



Steps of Faith

At the Evangelical Seminary of Southern Africa

November 2017

PAST ... PRESENT ... FUTURE

Yes, But ...

After a long wait, many frustrations, delays, and lots of patience the proposed Bachelor of Theology degree of the Evangelical Seminary of Southern Africa HAS BEEN ACCREDITED!

This is great news and we at ESSA have been rejoicing and giving thanks and rejoicing a bit more again. Yes, this is great news indeed, But ...

Most government departments are shutting down and will only re-open sometime in January.

This will be too late for ESSA to begin the academic year in January 2018. So yes, we have been accredited, but ... we will not be able to start immediately.

The beginning of the New Year raises challenges of its own, such as the audited financial statements being out of date.

and offer a program that is not only good but excellent. Yes, all these sound simple and straightforward, but ... they're all part of a complex integrated system and as you touch one side of it, all others are affected.

Which is the reason why we have decided to aim for a re-opening date of July 2018. Yes, but ... won't that waste half a year?

While it may seem like a waste of half a year I'd prefer to see it as "avoiding a spontaneous jump-start" on the day DHET registers ESSA.

The HEQC approved the recommendation of the Accreditation Committee and decided that the *Bachelor of Theology (NQF level 7, 384 credits, Contact mode, H/PR319/E004CAN)* be approved with conditions and may be offered at 189 Pine Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3200.

CONDITIONS

Criterion

This is only the first step. This step has taken quite a while and much longer than expected but it's still only the first step. The reason ESSA had to cease operations was not a matter of academic standards. ESSA had just been re-accredited for all three programs in 2010 before the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) de-registered ESSA as a private higher education institution for failure to comply with requirements over a period of over 2 years.

The application to be re-registered with DHET was submitted in 2014 as well. Unfortunately the final document for that application was the CHE accreditation letter – which we only received now.

Of course we immediately sent the letter to the relevant office at DHET and are now awaiting the outcome, but ... it's the end of the year and the Christmas season is upon us.

We have been updating them regularly and have submitted clean audits ever since 2014, but ... we need to do it again, as soon as possible.

Another challenge is that of the conditions attached to the registration. Over the past years regulations have changed back and forth several times and while we did our best to keep up and update policies and documents, the entire documentation needs a review and "reality check" based on developments of the past years. So yes, we have done a good job so far, but ... there's still a lot of work to be done.

Then there is the internal process of finding and allocating (guest) lecturers, securing a Principal, scheduling the academic calendar, and finalizing the hundred-and-one things that are needed to train students effectively

The decision to only begin in July 2018 was not taken lightly. However the additional time allows us to prepare everything properly and have everything in place in time for students to arrive.

So Yes, we have finally been accredited once again, but ... there's still a lot of work to be done.

Please pray with us for strength, wisdom and God's mercy as we once again look for lecturers, review all documents and, most importantly, wish to get everything ready to

train dedicated Christian leaders, in an urban setting, for the Church-in-Mission by providing quality tertiary education that is Evangelical, Holistic and Contextual.

On behalf of the Seminary,
Johannes Klapprodt,
Academic Dean

The ESSA BTh - an overview

In recent years the proposed curriculum had to be adjusted, shifted and changed due to various factors. We're not sure which version was the last one you heard (or more likely read) but allow us to introduce the final version briefly:

The Bachelor of Theology degree will be offered in a **block-release mode**, also referred to as "modular mode" or "open learning" and is neither a residential programme nor a distant mode.

The BTh carries **384 credits, NQF 7**, and can be studied full-time (3 years) or part-time. The programme consists of **12 annual courses**, weighted at **10 credits each**, plus an 8-credit ministry experience component per year.

The fees are calculated at **R 100/credit**. This means that each course is charged at R 1000 and the cost of the programme (all years) is set at about **R 40.000 total**.

Considering that most other accredited programmes charge this amount per year AND require students to quit jobs or leave ministry for the duration of their studies this

fee structure seems highly attractive to most.

The **entry requirements** are set by the Council on Higher Education and there is no leeway in the details:

BTh: The minimum admission requirement is a National Senior Certificate (NSC) with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching [ESSA: English] of the higher education institution as certified by Umalusi, coupled with an achievement rating of 4 (Adequate Achievement, 50-59%) or better in four subjects chosen from set 20-credit NSC subjects. Alternatively a Higher Certificate or an Advanced Certificate or Diploma in a cognate field may satisfy the minimum admission requirements.

In cases where the last (relevant) academic certificate is a foreign one students will have to also submit the SAQA Certificate of Evaluation.

Above and beyond the governmental admission requirements the Seminary expects certain non-academic criteria to be in place:

- ✓ Christian of good standing and character
- ✓ Acceptance of ESSA's Statement of Faith
- ✓ Ethical and Moral integrity (see "Code of Conduct")
- ✓ ESSA reserves the right to request testimonials from the previous institution. This request may be made from ESSA directly to the institution or may be requested from the student.
- ✓ ESSA reserves the right to not admit students who may meet any or all of the above criteria.

