



SOUTHERN AFRICAN
QUALITY ASSURANCE
NETWORK

Title:

Online and Transnational Education: Opportunities, Challenges and Quality Assurance Considerations the Southern African region.

Proposed **Date:** August 2026

Host: Southern African Quality Assurance Network (SAQAN)

Presenters: ZIMCHE, NCHE and CHE-SA (3 presenters in total)

1.0 Background

The rapid growth of online education and transnational education (TNE) is transforming higher education globally and within the Southern African region. Advances in digital technologies, increased demand for flexible learning pathways, and growing cross-border educational partnerships have expanded access to higher education opportunities. However, these developments also present quality assurance, regulatory, recognition, and equity challenges that require coordinated regional responses.

As quality assurance agencies work to safeguard academic standards while promoting innovation, there is a need for dialogue and knowledge sharing among SAQAN members on emerging trends, good practices, and policy approaches related to online and transnational education.

2.0 Webinar Objectives

The webinar aims to:

1. Explore current developments and trends in online education and transnational education within Southern Africa and globally.
2. Examine the benefits and opportunities presented by online learning and cross-border higher education provision.
3. Discuss key quality assurance, regulatory, and recognition challenges associated with online and transnational education.

4. Share practical recommendations and regional strategies for strengthening quality assurance frameworks and collaboration among SAQAN members.

3.0 Expected Outcomes

By the end of the webinar, participants will:

1. Have an enhanced understanding of emerging trends in online and transnational education.
2. Identify key benefits and challenges affecting institutions, students, and quality assurance agencies in the region.
3. Gain insights into effective quality assurance practices for online and transnational education provision.
4. Develop practical recommendations for strengthening national and regional quality assurance frameworks.
5. Enhance collaboration among SAQAN member agencies in addressing cross-border quality assurance issues.

4.0 Target Participants

- SAQAN member quality assurance agencies
- University academics and administrators
- University quality assurance practitioners
- Higher education policy makers and administrators
- Higher education students
- Regional higher education stakeholders

5.0 Conclusion

The webinar will provide a timely platform for SAQAN members to engage on the growing significance of online and transnational education, share experiences, and identify collaborative strategies for ensuring quality, relevance, and credibility in higher education across the Southern African region.