
- Education
- Science, Engineering and Technology
- Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

Qualifications are offered at different levels according to the National Qualifications Framework. For example, a completed Higher Certificate is on NQF level 5 and a

completed Bachelor's degree is on NQF level 7. Furthermore, each qualification consists of a specific number of credits in total. For example, a Higher Certificate in Archives and Records Management is on NQF level 5, with 120 credits.

New NQF level	Vocational	Professional	General
10		Doctoral degree	Doctoral degree
9		Master's degree	Master's degree
8	Postgraduate diploma	Postgraduate Diploma Bachelor's degree	Honours degree Bachelor's degree
7	Advanced diploma	Bachelor's degree Advanced Diploma	Bachelor's degree
6	Diploma (240 credits and 360 credits)	Diploma (360 credits)	
6	Advanced Certificate (120 credits)		
5	Higher Certificate (120 credits)		

Each qualification at Unisa has its unique admission requirements. For example, to be able to continue to an Honours degree, you would need to have completed at least an NQF level 7 qualification (i.e. a Bachelor's degree), in addition to other requirements.

It is important to note that any undergraduate qualification at Unisa has a set of admission requirements:

- statutory requirement (e.g. an NSC with degree admission),
- College-specific requirements (e.g. English and Mathematics for a BCom degree), and
- The academic points score (APS).

Any student must apply for a qualification for which he or she meets admission requirements. If you do not meet the relevant admission requirements for the diploma or bachelor's degree of choice, you are encouraged to apply for admission to a Higher Certificate. Completing a relevant Higher Certificate will enable you to meet the requirements for a diploma or degree and you can then apply for your next qualification during your last semester of study for the Higher Certificate.

The University has an enrolment management plan in place that stipulates the number of students it can accept per qualification. This means that even though you complete a Higher Certificate you may not be successful upon your first application attempt for the follow-on qualification, based on the number of spaces available for a qualification. In other words, even though completing the relevant Higher Certificate will enable you to meet the admission requirements for your next qualification, you may not be admitted to your next qualification due to the number of spaces available.

You can learn more about all the qualifications that Unisa offers at the undergraduate level (e.g. Higher Certificates, diplomas, and Bachelor's degrees) here: <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Qualifications>. The NQF level and the total number of credits for each qualification are listed on the webpage for that qualification.

What Higher Certificates are available?

The table below provides an overview of the Higher Certificates offered by Unisa, the College each Higher Certificate is related to, as well as, where possible, an indication of the purpose of the qualification.

Qualification	College
Higher Certificate in Accounting Sciences (98201)	Accounting Sciences
<p>Purpose</p> <p>This qualification is intended for candidates wishing to pursue a career in the field of accounting sciences but who are uncertain about the discipline in the accounting sciences that most interests them. Owing to the exposure to financial accounting, management accounting, auditing (including internal auditing) and taxation, qualifying students will be better equipped to select the discipline of their choice, either for further studies or when seeking employment once they have qualified. This qualification is also intended for candidates who consider their arithmetic, computing and English communication skills to be below par. Students will develop the necessary skills to perform basic duties under supervision in bookkeeping, costing, auditing and taxation. They will also acquire an understanding of management and administration principles. The purpose of this qualification is to enable qualifying students to: Perform basic functions under supervision in the field of accounting sciences, for instance, general bookkeeping, costing, auditing (including internal auditing) and tax calculations. Understand basic management and business administration concepts. Perform accounting calculations. Use a computer for basic business purposes. Communicate in English in the business world.</p>	

Higher Certificate in Animal Welfare (90098)	Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
<p>Purpose</p> <p>Qualifying students will have acquired the knowledge and skills specified by the South African Veterinary Council for the para-veterinary profession of Veterinary Welfare Assistant. More specifically, they will be able to demonstrate and apply knowledge of animal anatomy and physiology, behaviour and husbandry, standards for ethical behaviour in relation to animals, and a range of other knowledge and skills related to animal care and well-being. The qualification strives to promote animal welfare awareness and a commitment to ethical animal care and well-being. It further aims to alleviate the severe shortage of veterinary-related skills in South Africa by providing qualified Veterinary Welfare Assistants to work in support of animal welfare organisations in communities across the country. In so doing, it will promote the general benefits people derive from a healthy companion animal population, and also contribute to advancing social and economic transformation by providing accessible opportunities for individuals and career development to people from all social and cultural groups.</p>	
Higher Certificate in Life and Environmental Sciences (98366)	Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The primary purpose of the qualification is to provide learners with the basic introductory knowledge, cognitive and conceptual tools and practical techniques for Higher Education studies in life, environmental and related fields. The qualification emphasises general scientific principles, concepts, and theories that will improve the students' ability to grasp scientific concepts at higher levels. It exposes the learners to techniques for higher education studies in life, environmental and related fields. Qualifying learners would have attained a basic level of higher education knowledge and competence in life and environmental sciences and will be capable of applying such knowledge and competence in the workplace. It is therefore meant for those who do not meet the requirements for entry into the Diploma qualifications to gain enough competency to be admitted into such. Students who complete the qualification can articulate into Diploma, Bachelor of Consumer Sciences and Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Environmental Management qualifications.</p>	

Higher Certificate in Education (90093)	Education
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The purpose of this qualification is to provide access, with a reasonable chance of success, to candidates with potential who otherwise would not meet the new minimum entry requirements. The curriculum is aimed at providing these students with the necessary basic skills to succeed within the Open Distance Learning (ODEL) environment and also some articulation into first-year undergraduate Degree/Diploma qualifications offered. The purpose of the learning therefore will be to enhance generic competencies within ODeL such as basic language and learning skills, information management skills and teaching skills, as well as some elective subject knowledge.</p>	

