NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CONCEPT NOTE

Transforming the Curriculum for Scientific Innovation, Technological Advancement and National Development



Vision:
To be a leading University of Science and Technology in Africa

Mission:
To empower society through applied research, technology development, and entrepreneurial education that address Namibia's development priorities and advance continental prosperity.

Values:
- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Inclusivity



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1. Background and Rationale

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), in fulfilling its mandate under the Namibia University of Science and Technology Act, 2015 (Act No. 7 of 2015), is committed to advancing knowledge through teaching, research and applied scientific investigation; providing relevant, professional, technological and career-focused higher education; and promoting innovation, technology transfer and socioeconomic development. In a rapidly changing environment shaped by technological advancement, artificial intelligence, evolving labour-market demands and emerging national development priorities, NUST must ensure that its academic programmes remain relevant, responsive, inclusive and future-oriented.

The transformation of the NUST curriculum shall be guided by the Namibia University of Science and Technology Act, 2015 (Act No. 7 of 2015), particularly Section 5, which defines the objects of the University. The Act establishes a mandate to advance knowledge through teaching, research and scientific investigation, with emphasis on applied research; provide globally relevant, professional, technological and career-focused higher education; contribute to economic and social development through effective community engagement and industry involvement; and promote technology development, technology transfer, innovation and the diffusion of technology.

Accordingly, curriculum transformation at NUST shall be directed towards producing scientifically grounded, technologically competent, professionally capable and innovative graduates who can apply knowledge to solve real-world problems and contribute meaningfully to Namibia's development. Academic programmes shall integrate appropriate disciplinary depth, applied research, experiential learning, industry engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration and emerging technologies, while maintaining academic rigour, institutional autonomy, academic freedom and compliance with applicable quality assurance and accreditation requirements.

The Act shall serve as the statutory foundation for determining the relevance, design, delivery and continuous improvement of NUST's academic programmes. Curriculum transformation shall therefore be an evidence-informed and continuous institutional process through which the University fulfils its distinctive science and technology mandate in response to national priorities and evolving regional and global developments.

The proposed one-day Curriculum Transformation Summit will provide a university-wide platform for reflection, dialogue and consensus-building on the principles, priorities and institutional arrangements required to guide curriculum transformation at NUST. The summit will draw on institutional evidence, stakeholder perspectives and relevant regional and international practices to establish a shared direction for curriculum reform and implementation in 2027.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the summit is to establish a shared institutional understanding of curriculum transformation and generate strategic recommendations to guide the development and implementation of a university-wide Curriculum Transformation Framework and its associated implementation roadmap for 2027.



3. Objectives

The curriculum transformation exercise will seek to:

- Establish agreed principles and criteria to guide curriculum transformation across all academic programmes.
- Identify the proposed university-wide graduate attributes that reflect NUST's science and technology mandate.
- Examine priority curriculum gaps and identify the evidence required to inform transformation.
- Agree on transparent criteria for prioritising programmes requiring urgent review or intervention.
- Deliberate on an institutional framework for curriculum design, review, approval and implementation.
- Identify key actions, responsibilities, milestones and resource requirements for 2027.
- Propose indicators for monitoring implementation, student outcomes and graduate relevance.
- Adopt symposium resolutions for submission to the appropriate institutional authorities.

4. Expected Deliverables

The summit is expected to produce the following outcomes:

Deliverable	Expected result
Curriculum transformation principles	Agreed criteria to guide curriculum review, design and implementation across the University.
NUST graduate profile	A draft set of university-wide graduate attributes reflecting scientific knowledge, technological competence, innovation, critical thinking, ethical leadership and employability.
Institutional baseline	A summary of priority curriculum gaps, institutional challenges and evidence required to inform decision-making.
Programme prioritisation matrix	Transparent criteria for identifying programmes requiring urgent intervention, review or redesign.
Transformation framework	A proposed institutional model for curriculum design, review, approval, implementation and continuous improvement.
Implementation roadmap	A sequenced set of actions, responsibilities, milestones and resource requirements for 2027..
Monitoring framework	Proposed indicators to track implementation progress, student learning outcomes and graduate relevance.
Summit resolutions	Formal recommendations for consideration and approval by the appropriate institutional authorities.



5. Participants

The summit should bring together representatives from:

- University Executive Management and relevant governance structures.
- Deans, Associate Deans, Heads of Department and Academic Staff.
- Academic Development and Support Services and the Directorate responsible for Teaching, Learning and Technology.
- Quality assurance, curriculum development and accreditation functions.
- Students and student representative structures.
- Industry, employers, professional bodies and relevant government institutions.
- Alumni and other strategic partners, where appropriate.

6. Approach and Methodology

The summit will use a participatory, evidence-informed approach that combines keynote presentations, institutional briefings, facilitated plenary discussions, and structured working groups. Participants will be expected to move beyond identifying challenges to developing practical recommendations, clear priorities and implementable actions. Working groups should be guided by standard discussion questions and reporting templates to ensure that outputs can be consolidated into a coherent institutional framework and roadmap.

7. Conclusion and Way Forward

The NUST Curriculum Transformation Summit will serve as a strategic starting point for a coordinated, university-wide process to strengthen curriculum relevance, academic quality, technological competence and graduate preparedness. Its success will be measured not only by the quality of the discussions but also by the clarity of the resolutions, the practicality of the implementation roadmap, and the University's ability to translate the outcomes into measurable improvements in teaching, learning, and graduate outcomes.

Following the summit, the designated Curriculum Transformation Committee or responsible institutional structure should consolidate the deliberations into a report, refine the proposed framework and implementation roadmap, and submit the recommendations through the established governance processes. The immediate objective will be to develop an evidence-informed, costed and accountable implementation roadmap for 2027, with clear responsibilities, milestones and monitoring arrangements. Recommendations will remain subject to consideration and approval by the appropriate institutional authorities.

Proposed outcome: A shared institutional direction and a set of actionable recommendations to guide NUST's curriculum transformation agenda in 2027.







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Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning

Directorate: Academic Development and Support, and Satellite Campuses

T: +264 61 207 2556
E: ekavita@nust.na