

Melita Higher Education

Departmental and Curriculum Review Services

Why a Departmental review?

Improving the impact and quality of science education is essential to ensuring that the global community can meet the growing set of challenges we face, whether climate change, food security, disease reduction, or industrial innovation.

Successful science education programs require well-designed curricula, tailored to national and regional development goals

- Because you want your graduates to have successful careers.
- Because your reputation matters, globally.
- You want to increase the quality and quantity of students applying to your institution.
- You want to provide for personal development and assessment of both teachers and students.
- You want programs that are sustainable and efficient to run.
- And you want to attract funding.

Achieving effective science education begins with a systematic analysis of the gaps between current systems and desired outcomes.

The act of conducting a review:

- Encourages strategic thinking.
- Provides a mechanism for alignment with national and regional educational policy and goals.
- Provides a means of initiating discussion of the employability issue.
- Provides an objective platform for Sector, Institutional and Departmental requirements to be taken into account.
- Encourages re-design of the curriculum and its delivery with employability in mind.

How do we work?

We take a uniquely open and collaborative approach. When combined with our proprietary methodology this ensures practical outcomes with a high degree of buy-in from both educators and students. Our aim is to make sure

that you become **self-sufficient in the use of the tools** so that the process becomes sustainable.

We focus on first gaining a clear understanding of the **problem(s)** and of the university's **operating environment** as the latter will determine what solutions are viable. We then discuss and develop **together** practical actions, which will contribute to the resolution of the problem(s). We offer **innovative solutions**, which are **implemented collaboratively**.

A Departmental review consists of three phases:

- Understanding needs, defining best practices and establishment of benchmarks for success.
- A detailed audit consisting of data collection, analysis of current state and identification of desired state. Student and graduate views on the curriculum form part of the audit.
- Final analysis and review, recommendations and creating a framework for a plan of action.

Advantages of our collaborative approach

- The evaluation process is open and inclusive so inspires confidence in both educators and students
- It offers reassurance to colleagues as to how much is being done already.
- It provides excellent experience in planning and conducting other evaluations. enabling the institution to become self-sufficient in the future.

The Deliverables

The deliverables will be inclusive of the following:

- **Curriculum Content & Delivery:** Improved curriculum content and delivery in each of the three years of the degree program. Improved curricular content and delivery in the preparatory year courses, which will affect many departments who take these students.
- **Assessment & Analysis Tools:** The tools (audits and surveys) used to assess and improve the curriculum and the ability to apply them continually to ensure incremental and continual improvement in quality of courses.
- **Increased attractiveness:** The courses to students will be more attractive to them because of the improved curriculum and its delivery.
- **Establishing Communication Channels:** Formation of firm communication channels to all stakeholders including employers, alumni, University departments and future students.

- **Process Implementation:** The establishment of a process, inclusive of input from diverse stakeholders, by which continual improvement of curricula can be enabled in any department.
- **Staff Development:** Identification of staff development needs, through audits, to maintain currency of delivery methods. The audits would identify staff needs in terms of developing new skill sets to ensure that delivery channels and methods remain current.
- **Improved Staff Workloads:** Reduced assessment load on staff and reduced staff workloads.
- **Employability of Students:** Improvement in the employability of students and the appropriateness of education to meet employers' needs both now and in the future.
- **Consultation Support:** Email call-down of advice on teaching matters for 6 months following the end of the project.
- **Quality of Teaching & Student Learning:** Improved quality of teaching and of student learning in graduates who will be better equipped to meet the needs of a changing job market.
- **Strategic Plan:** If required, members of the project team will work together with Staff of the Department to develop a strategic plan for the Department targeting the improvement of teaching and learning.
- **Final Report:** A final holistic, inclusive and integrated report bringing together additional recommendations addressing each of the challenges listed above including associated timelines together with the *conclusions* of the project, a *plan of improvement* and *recommended immediate actions* (win/win)

Outcomes of the review

- A comprehensive Departmental overview identifying strengths and weaknesses and any gaps in provision.
- Objective data which can be used for prioritizing curricular needs.
- Identifies how and where employability-related learning is currently incorporated into curricula.

Furthermore, the review will be instrumental in:

- Attracting the best students
- Produce higher performing students
- Better prepared graduates
- Improving graduate satisfaction
- Improving employer satisfaction
- Improving relationships between students and teaching staff
- Greater staff satisfaction with student progress
- Improving staff teaching skills
- Providing an educational institution that is more responsive to the needs of its various publics

Who we are

At *Melita Higher Education*, the education division of *Melita Publishing Consultants* we are dedicated to developing a broad suite of innovative educational resources to support institutions, instructors, students, learned societies, and lifelong learners in their quests to contribute to the world of science.