Higher Certificate in Economic and Management Sciences	Economic and Management Sciences
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The purpose of this qualification is to prepare learners who do not comply with the minimum statutory or institutional admission requirements, for access to Diploma and Degree studies in the Economic and Management Sciences. This qualification will introduce learners to elementary concepts and principles of Economics, Business Management and Accountancy. The qualification should also improve learners' basic proficiency in English, their general computer skills and their basic numeracy skills which are required for studies in the Economic and Management Sciences.</p>	

Higher Certificate in Banking (98225)	Economic and Management Sciences
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The primary purpose of the qualification, closely tied to the rationale, is to introduce learners to the field of banking. Qualifying learners will have a fundamental understanding of bank management theory and principles. This qualification is designed to enable learners to join the financial services sector at the entry-level.</p>	

Higher Certificate in Marketing (98229)	Economic and Management Sciences
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The primary purpose of this qualification is closely tied to the rationale for the qualification and serves to provide learners with a basic knowledge of the field of marketing as well as practical application of these principles based on a case study approach. This qualification provides qualifying learners with basic knowledge of the principles, theories, methods and techniques of the art and science of marketing. In addition, it equips them to be able to apply these to be competitive in a South African employment context. The knowledge will be transferred in a practical way as far as possible.</p>	
Higher Certificate in Tourism Management (98226)	Economic and Management Sciences
<p>The purpose of this qualification is to prepare learners who do not comply with the minimum statutory or institutional admission requirements, for access to Diploma and Degree studies in the Economic and Management Sciences. This qualification will introduce learners to elementary concepts and principles of Economics, Business Management and Accountancy. The qualification should also improve learners' basic proficiency in English, their general computer skills and their basic numeracy skills which are required for studies in the Economic and Management Sciences.</p>	

Higher Certificate in Retailing (90014)	Economic and Management Sciences
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Purpose

The purpose of the qualification is to equip learners with knowledge and skills to enter into a retailing environment and to be able to contribute immediately to store management. Successful learners will have a basic knowledge and understanding of all crucial aspects of managing a retail store including sales skills, merchandise buying and the management of human resources.

Higher Certificate in Supervisory Management (90015)	Economic and Management Sciences
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Purpose

The purpose of this qualification is to prepare learners to operate and perform at an operational level in an organisation. This will include competencies and activities like planning, organising, leading and monitoring operations within a pre-set business plan. Upon completion of the qualification the learner will be able to apply fundamental business management principles, methodologies and techniques in order to identify and solve problems pertaining to the operational management activities in the organisations. They will also be able to provide leadership in the field of specialisation or request assistance in an appropriate manner as a team member for making the necessary preparations for establishing proper procedure for implementing operational management activities. Furthermore, the learner will be able to present and communicate information and opinions related to the field of operational management activities in the appropriate notation, using well-structured arguments, showing awareness of audience and using professional discourse appropriately.

Higher Certificate in Social Auxiliary Work (90011)	Human Sciences
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The purpose of this qualification is to equip learners with the knowledge and skills to practice effectively as a social auxiliary worker under the guidance and supervision of a social worker to achieve the aims of social work. The qualification also develops the competencies of learners in chosen fields of social auxiliary work knowledge and practice, thereby enabling qualifiers to provide supportive services in specialised fields or focus areas of social work. The qualification will enable the learner to register with the SA Council for Social Service Professions as a Social Auxiliary Worker.</p>	
Higher Certificate in Archives and Records Management	Human Sciences
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The purpose of this qualification will provide learners with an entry-level qualification in the archival and recording keeping field with the necessary underpinning theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for them to apply the required technical expertise in the administration and safekeeping of archives and records. The need for ensuring that records are kept has become increasingly important and applies to a wide range of sectors and industries. Archiving and record keeping professionals should continue to seek out better ways to meet the ever-changing need of identifying, storing, retrieving, preserving and conserving both information and items through well-structured record classification systems and record-keeping systems, while keeping pace with changes in the technological field. A learner acquiring this qualification will be able to show responsibility, and independently and effectively manage themselves in the specific culture of the archives and records management environment. In effect, the learners will ensure the effective delivery of relevant and appropriate archives and records management services within the framework of prescribed legislation.</p>	

<u>Higher Certificate in Physical Sciences (90101)</u>	Science, Engineering and Technology
<p>Purpose</p> <p>First-time entering students (with an NQF Level 4 in Mathematics and Physical Sciences) need to further improve their reading and writing in academic, business and standard English language, their computational skills mathematical skills and statistical skills, with a basic introduction to scientific field knowledge in higher education. Completing students will be able to register for higher qualifications within South Africa and throughout the world. Qualifying students will be employable in laboratories in institutions of higher learning as well as in industry as support staff to specialists in the field The Higher Certificate will give the qualifying learners a basic knowledge of the physical sciences as well as practical skills in laboratories equipping them to operate as entry-level future laboratory assistants in the academic, government or industry sectors.</p>	
<u>Higher Certificate in Mathematics and Statistics (90129)</u>	Science, Engineering and Technology
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The Higher Certificate in Mathematics and Statistics will enable learners with an NQF Level 4 Mathematics to improve their reading and writing in academic, business and Standard English language, their computational skills mathematical skills and statistical skills, with an introduction to scientific field knowledge in higher education. Upon qualifying, learners will be able to register for higher qualifications within South Africa and throughout the world. Qualifying learners will be employable in appropriate statistical and mathematical environments as support staff to specialists in the field. The Higher Certificate will enable the qualifying learners to acquire knowledge of statistics as well as practical skills in data management and data exploration.</p>	

