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**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2022 17:57  
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**Subject:** Response to JETS from ECTE-Accreditation Commission

Dear Mawiyha!

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Yesterday the ECTE Accreditation Commission (AC) met and here is the result of their deliberations relating to your question on fulfilling the requirement regarding Standard B.2.5:

**Requirement #2:** B.2.5 - Content, level, feasibility, and progression

That the research component in the programmes on Master level be strengthened following a clear progression in the assignments and especially in research papers in the final year to bring these programmes into conformity with ECTE standards and guidelines and the Dublin descriptors. See ECE [Standards and Guidelines](#), page 57 "Learning Outcomes" and [EHEA Paris 2018 Communiqué](#) .

Documentation of fulfilment of this requirement can be achieved by submitting to the AC a document describing the changes for each programme with reference to ECTE Standards and Dublin Descriptors.

The AC members wish to reiterate that the focus was placed on the need for clear progression within each programme and the fostering of critical thinking in research papers, which the Visiting Evaluation Team was unable to ascertain.

Please take a close look at the Learning Outcomes for Level 7 programmes which are part of the Standards and Guidelines and thus binding.

DEFINITION: At EQF Level 7, the ECTE certifies highly specialised postgraduate programmes of education aimed at building knowledge, critical understanding and specialised skills in the field of theology.

Learning Outcomes: Highly specialised knowledge, some of which is at the forefront of knowledge in a field of theology (work or study), as the basis for original thinking and/or research; critical awareness of knowledge issues in theology and at the interface with other fields; specialised problem-solving skills required in research and/or innovation in order to develop new knowledge and procedures and to integrate knowledge from different fields; responsibility and autonomy to manage and transform work or study contexts that are complex, unpredictable and require new strategic approaches; take responsibility for contributing to professional knowledge and practice and/or for reviewing the strategic performance of teams.

Research-oriented programmes place a greater emphasis on fields of study and knowledge featuring an emphasis on advanced studies in theology and research skills (see footnote 15 regarding a final thesis requirement)

Practice-oriented programmes place greater emphasis on fields of work and procedures featuring an emphasis on developing professional skills (see footnote 16)

You find the full description on page 4 of the [ECTE Certification Framework](#)

This is what must be demonstrated by JETS as outlined in the requirement.

Allow me to repeat: The focus for a compliance rating by the AC related to B.2.5 will be on the need for clear progression within each programme and the fostering of critical thinking in research papers, which the team was unable to ascertain.

- Evidence of compliance can be, for example,
  - curricular maps (in English) outlining the progression of fostering critical thinking in research-components throughout each programme to show how the curricula are built to enable students to attain the learning outcomes of Level 7 programmes and
  - syllabi (in English) for courses in each year of each programme which include fostering research capabilities and critical thinking along with assignments designed to help students attain the learning outcomes of a level 7 programme.
- A final thesis is normally required for level 7 programmes, especially for research-oriented programmes.

As you find ways to improve in these areas, please add plans for implementation of improvement initiatives in your additional representation.

Please note:

- Documentation on compliance to all standards with requirements must be submitted by JETS no later than September 30, 2022. Until compliance has been confirmed by the AC, [JETS](#) will be listed as “under review” in the ECTE directory as an institution and all programmes.
- Continuing development of areas which received requirements and recommendations must be described in the Annual Progress Reports.
- These areas will be a special focus of the VET in the next cyclical review in 2027.

During yesterday’s meeting, the AC **withdrew** the request for submission of sample research papers with the next Annual Progress Report.

The AC expressed their appreciation for the cooperation and communication of you, personally, and JETS as an institution in this process.

I look forward to receiving your additional representation related to all three requirements listed in the Accreditation letter of March 24, 2022.

May God bless you personally and professionally as you serve Him and your students at JETS.

Sincerely,

Carmen

Carmen Crouse  
Accreditation Director

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