**Namibia**

**Quick guide to identifying credible institutions in Namibia**

*Updated: May 2017*

**Acronyms and names**

**HE** Higher Education

**NCHE** National Council on Higher Education

**NQA** Namibia Qualifications Authority

**NQF** National Qualifications Framework

**NTA** Namibia Training Authority

**VET** Vocational Education and Training

**1. Introduction**

Tertiary education and training in Namibia is currently overseen by three quality assurance bodies each operating under mandates established through legislation:

* The Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA) established under the Namibia Qualifications Authority Act of 1996 (<http://www.namqa.org/about-us/Legislation/129>);
* The Namibia Training Authority (NTA) established under the Vocational Education and Training Act of 2008 (<http://www.moe.gov.na/downloads.php>); and
* The National Council on Higher Education (NCHE) established under the Higher Education Act of 2003 (<http://www.moe.gov.na/downloads.php>).

The legal mandates of each body contain a number of overlapping powers, duties, functions and spheres of operation.

There are three things that render an institution credible:

* The provider must be registered;
* The provider must be accredited. This means that it has the capacity to provide education and training courses leading to the award of qualifications to be registered on the Namibia National Qualifications Framework (NQF); and
* Even if the provider is registered and accredited, the programme or credit bearing course that it is offering must be validated through registration on the Namibia NQF.

**2. Registration of Training Providers**

There are two bodies responsible for registration of providers in Namibia:

* The NTA ([www.nta.com.na](http://www.nta.com.na)) – responsible for Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers; and
* The NCHE ([www.nche.org.na](http://www.nche.org.na)) – responsible for Higher Education (HE) Private Providers.

**3. Accreditation of Providers**

The NQA is responsible for accreditation of both VET and HE providers ([www.namqa.org](http://www.namqa.org/)). The NQA maintains records of all accredited tertiary education institutions in Namibia. At present there are 44 institutions ([www.namqa.org](http://www.namqa.org/)) accredited by the NQA.

**4. Registration of qualifications and part-qualifications**

All qualifications and part-qualifications being offered must be registered on the Namibia NQF. The NQA is the custodian of the NQF and maintains a register of all NQF qualifications and part-qualifications.

There is no link as yet to registered NQF qualifications and part-qualifications as the NQA information system is still in the development stage. However:

* NQA ([www.namqa.org](http://www.namqa.org/)) can be contacted for information about accredited institutions in Namibia;
* NTA ([www.nta.com.na](http://www.nta.com.na)) can be contacted for information about registration of VET institutions in Namibia; and
* NCHE ([www.nche.org.na](http://www.nche.org.na)) can be contacted for information about registration of HE institutions in Namibia.

**NB**: The two public national universities viz Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) ([www.nust.na](http://www.nust.na)) and the University of Namibia (UNAM) ([www.unam.edu.na](http://www.unam.edu.na)) are established by Acts of Law. Their qualifications are recognized by the NQA and are submitted to the NQA for quality assurance and registration on the NQF and are deemed authentic.

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