Higher Certificate in Criminal Justice (90006)	Law
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The purpose of this qualification is to prepare students, who do not comply with the minimum institutional admission requirements for access to diploma or degree studies in the College of Law, especially in the various fields in Criminal Justice. The qualification is intended to introduce students to the main fields of criminal justice theory and practice by imparting systematic knowledge, skills, and theoretical competence within the field to prepare them for more specialised training at an advanced level. It is furthermore, the intention of the higher certificate programme to deliver graduates who have sound knowledge and the confidence to apply their skills in contemporary society and to enable further study in the College of Law, especially in the various fields in Criminal Justice, or even in other colleges who do not set specific subject requirements, like Mathematics.</p>	
Higher Certificate in Law (98751)	Law
<p>The purpose of this qualification is to prepare students, who do not comply with the minimum institutional admission requirements for access to diploma or degree studies in the College of Law. The qualification is intended to introduce students to some of the foundational legal principles and legal practice by imparting systematic knowledge, skills, and theoretical competence within the field to prepare them for more specialised training at an advanced level. It is furthermore the intention of the higher certificate programme to deliver graduates who have sound knowledge and the confidence to apply their skills in contemporary society and to enable further study in the College of Law, or even in other colleges who do not set specific subject requirements, like Mathematics. In this respect, the specific purpose is to: - prepare candidates for studies in the world of law; - improve candidates basic proficiency in the English language to study in the fields of law; - improve candidates general computer skills, especially for business purposes; and - prepare candidates for higher education in an open and distance learning environment.</p>	

Which Higher Certificate should you choose?

You need to check the admission requirements for the diploma or degree you eventually wish to complete. For example, if you would want to complete a Bachelor of Commerce degree (or any other diploma or degree offered in the College of Economic and Management Sciences), you need to select a Higher Certificate also offered in the College of Economic and Management Sciences to ensure that you will meet all the admission requirements for a diploma or degree in that College. See the below requirements for the Bachelor of Commerce in Human Resource Management as an example:

Bachelor of Commerce in Human Resource Management

Qualification code:	98307
NQF level:	7
Total credits:	360
SAQA ID:	101095
APS/AS:	21
Maximum time to complete this qualification:	8 years

- [Admission requirements](#)
- [Student fees and funding your studies](#)
- [Application for admission](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Curriculum](#)

Admission requirements

Qualification admission requirements

Your admission to Unisa is dependent on you meeting the specific admission requirements for your chosen qualification.

A National Senior Certificate (NSC) (Degree endorsement) with at least 50% in the language of teaching and learning and with at least 50% in Mathematics,

or

a Senior Certificate (SC) with matriculation exemption (or qualify for the exemption from the Matriculation Board) and with at least a D symbol on HG or a C symbol on SG in the language of teaching and learning and with at least a D symbol on HG or a C symbol on SG in Mathematics,

or

any Higher Certificate offered in the College of Economic and Management Sciences,

or

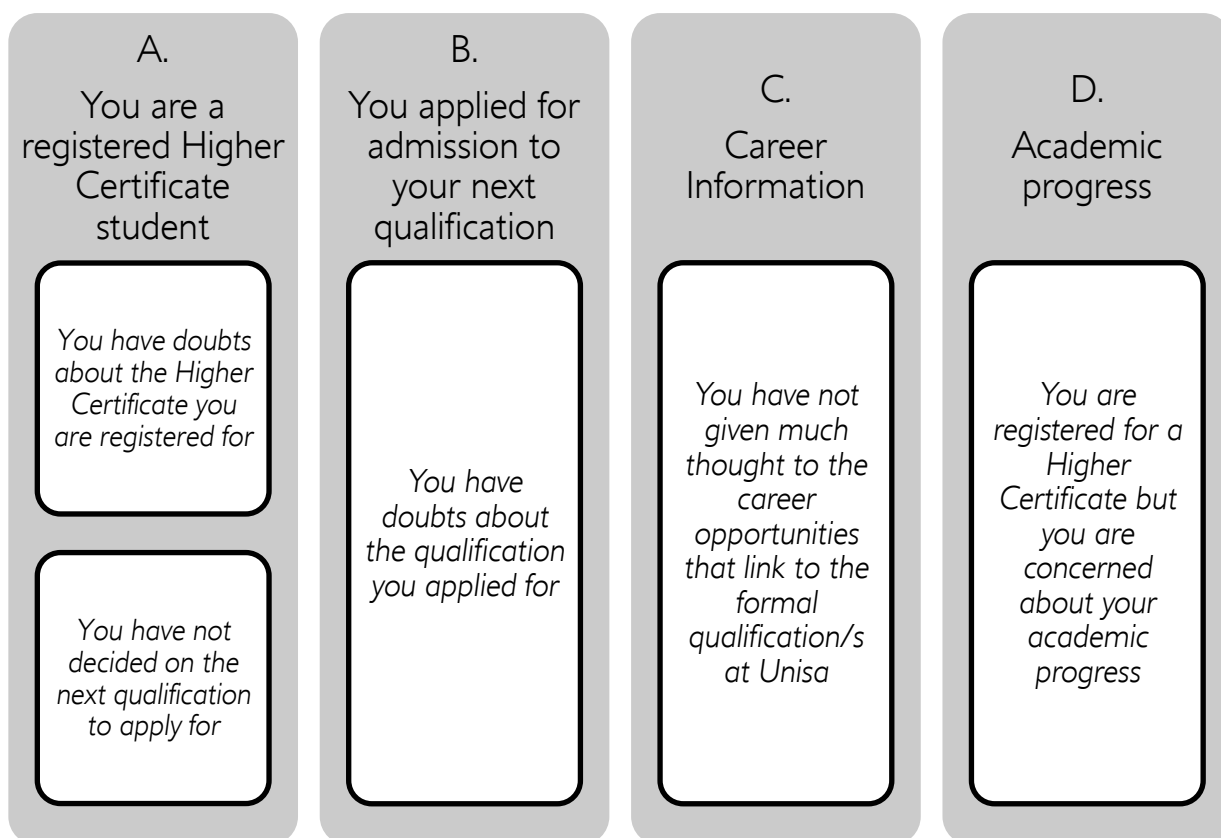
any Diploma obtained in the College of Economic and Management Sciences.

