

Can a course be devised to give the moderators an assessment and moderation qualification or credit?

Options for devising a course

1. The Unit Standard route

Currently there are three unit standards registered by SAQA that provide the basis for such a credit, namely:

Unit standard 7386 (Assess learners within a learning situation) at NQF level 4 (10 credits). US 7386 is best implemented in a step by step practical course.

Unit standard 115753 (Conduct outcomes-based assessment) at NQF level 5 (15 credits). US 7386 has a somewhat more theoretical approach.

Unit standard 115759 at NQF level 6 (10 credits). US 115759 (Conduct moderation of outcomes-based assessment) deals specifically with moderation (also somewhat theoretically).

All these unit standards are offered by a range of private providers.

UNISA offers a 12 credit course (ABT 1516) as part of its Higher Certificate in ABET at NQF level 5 that covers all the specific outcomes for US 7386 and much of US 115753

All these unit standards assume that the candidate will have engaged in real assessment and moderation experiences.

The problems with the Unit standard route are twofold:

- To find a suitable course provider
- The cost of using a private provider.

If the two USs 115753 and 115759 were used then it means (nominally at least) the equivalent of about two months of full time study.

2. A Special Qualification route using unit standards

This would involve requesting SAQA to register a new qualification (using as its basis US 115753 and US 115759) specially for Kha Ri Gude that would make provision for a partial degree of RPL for the practical work the moderators had done over the years of Verification workshops.

The problems with this route are:

- the costs involved in registering the qualification, devising the course materials and engaging in the assessment thereof.
- finding a suitable provider to host the course at a reasonable cost. UNISA might be an option as many moderators are ex-UNISA students and hence ‘already on the books’..

The problem of registration with a SETA

To be formally registered as an assessor and/or moderator the candidate has to:

1. Have completed a suitable unit standard with a registered/accredited ETDP provider either by doing a course or by being RPLed as competent (by the ETDP SETA)
2. Be registered with a SETA from the sector you are assessing/and or moderating in (in the Kha Ri Gude context this would remain the ETDP SETA). If the candidate works in another SETA sector this also means that they should have a recognised qualification in the unit standards (the subjects) or qualifications being assessed and have work experience in assessing such).

Registration only lasts for five years.