

## **CYCLICAL EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE. UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

### **Introduction:**

The major external quality assurance agency for Nigerian Universities is the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC). There are also accreditations done by major statutory regulatory bodies for the various professions. The NUC has responsibility for the following:

- Coordination of accreditation visits to academic programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in all Nigerian Universities and degree awarding institutions;
- Coordination of institutional accreditation in the Nigerian University System;
- Obtaining annually, the list of approved Full-Time/Part-Time Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Distance Learning academic programmes from the Academic Planning Division to determine programmes that are mature for accreditation.

NUC is a quality assessment agency which primarily assesses degree and research programmes offered by universities in Nigeria. NUC uses peer review mechanism of university education and research. The NUC is also responsible for resource verification in Nigerian universities.

The Academic Planning Directorate has coordinating responsibility for both resource verification and accreditation activities in the University.

### **Resource verification for new programmes:**

- This is done when a programme has been approved in the university system.
- Request is made to NUC, followed by the requested funding and information.
- Academic Planning Directorate ensures that appropriate documentations are provided and the processes followed.
- The NUC sets a date and sends a team for resource verification of the programme.
- If approved by NUC Management and Board, admission into the programme is conducted and matriculation takes place.

### **Accreditation Cycle:**

- There is a five year cyclical accreditation programme usually initiated by the University or the NUC based on the data base of accredited programmes. This report is based on the outcomes of an external review of NUC for matured programmes or resource verified programmes that have become matured when they get to three hundred levels.
- The process includes the University preparing a self-evaluation report (Self – Study) with departmental inputs (from departments) and university inputs (from the Directorate of Academic Planning), and a site visit being undertaken by an external review panel constituted by the NUC.
- During the site visit the panel will interview the internal stakeholders who provided the panel with the oral and written evidence upon which this report is based.

The Self-study form provides a substantial portion of the evidence that the panel employs to form its conclusions. The panel conducts a site-visit to validate fully and score the information contained in the self-study form and clarify any points at issue.

Finally, the review panel produces the final report on the basis of the self-study form and information from the site visit and its findings. In doing so, it provides an opportunity for NUC to comment on the factual accuracy of the draft report. The accreditation framework lists themes, which programmes are evaluated against. They include:

- Curriculum
- Students
- Staff
- Facilities
- Internal quality assurance
- Alumni
- Results

Each theme is divided into standards with criteria formulated. This accreditation framework guides the entire NUC degree programme assessment process.

#### **Accreditation by Professional bodies:**

This is done by mostly statutory regulatory bodies such as COREN for Engineering, ICAN and ANAN for accounting, Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) for doctors, and the Council for Legal Education for law. They agree with the departments when they are coming for accreditation. The Directorate of Academic Planning supervises the process. The statutory regulatory body reviews the curriculum, the quality and role of students in the process, the staff, facilities and internal quality especially from the professional perspective. After payment is made, the panel of the professional body arrives for accreditation. Thereafter, they send their recommendations to the Vice Chancellor.