You will note that one of the options mentioned is “Any Higher Certificate offered in the College of Economic and Management Sciences” and therefore completing any one of the Higher Certificates offered in the College of Economic and Management Sciences will enable you to meet the requirements for the BCom degree.

More information about the admission requirements for each qualification can be found on the application website at <http://www.unisa.ac.za/qualifications>.

Reflect on where you are...

Have a look at the diagram below and identify the statement(s) A-D that feel most suitable at this point. Then have a look at the table following and take the necessary steps to resolve the current issues. Contact a student counsellor if you feel that you are stuck and cannot seem to find a resolution.

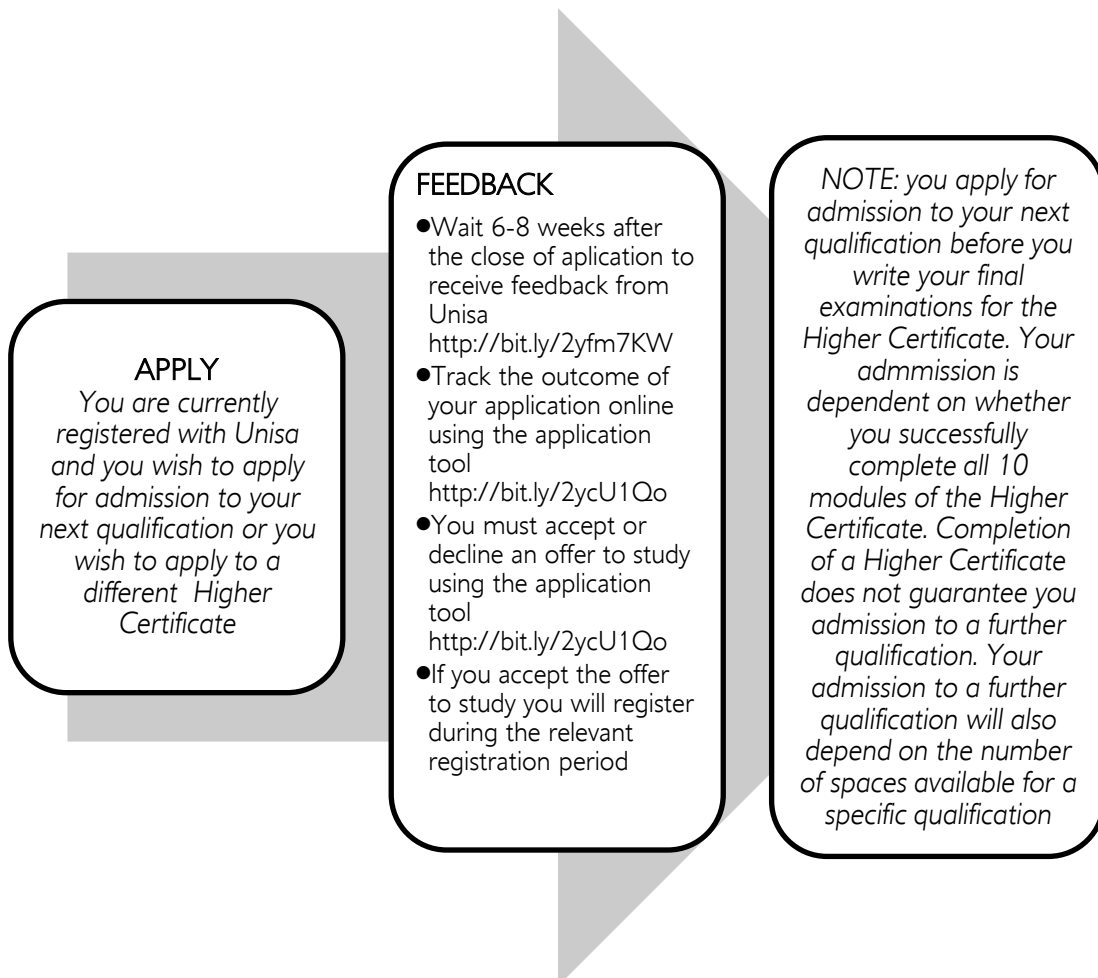


Option		Specific actions you can take
A	You have doubts about the Higher Certificate you are registered for or you have not decided on a qualification to apply for admission to	<p>Reflect on how you decided to select your current Higher Certificate. It could be that you did not meet the admission requirements for the formal diploma or degree at Unisa and you were redirected to this alternative pathway. If you do not understand how you do not meet the relevant admission requirements, then find your qualification on the qualifications website (http://www.unisa.ac.za/qualifications) to review the admission requirements for each qualification.</p> <p>If you have not decided on a qualification to apply for then take time to explore the career and study options linked to specific career fields here: http://bit.ly/2hTUWwW.</p> <p>NEXT STEP: Once you have chosen your next qualification, ensure that you apply for admission during the relevant application period. Change of qualification from Higher Certificate to degree or diploma is not automatic.</p>