Students will be expected to participate in the offered Academic Preparation Modules (APM's) to ensure their academic readiness for this programme.

If you're interested or you are aware of anyone who might be: Please feel free to contact info@essa.ac.za or denise@essa.ac.za for more details.

Understanding the Bible	Understanding Tradition	Understanding Ministry	Core Academics
BIB 101 – Survey of the Old Testament (part 1)	TRA 101 – Systematic Theology (part 1)	MIN 101 – Teaching as Ministry	COR 101 – Study Skills & Research Methods
BIB 102 – Survey of the Old Testament (part 2)	TRA 102 – Turning Points in Christianity	MIN 102 – Homiletics	COR 201 – Academic Communication
BIB 103 – Survey of the New Testament (part 1)	TRA 201 – Systematic Theology (part 2)	MIN 201 – Church & Disciple-making	COR 301 – Thinking Theologically
BIB 104 – Survey of the New Testament (part 2)	TRA 202 – The Early Church	MIN 202 – Youth & Children's Ministry	
BIB 105 – Hermeneutics & Exegesis	TRA 203 – Introduction to World Missions	MIN 203 – Counselling	
BIB 106 – Life of Christ	TRA 301 – Church in Africa	MIN 204 – Pastoral Care	
BIB 107 – Pentateuch	TRA 302 – Evangelical Christianity	MIN 205 – Church and HIV/AIDS	<i>Ministry Experience Journal (8 Cr.)</i>
BIB 201 – Major & Minor Prophets	TRA 303 – Ethics and Problem-solving	MIN 301 – Principles of Development	<i>Ministry Experience Journal (8 Cr.)</i>
BIB 202 – New Testament Epistles	TRA 304 – Leadership & Management	MIN 302 – Urban Ministry	<i>Ministry Experience Journal (8 Cr.)</i>
BIB 203 – Poetic & Wisdom Literature	TRA 305 – World-Religions & Cross-Cultural Ministry	MIN 303 – Gender Issues	
BIB 301 – Apocalyptic Literature	TRA 306 - Apologetics	MIN 304 – Peace & Justice / Current Issues	

Of course we have also been working on a preliminary timetable for 2018. All dates are still prone to changes and the exact courses may be shoved to different slots, pending availability of lecturers, etc. But ... in terms of a general overview:

Dates	Event
19-23 Feb	APM 1 – reading & writing comprehension
19-23 Mar	APM 2 – electronic communication
16-20 Apr	APM 3 – spiritual ministry
14-18 May	APM 4 – self-discipline & time-managemen
28-29 May	Staff Conference
4-5 June	Academic Conference
11-15 June	Orientation for Students
16-20 July	COR 101: Study Skills & Research Methods
13-17 Aug	BIB 101: OT Survey pt 1
	Formation weekend ?
20-24 Aug	BIB 102: OT Survey pt 2
17-21 Sep	BIB 103: NT Survey pt 1
	Formation weekend ?
24-28 Sep	BIB 104: NT Survey pt 2
22-26 Oct	TRA 101: Systematic Theology pt 1
19-23 Nov	MIN 101: Teaching as Ministry

The next couple of weeks will include discussions with lecturers and finalizing dates, etc. We will also be slowly updating our website (www.essa.ac.za) and we welcome all of you to visit the site frequently for updated info on the Seminary.



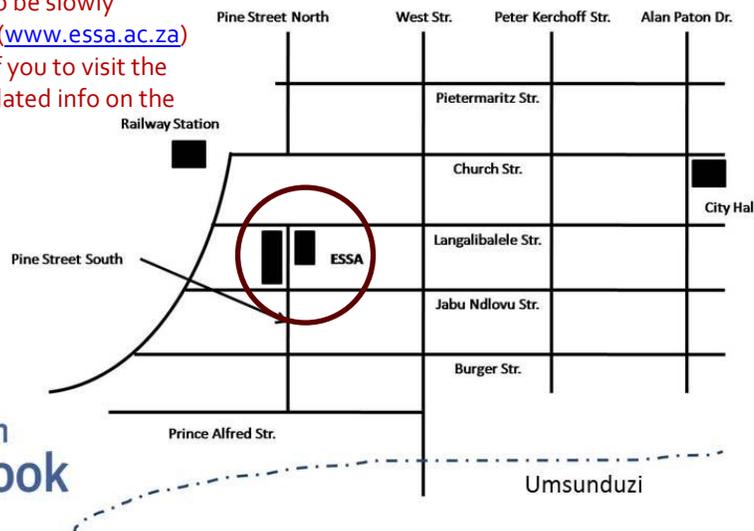
FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.
(Luk 2:11)

The Evangelical Seminary of Southern Africa with the governing body and all staff members wish to express our appreciation for your on-going prayers, support and patience. Like the Old Testament prophets we have waited for God to reveal his providence and have not been disappointed. We wish to encourage you with these News and ask you to keep us in your prayers.

Words fail to express our gratitude and heartfelt thanks!

On behalf of the Seminary,
Johannes Klapprodt,
Academic Dean

EVANGELICAL SEMINARY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



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