



Dear Unisa Student/Alumnus

**Unisa Accounting Programmes remain accredited by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)**

You may have read or heard about recent media reports carried in the Sunday Times of 29 May 2022 and a subsequent broadcast on one of the radio stations (Power FM) on Thursday, 01 June 2022; which sought to create doubt about the accreditation of Unisa Accounting programmes by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

Management of the university and the College of Accounting Sciences (CAS) would like to assure you that, contrary to what these media reports sought advance, all our Accounting programmes remain accredited by SAICA. The integrity of the Accounting qualification you are studying towards or have acquired with Unisa is still strong, credible and well-respected in the market.

We confirm that a delegation from SAICA indeed paid a monitoring visit to Unisa in September 2021. This visit, **which happened at the invitation of the Unisa College of Accounting Sciences**, was in response to the university's application for continued accreditation of its programmes by SAICA.

The application arose as a result of the college's primary aim to continuously improve its programme offerings to students and to ensure that they remain relevant and aligned to the needs of the market and current trends in the Accounting profession. There was thus nothing sinister about the monitoring visit as such visits are ordinary events in the lives of all education providers as they seek to continuously improve their offerings.

The Panel itself was comprised of experienced and well-respected practitioners in the Accounting profession, led ably by Mr Sizwe Nxasana, one of the first ten black Chartered Accountants in South Africa, and a proud Alumnus of Unisa. It therefore follows that the work they are conducting is not only professional and objective but is done so with the aim of assisting the university to continue playing the important role it plays in producing quality Accounting graduates for the country.

As a matter of fact, the Panel, in its report, expressed a deep appreciation to the College of Accounting Sciences for the transformative role that it plays in Accounting education in South Africa.

We must also emphasise that the review itself was not confined strictly to the 2021 academic year but was a comprehensive analysis of our performance in the SAICA-accredited programmes in the last five years.

We must also emphasise that this is normal for any accreditation process by bodies such as SAICA and that, where areas of improvement are identified, the parties agree on an improvement plan that must be implemented within an agreed time frame in order to maintain the said accreditation status.

This is the case with the current review process, which affects the following Accounting programmes:

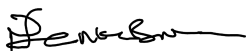
- Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Financial Accounting
- Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences
- Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences
- Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Accounting Sciences

The university is working closely with SAICA to ensure that the improvement plans as agreed to are implemented fully and within the stipulated time frames. At the same time, the university is engaging with and drawing additional input and guidance from some of the leading voices in the Accounting profession in South Africa, including recent engagements with the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA) and the Association for the Advancement of Black Accountants of Southern Africa (ABASA).

We also remain committed to making continued investments in technology support for teaching and learning, research and engaged scholarship, alongside other processes aimed at amplifying the public and corporate experiences of our Accounting students. These include the financial contribution of the Finance and Accounting Services Sector Education and Training Authority (FASSET) to help in mediating challenges for students at risk as well as students requiring Co-curricular and student support.

Once again, we assure you, our valued student and Alumnus, that the accreditation of all our SAICA programmes is not under any threat whatsoever.

Best Regards



---

Prof P LenkaBula  
**Principal and Vice-Chancellor**