Option	Specific actions you can take
	<p>NOTE: WHEN TO APPLY</p> <p>Ensure that you apply for admission to your next qualification when you are in your final semester of registration for the Higher Certificate.</p>
B	<p>You have doubts about the qualification you applied for</p> <p>Take time to ensure that you have selected a qualification/s that will help you prepare for future career and study opportunities. Complete career exploration activities here: http://bit.ly/2OIUA16.</p> <p>Reflect on what is making you feel doubtful about the qualification you applied for admission to. Do you need further career information? If yes, then go to http://bit.ly/2hTUVwW.</p> <p>Do you need more information about alternative study options? For example, are there more study options that will enable you to specialise in a specific subject or field? Talk to a student counsellor (https://bit.ly/contactDCCD) if you feel uncertain.</p>
C	<p>You have not given much thought to the types of careers that link to formal qualification/s (diploma or degree) at Unisa</p> <p>Explore the career options related to specific qualifications here: http://bit.ly/2hTUVwW.</p> <p>Also, download the Career Research brochure (http://bit.ly/2hgTfJq) for more ideas about how to research career opportunities linked to a qualification.</p>
D	<p>You are registered for a Higher Certificate, but you are concerned about your</p> <p>The maximum time to complete a qualification at Unisa can be found in the Student Rules and Policies document (https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Learner-support-&-regions/Student-Policies-&-Rules). You will note that a Higher Certificate (which consists of 120 credits) must be completed in three years.</p> <p>It is also important to note that you need to complete a certain number of credits each year to be re-admitted to study at Unisa. If</p>

Option	Specific actions you can take
academic progress	you do not meet the re-admission requirements, you run the risk of not being allowed to study further at an undergraduate level. Read more about admission and re-admission rules here: http://bit.ly/2QaPc0E .

The application process outlined



How to make a career and related study choice:

Identify opportunities with career research

How do you identify opportunities?

Your career research will connect you to others who will help you to answer questions you have with relation to your career choice; expand your understanding of the opportunities related to your career vision; identify “hidden” career paths that you did not think of previously, and think about how you could plan to pursue specific opportunities.

Prepare

Think about what you still need to find out: what questions do you have? You will use these questions as a starting point to structure your research. Examples of questions include: *What can I do with a specialisation in electrical engineering? How much do accountants earn? What must I study to be an advocate?*”

Keep track of information

Keep track of your research by making notes about what you learn and what you still need to find out.

Evaluate

Evaluate the information that you are finding: Who wrote the information (person/organisation)? Which country does the information relate to? When was the information last updated? After you have visited several websites, you could compare your notes with the information you found – what are the similarities and differences? What else do you need to find out?

Further ways to do career research

1 Online search

Use a search engine such as Google to search for information related to your questions. For example, you need to find out about career opportunities related to law. You could start with using keywords such as “law careers” and then to further contextualise your findings, you could search keywords such as “law careers Africa” and “law careers South Africa”. Scan the brief descriptions of the first ten results and decide which website you would want to explore first. Skim read through the information on the website (start with the headings) to get an understanding of the content of the page and to find information related to your question. Also, check whether there are links to other websites that you could further

explore. As you are reading, make a summary of the information. You could use the information you find to make lists of job titles related to your field of study, organisations that employ individuals in these fields, and professional organisations.

Remember to bookmark pages that you would want to return to and make notes about what you find and what you would still like to find out about. Use online services or apps such as Evernote (<http://www.evernote.com>), Diigo (<http://www.diigo.com>), or Google Bookmarks (<http://www.google.com/bookmarks/>) to keep track of your research online.

Activity

Use Google to find specific job titles related to your area of interest.

Job title	Website
Example: Attorney	Quintcareers.com

2 Occupational information websites

The following websites will help you to learn more about specific job titles:

Website	Description
Unisa Counselling & Career Development	This website provides more information about opportunities related to qualifications at Unisa.
National Career Advice Portal (NCAP) http://ncap.careerhelp.org.za/occupations	Search for information about specific job titles.
Career Planet http://www.careerplanet.co.za/	Learn more about career areas such as IT, tourism, engineering, and more. The website also contains information about learnerships and student finance

Website	Description
O*Net http://www.onetonline.org/	Explore job titles related to different categories such as your interests, skills, values, typical work activities, and more. You could also browse through groups of occupations related to specific industries or economic sectors.
Prospects http://www.prospects.ac.uk/	Explore different job titles related to job sectors, as well as what you could do with your major subject.

Activity

Use the above website to find more information about specific job titles related to your area of interest. Make notes about what you find.

Job title	Notes
Example: Accountant	Example: There are different types of accountants (e.g. management, financial, CA, etc)

3 Job-search portals

Another type of website that is useful in terms of researching specific job titles linked to different industries is job search portals. Finding job

advertisements that interest you is a worthwhile activity, even if you are not currently applying for jobs. You may not yet be eligible to apply for your

dream job, but you can still gain a lot of information for your career planning. For example, you are interested in law, but you are not sure which specific job titles are linked to this field.

You can use this information to make career goals and to think strategically about how you can develop experiences that will help you meet more of the selection criteria in the future.

