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Why consider a Short Learning Programme?

Completing your qualification is an important goal however, it may not be enough. Employers often seek transferable work-related skills that make you adaptable in the fast-changing workplace: skills such as working with others effectively, self-management, and thinking and reasoning skills.

Reference: *Identifying and Preparing for Opportunities*. (2016). Retrieved from <http://www.unisa.ac.za/default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=24014>.

What is a Short Learning Programme?

Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) offered by Unisa focus on “just in time” and “just enough” learning to meet a specific learning need identified by society. This need can focus on enabling access to other Short Learning Programmes or it can address a specific need in the workplace.

Short Learning Programmes can update or broaden skills and knowledge in a specific area to enable life-long learning. In this manner, Short Learning Programmes assist students with their continuing professional development by upgrading their skills and knowledge in newly developed areas or by sharing the results of research.

It is important to note that Short Learning Programmes are by nature short. They are not formal qualifications. These programmes are offered by various centres within the university, each with their own processes, rules and contact details.

Please note that Unisa is a public higher education institution established in terms of the Higher Education Act (Act 101/1997) and does not have or require a provider registration number at the Department of Education or SAQA.

Reference: *Unisa Short Learning Programmes*. (2016). Retrieved from http://brochure.unisa.ac.za/slp/showprev.aspx?d=main&f=s_295214

Reasons to choose a Short Learning Programme

Often students decide to do a SLP because:

1. They have been academically excluded and need to complete at least 48 credits on NQF level 4,5, or 6 to be able to apply for re-admission. See this webpage for more information: <http://bit.ly/298jMaS>.
2. They have various qualifications and need advancement in a specific sector without completing a formal qualification.
3. They want to experience studying through Open and Distance Learning without committing to a formal qualification.

Focus areas of SLPs

All Colleges at Unisa offer Short Learning Programmes. Click on the links below to explore the various programmes offered by each College:

- [College of Accounting Sciences](#)
- [College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences](#)
- [College of Economic and Management Sciences](#)

- [College of Education](#)
- [College of Graduate Studies](#)
- [College of Human Sciences](#)
- [College of Law](#)
- [College of Science, Engineering and Technology](#)
- [Other, Administration and Professional](#)

Different types of Short Learning Programmes

Within these various colleges a number of centres offer a variety courses:

Type of course	HEQF level of module (the HEQF level may differ from course to course)
Short Courses	5, 6, or 7
Courses	5 or 6
Advanced Courses	7 or 8

Type of course	HEQF level of module (the HEQF level may differ from course to course)
Programmes	5, 6, or 7
Advanced Programmes	8
Workshops/Seminars	N/A, 4, 5, or 8

The duration of the course will vary depending on the type of course it is. For example, there are courses that are only 3 months and others that are 1 year.

It is important to highlight that for each specific SLP there is a course leader and/or programme administrator/s that you would need to contact for the specifics of the course (what the course involves, the cost, when the next registration intake will be etc.).

I did not qualify for formal studies at Unisa – will a Short Learning Programme help me to qualify?

You cannot do a SLP as a way to qualify for a formal qualification.

Counselling and career development services at Unisa

The Unisa Directorate for 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 impact on 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.