



**Higher Education Council (HEC)**  
**P.O. 6311, KIGALI-Rwanda**

Kigali ..... **19 JAN 2021**  
Ref. No DG/HEC/**090/2020**

**The Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda (UR)**  
**The Vice Chancellor, Catholic University of Rwanda (CUR)**  
**The Vice Chancellor, Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA)**  
**The Rector, Institut Supérieur d'Enseignement Supérieur de Ruhengeri (INES)**  
**The Vice Chancellor, Institut Supérieur Pédagogique de Gitwe (ISPG)**  
**The Vice Chancellor, Mount Kenya University (MKU)-Kigali Campus**  
**The Vice Chancellor, Ruli Higher Institute of health (RHIH)**  
**The Vice Chancellor, Kibogora Polytechnic (KP)**  
**The Vice Chancellor, University of Global Health Equity (UGHE)**  
**The Country Representative, College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA)**  
**Kigali- Rwanda**

Dear Vice Chancellor, Rector, Country Representative,

**RE: Education Quality and Entry Requirements for Health-Related Programs**

Reference is made to the meeting held on 29/12/2020 at the Ministry of Health discussing issues related to quality education and entry level requirements for health education programs in Rwanda, with the aim to harmonize and strengthen the education of health professionals which will ultimately improve the overall quality of healthcare services provided.

The purpose of this letter is to share with you, the revised "Health Professionals' Equivalence Processing and Students' Indexing (attached)" procedures, and the entry level requirements for health education programs, for your consideration and implementation.

Sincerely,

  
**Dr. Rose MUKANKOMEJE**  
Director General



**Cc:**

- Minister of Education
- Minister of Health
- Minister of State in Charge of Primary and Secondary Education
- Minister of State in Charge of ICT and TVET
- Minister of State in Charge of Primary Health Care
- Executive Secretary, Human Resource for Health Secretariat
- Permanent Secretary, MINEDUC
- Health Professional Councils (RMDC, RAHPC, NCNM, NPC)

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 6311, KIGALI – RWANDA  
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REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



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## HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' EQUIVALENCE PROCESSING AND STUDENTS' INDEXING

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“**Equivalence Certificate**” is issued to students who have completed their studies and obtained their Degrees from Foreign accredited institutions of higher learning.

It has been observed that many of the applicants for Equivalence who have graduated from Health-related programs outside Rwanda, have no “Index numbers” as required by respective Health Professional Regulatory Bodies. In addition, most of them do not meet “Admission requirements” into Higher Education in Rwanda (2 Principal passes in the core subjects).

To resolve the above issues and have qualified and competent staff in health sector, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with Human Resource for Health Secretariat (HRHS), Higher Education Council (HEC) and Health Professional Regulatory Bodies (RMDC, NCNM, RAHPC, and NPC)<sup>1</sup> operating in Rwanda, adopted the following:

1. All students wishing to study Health-related programs in Rwanda or abroad, must be indexed before enrollment. Indexing will also help to plan and organize internship and qualifying exams for graduates.
2. All Health professional students graduating from foreign institutions must undertake and successfully pass the **Licensure exam** from their respective Professional Regulatory Bodies, before a “Rwandan Equivalence” is issued.
3. Upon successfully passing the **Licensure exam**, Health Professional Regulatory Bodies will recommend graduates for equivalence. The applicant for equivalence shall be requested to present a recommendation issued by relevant health professional regulatory body. Before issuing the equivalence, as usual, HEC will verify the qualification of the Graduate according to the normal procedures. *PR*

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<sup>1</sup> **RMDC:** Rwanda Medical and Dental Council, **RAHPC:** Rwanda Allied Health Professions Council, **NCNM:** National Council for Nurses and Midwives, **NPC:** National Pharmacy Council.



4. The applicant for index number, should fulfill Admission Requirements into Higher Education (i.e. 2 Principal Passes) and Specific Health Professional Regulatory Bodies Criteria into Health- related programs, as follows:
  - To have studied Science Subjects in Secondary School (A level): Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.
  - To have **at least** passed core subjects of **Biology and Chemistry at:**
    - a) **Grade C:** for all students wishing to study health related programmes at Bachelor level
    - b) **Grade D:** for all students wishing to study health related programmes at Advanced Diploma level.
  - The above will be implemented from the academic year 2021.
5. All schools implementing health related programmes with ongoing non-indexed students and individuals studying health related programmes outside Rwanda are given a transition period of three (3) months counted from the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, to complete the indexing process.

**For more information contact:**

1. Higher Education Council: Tel: 0782110096, Email: [info@hec.gov.rw](mailto:info@hec.gov.rw)
2. Human Resource for Health Secretariat (HRHS): Tel: 0782127408, Email: [info@moh.gov.rw](mailto:info@moh.gov.rw)

Done at Kigali on 19/01/2021