Job search sites include

- PNet (<http://www.pnet.co.za>)
- Careerjunction (<http://www.careerjunction.co.za>)
- Careers24 (<http://www.careers24.com/>)
- Indeed (<http://www.indeed.co.za>)
- Government positions (<http://www.gov.za/aboutgovt/vacancies.htm>)

4 LinkedIn

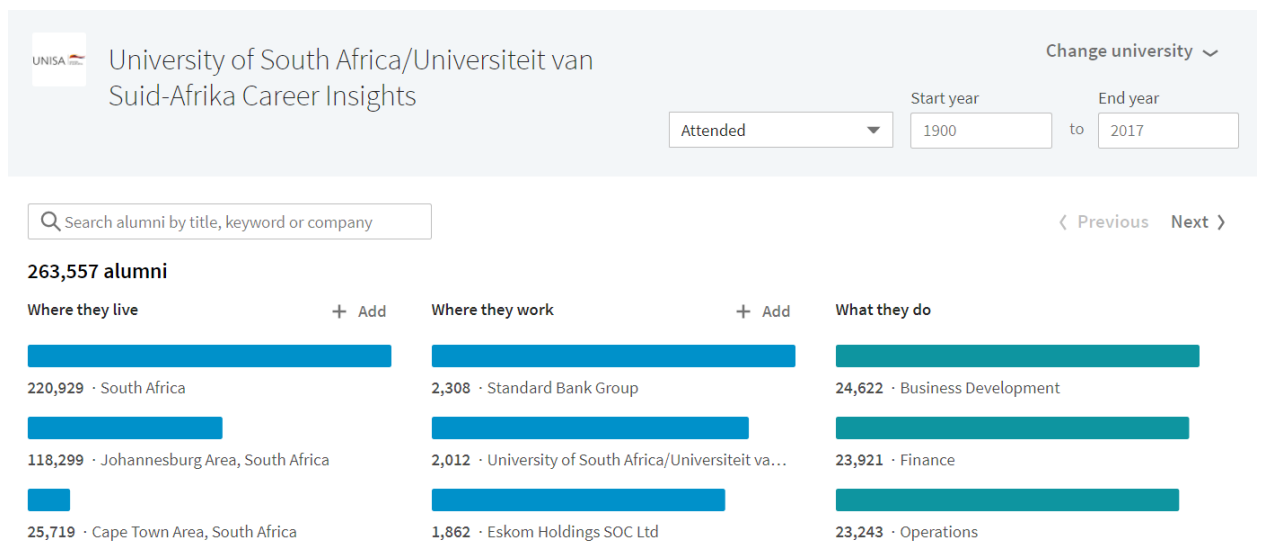
If you have not done so already, start building your network on LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com>) today!

Register for a free account and start connecting with your network online. Join groups relevant to your career field so that you could participate in discussions, ask questions, and provide answers about specific topics and search for people, organisations, and jobs in your field of interest. Research companies and employees to help you identify opportunities. Learn more about [using LinkedIn](#) on the Counselling and Career Development website.

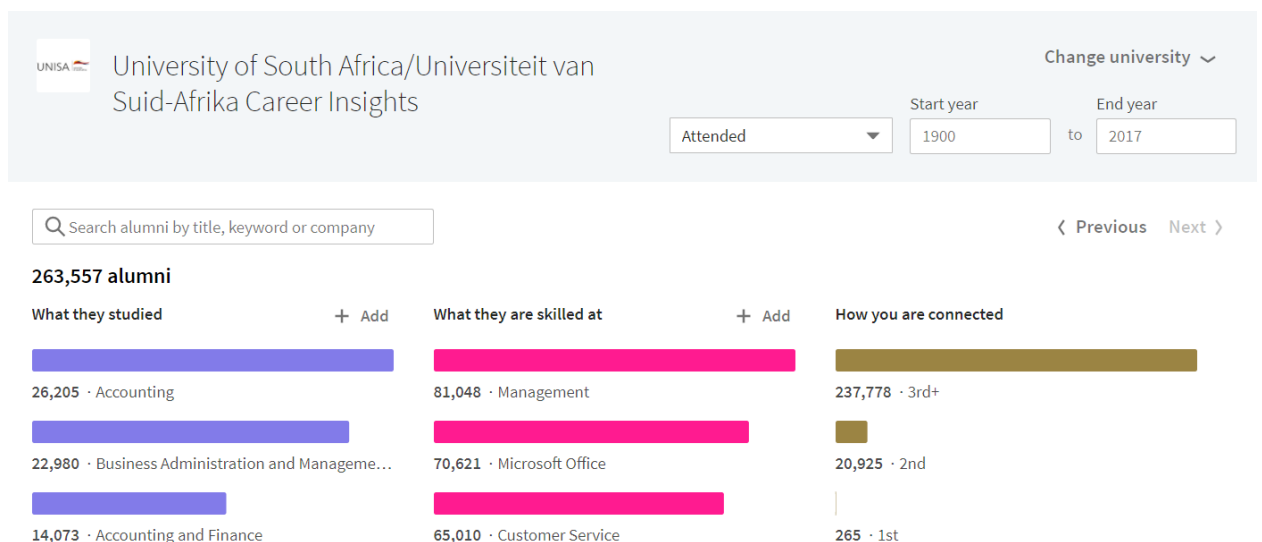
Activity

1. Go to www.linkedin.com and sign in to your LinkedIn account. If you do not have an account yet, then create one.
2. Make sure that you have captured your current or previous studies at Unisa on your LinkedIn profile.

- Once you are signed in, go to the University of South Africa page at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/12049/>.
- Click on the “See alumni” button.
- You will now be presented with a page with Headings and graphs beneath the headings (e.g. Where they live, Where they work, What they do).



- Click on the “Next >” link to go to the next set of headings (What they studied, What they are skilled at, and How you are connected).



