

**PARTICIPANT LETTER OF INFORMATION**

Dear Ms/Mr/Dr/Prof -------------

I am a student at DUT registered for Doctoral degree in the Nursing in the faculty of Health Sciences. I am currently doing a research project. Research is a creative and systematic work undertaken to increase knowledge on a particular subject. It involves the collection, organization and analysis of information to increase understanding of a topic or issue. My research includes collection of data from Head of Departments and Nurse Educators to inform development of guidelines to facilitate performance of nurse educators in Higher Education Institutions in KwaZulu-Natal.

As a Nurse Educator, you are invited to participate in my research study details of which are provided below.

**Title of the Research Study:** A critical analysis of the factors influencing achievement of nurse educator competencies at selected universities in KwaZulu-Natal.

**Principal Investigator/s/researcher:** Ms Hazel T. Mahlanze (M Tech: Nursing)

**Co-Investigator/s/supervisor/s:** Prof. TSP Ngxongo (Dr of Nursing)

**Brief Introduction and Purpose of the Study:** Nurse Educators are expected to demonstrate a variety of competencies including scholarship of teaching and learning; curriculum development; management and leadership; personal development as well as research and knowledge creation. Students have also evolved over the years, and this has increased demands on the nurse educators, who are expected to be prepared for learners that have a variety of issues and distractions from the educational process. New online and digital methodologies demand fast learning and adaptation for most nurse educators. The purpose of my research project is to conduct a critical analysis of the factors influencing achievement of nurse educator competencies at selected universities in KwaZulu-Natal, with the ultimate purpose developing guidelines to facilitate performance of nurse educators in Higher Education Institutions in KwaZulu-Natal.

**Outline of the Procedures:**

You are requested to participate in a focus group semi structured interview that will be conducted by myself as a researcher at your campus. The date and time will be arranged with the Head of Department to avoid interruption to your schedule. I will use a few predetermined open-ended questions to keep the discussion focused but, you will be free to respond to questions in a way that is comfortable to you without being coerced. The interview will be in English and will last for approximately 45 minutes. You are kindly informed that it is important that the interviews will be audio-recorded to allow capturing of all the data.

**Risks or Discomforts to the Participant:** There will be no risks to you during the participation in the study.

**Voluntary Participation:** Please note that your **p**articipation is voluntary, and you may choose to withdraw from the study at any point. There will be no consequences to you should you wish to withdraw.

**Benefits:** Although the study has no fiscal benefits or remuneration, there are long-term direct and indirect benefits from enhancing the performance of nurse educators. The guidelines if utilized by the employer of nurse educators, will inform and address gaps in staff development programmes including structured staff mentoring programmes, staff promotion and rewards. The nurse educators will gain confidence and job satisfaction when support programmes address challenges that impede them from meeting needs in order to achieve competencies. Graduates will be better equipped when they enter the practice environment and be ready to assist the country with its burden of disease and strategic objectives. The recommendations can assist the SANC to fast track the Continuous Professional Development for staff development programmes for nurse educators to address skill gaps which might be affecting achievement of competencies.

**Costs of the Study**: You will not be expected to cover any costs of the study.

**Confidentiality:** You will be expected to fill in a consent form for participation and also for granting me permission to audio- record the interview session. Your anonymity will be guaranteed in that none of your personal details such as name and/or identity number will be documented on any of the research documents, but codes will be used. All research documents including the consent forms will be kept in a lock-up cupboard, and recordings will be transcribed onto a password protected computer.

**Results:** A thesis containing all information about the research project (process and result) will be made available on the internet through DUT website and copy will be issued to your campus on request. The findings from the study will also be disseminated through publication of papers and presentation at conferences where opportunities avail.

**Research-related Injury:** The nature of the study does not pose any potential risk of injury to you as the participant.

**Storage of all electronic and hard copies including tape recordings:** All paper based research documents including the consent forms will be kept in a lock-up cupboard, and electronic documents kept in a personal password protected computer used solely for this research project throughout the research process and for a further five years thereafter. At five years, all paper based documents will destroyed be shredding and electronic documents wiped off.

**Persons to contact in the Event of Any Problems or Queries:**

**Researcher: Ms HT. Mahlanze** Tel: 0827352875 eMail: [hazelm@dut.acza](mailto:hazelm@dut.acza)

**Supervisor:** Prof TSP. Ngxongo Tel: 0313732609 eMail: [thembelihlen@dut.acza](mailto:thembelihlen@dut.acza) **or**

**DUT Institutional Research Ethics administrator** Tel: 0313732375

Complaints can be reported to the Acting Director: Research and Postgraduate Support on [researchdirector@dut.ac.za](mailto:researchdirector@dut.ac.za)



**CONSENT FORM**

**Full Title of the Study:** A critical analysis of the factors influencing achievement of nurse educator competencies at selected universities in KwaZulu-Natal.

**Names of Researcher/s: Ms** Hazel T. Mahlanze

**Co-Investigator/s/Supervisor/s:** Prof. TSP Ngxongo

* **Statement of Agreement to Participate in the Research Study:**
* I hereby confirm that I have been informed by the research about the nature, conduct, benefits and risks of this study - Research Ethics Clearance Number: **IREC 115/23** ,
* I have also received, read and understood the above written information (Participant Letter of Information) regarding the study.
* I am aware that the results of the study, including personal details regarding my sex, age, date of birth, initials and diagnosis will be anonymously processed into a study report.
* In view of the requirements of research, I agree that the data collected during this study can be processed in a computerised system by the researcher.
* I may, at any stage, without prejudice, withdraw my consent and participation in the study.
* I have had sufficient opportunity to ask questions and (of my own free will) declare myself prepared to participate in the study.
* I understand that significant new findings developed during the course of this research which may relate to my participation will be made available to me.

**Full Name of Participant Date Time Signature / Right Thumbprint**

I, Ms Hazel T Mahlanze herewith confirm that the above participant has been fully informed about the nature, conduct and risks of the above study.

Haze Thokozani Mahlanze

**Full Name of Researcher Date Signature**