- Click on “+Add” next to the heading “What they studied”
- Start to type “law” in the search box.
- Choose one of the options that you would want to explore.

10. You will notice that the graphs for the different headings adjust. You have now filtered the information to contain information about Unisa graduates who work in the field you searched for.
11. You can now see how many graduates in these fields are on LinkedIn, where they work, what they do, what they're skilled at, etc.
12. You are also able to view the profiles of alumni who meet the criteria you searched for. For example, you can filter your search results to those alumni who indicated that they studied law, and work at a specific financial institution.

5 Talk to others (informational interviewing)

Once you have done some research about specific options, your next step is to talk to individuals in the type of job/ industry that you are interested in. The goal of these conversations is to explore your career options, expand your network, build confidence, to access information, and to identify your strengths and areas of development. For example, you read an article about the provision of legal advice to community members. You could contact one of the authors of the article to ask if they would be willing to share how they went about gaining access to the information they needed for their evaluation. Before you interview someone, research what you would want to discuss with them – you could ask this person to “fill in the

gaps” for you. Start with people you already know: friends, family, neighbours, colleagues, lecturers, tutors, and fellow students. Use online social networks such as LinkedIn to further identify potential people. [Learn more](#) about how to go about this and suggestions for questions that you might want to ask. Also, watch this video to learn more: The Dos and Don'ts of Informational Interviews: <http://youtu.be/ixbhtm8l0sl>.

Remember to keep track of the information you have gathered and how you make sense of this. Also, track the questions you still have and how you think you would be able to get answers to these questions.

Activity

Write a list of any people you know who might work in the fields you are interested in. For instance, do any of your parents' friends work in any of the fields you are considering? Also, write a list of those people who could give you information about any careers you are considering.

You may have identified a lot more people than you thought! Imagine how much information you can gather about the career you are interested in just by talking to these people. Each person will give you fresh insights opinions and valuable information about the careers you are considering and whether they are currently working in that field or are only remotely related to or associated with it.

6 Attend a careers fair event

Attending a careers fair event allows you to speak to people from different industries. You may be studying a qualification that does not seem to have a direct link to the exhibitors or the presenters, but they have one thing in common: they employ people, who work in organisations, who do business with all kinds of suppliers and services. Somewhere in this value chain, your qualification will find a place to fit – either as a customer or as an employer or employee.

Learn more about the Unisa Careers Fair events on the [Counselling and Career Development website](#).

7 Experience studying topics related to your field of interest

Watching and listening to online lectures and reading free open textbooks will help you explore your field of study. These resources will enhance your understanding of the various related fields and the various career opportunities related to these fields.

Search for free courses and open textbooks on these sites:

- Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org/>)
- Coursera.org (<http://www.coursera.org/>)

- Udemy (<http://www.udemy.com/>)
- Saylor Academy (<http://www.saylor.org/books/>)
- MITOpenCourseware (<http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>)
- Open Culture (<http://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses>)
- iTunes University (<http://www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/>)
- FreeVideoLectures (<http://freevideolectures.com/>)

8 Join a professional organisation

Many professional bodies offer student registration categories to enable those who are still studying towards a qualification in the field, to join and receive specific benefits such as training, development, and networking opportunities. The professional bodies' websites are also valuable sources of information should you wish to do research related to specific occupations. Many professional websites also list practitioners or organisations in the field and allow you to identify individuals who you could contact for further conversations about your career. Access a list of professional bodies related to Unisa fields of study here: <http://bit.ly/2PAr9YQ>. You can also search for recognised Professional Bodies and Professional Designations here: <http://pbdesig.saqa.org.za/>.

Frequently asked questions

I completed a Higher Certificate or will be completing a Higher Certificate with Unisa and I am ready to apply for my next qualification – must I pay the application fee again?

You only pay the application fee once. Returning students, therefore, do not pay an application fee.

As a current Higher Certificate student, is my admission to a degree/ diploma for which I applied guaranteed?

No, every time you change qualifications you will be subject to the application and selection processes as per the admission policy of the University. You must bear in mind that the Enrolment Management Plan applies to all qualifications – there is a limited number of students accepted per qualification.

What documents are required when I apply for admission for my next qualification?

Review the documents needed here:

<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Apply-for-admission>

What if the Higher Certificates offered by Unisa do not match my interests, long-term career goals, or follow-on qualification (degree or diploma).

Note that the University does not offer Higher Certificate programmes linked to every subject or field of specialisation. The purpose of the Higher Certificate is to assist students who do not meet direct admission requirements for a formal degree or diploma to gain such an opportunity. The information in this brochure about the purpose of each Higher Certificate; the curriculum information for each Higher Certificate on the Unisa registration webpage (<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Register-to-study-through-Unisa/Undergraduate-&-honours-qualifications/Find-your-qualification-&-choose-your-modules>); as well as your further career research, will assist you to understand how a specific Higher Certificate may be related to your career goals.

I applied for the wrong qualification – what can I do?

You must wait to apply for admission to the new qualification during the next application period. Only if there are modules that appear in the qualification that you are accepted into, and the one you wish to apply for admission to, then register for these. During the next application period, apply for a change of qualification and if successful you can then apply for relevant credits to be transferred.

I applied for admission and Unisa responded by indicating that my qualification is under enrolment management – what does this mean?

It means that your application for the qualification was assessed and that you meet the requirements for the qualification. The next step would be for Unisa to rank all the applications received for the qualification once all applications for this qualification have been processed. Once the applications have been ranked, you will receive feedback on whether you are made an offer to study. You will then have to accept or decline such an offer.

Is Unisa registered with the Council of Higher Education?

The University of South Africa (Unisa) is recognised by the CHE as a higher education provider as per the stipulations of the Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997 (as amended). The higher education qualifications (NQF 5-10) that Unisa offers are registered by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) on the Institution's Programme and Qualifications Mix (PQM) after being accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE).

I am passionate about working with animals and I registered for a Higher Certificate in Animal Welfare. I now feel that I would increase my chances of securing employment with a Diploma in IT

As you are studying, your career goals and needs may change. You can then apply to change to another Higher Certificate that would be more appropriate, or you could consult with the Unisa Application or Student Administration and Registration Department at Unisa to ensure that your Higher Certificate will assist you to gain admission to your next qualification. If you wish to change to a different Higher Certificate, you will need to apply for admission to the new Higher Certificate during the next application period.

Will other Higher Education Institutions recognise the Higher Certificate I completed at Unisa?

You will need to meet other requirements as stated by the institution of your choice and completion of a Higher Certificate at Unisa does not guarantee you admission to any other Higher Education Institution.

How do I apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)?

You must first apply for admission to a relevant qualification. If accepted, you can then apply for RPL. Visit the RPL webpage at [https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Recognition-of-Prior-Learning-\(RPL\)](https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Recognition-of-Prior-Learning-(RPL)).

Must I meet the academic points score (APS) requirement for my next qualification (after the Higher Certificate)?

The successful completion of a **relevant** Higher Certificate will result in the statutory requirements being met, in the College requirements being met, and in the academic points score (APS) score being adjusted upwards.

Kindly note that, for example, should you complete the Higher Certificate in Law and you now wish to apply for admission to the Bachelor of Science degree, the Higher Certificate in Law will not enable you to meet the mathematics requirement if you did not complete mathematics at grade 12 or equivalent level with the required percentage or score needed for admission to the BCom degree.

I completed modules that are also part of the degree/ diploma I am applying for – will I get credits for these in my new qualification?

You must apply for admission to your next qualification and if the application is successful, you can then register for your next qualification and apply to transfer relevant credits. More information about credits is available on the [Unisa website](#).

I have problems with NSFAS – who do I contact?

Contact NSFAS at 0124415600/5463/5461.

I failed a module – what do I do?

You must re-register for the module during the relevant registration periods and pay the full fees for the module. Registration dates can be found when you visit <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Register-to-study-through-Unisa>. Also learn more about dealing with exam failure on the Directorate: Counselling and Career Development website here:

<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Learner-support-&-regions/Counselling-and-career-development/Manage-your-studies/Exams>.

I have some questions about registration at Unisa

Visit the Registration FAQs webpage at

<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Register-to-study-through-Unisa/Undergraduate-&-honours-qualifications/FAQs> for more information.

How do I cancel or de-register modules that I have registered for?

More information about cancelling modules is available in the Unisa Rules for Students document (<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Learner-support-&-regions/Student-Policies-&-Rules>). Contact Student Administration and Registration at your closest regional centre for further enquiries or assistance (<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Contact-us/Regional-Centres>).

Unisa informed me that I qualify for a supplementary examination – how does this process work?

Pay the supplementary fee as stated on

<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Register-to-study-through-Unisa/Undergraduate-&-honours-qualifications/Calculate-your-study-fees/Miscellaneous-fees>.

More information is also available in the Unisa Rules for Students document:

<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Learner-support-&-regions/Student-Policies-&-Rules>.

What should I do if I do not qualify to study at Unisa at all?

If you have not completed matric or your results do not grant you admission to Unisa, you may want to consider other study alternatives related to your career goals. You will need to research to help you explore the different options you have based on your circumstances and what you want.

Upgrading your National Senior Certificate or Senior Certificate

If you completed your Senior Certificate before 2008, you may contact your local district of the Department of Education for more information about completing the

Amended Senior Certificate or search for institutions that offer tuition for this online. [Click here](#) for the Department of Education's contact information.

You can search for institutions that offer contact and distance learning options to complete or upgrade your NSC. Search online for institutions that offer this option.

You must enquire about the accreditation of programmes offered by private institutions. [Read this article by Umalusi](#) before you register for a qualification or programme.

What else can you consider?

Some websites to help you get started with exploring other study options:

- Explore education options at [Technical Vocational Education and Training \(TVET\) Colleges](#).
- The Department of Higher Education and Training's [register of private higher education institutions](#) will help you to identify institutions and study options.

Note that only some higher certificates and diplomas will be relevant for consideration when applying for admission to a formal Unisa qualification.

Counselling and career development services at Unisa

The Unisa Directorate: Counselling and Career Development offers career-, academic- and personal counselling services to Unisa students and the broader community. You can talk to a counsellor about:

- **Career decisions.** I am not sure which career path to follow; I don't know which qualification would be best; I want to change my career direction...
- **Career information.** How can I find out more about a career in ...
- **Employability.** How do I market myself to employers? How can I look for work? How can I compile an effective CV? How do I go about networking with others? How do I put together my career portfolio? How can I meet potential employers? How can I improve my interview skills?)
- **My studies at Unisa.** How can I get started with my studies? How do I plan my studies? How can I study more effectively? I don't feel motivated to continue with my studies... I feel worried about preparing for/ writing the exams. I failed my exams – what now? I need to improve my reading/ writing/ numeracy skills
- **Personal issues.** How can I have better relationships with others? How can I cope more effectively with issues that affect my studies?

Visit our website at <http://www.unisa.ac.za/counselling> to access many self-help resources, or talk to a counsellor by e-mail to counselling@unisa.ac.za.