

GUIDANCE NOTE ON PROFESSIONAL FOCUS, COHERENCE & STRUCTURE



Introduction

The '**NSETS Professional Endorsement, Criteria and Procedures for the Professional Endorsement of Higher Education Programmes of Study in Youth Work**' outlines the requirements for submission of evidence when seeking endorsement for programmes of study. There are 12 required aspects and associated criteria to the submission document.

The purpose of this Guidance Note is to provide specific additional/supplementary information on **Criteria Number 7 'Professional Focus, Coherence and Structure'**. This guidance should provide those educational institutions who are making the submission for endorsement, and members of endorsement panels who are evaluating congruence of that documentation, with additional guidance. The following information should be considered alongside, and in addition to, the detail outlined in the **NSETS Criteria and Procedures**.

This guidance note should be viewed as interrelated and reflective of the overall approach as outlined in **NSETS Criteria and Procedures** and should not be considered in isolation as stand alone guidance

The guidance also recognises that the approach to youth work professional formation will vary across programmes of educational institutions and does not seek to limit or prescribe a particular approach to the content or sequencing of modules. Instead it seeks to describe aspects of quality practice which both the programmes of education and NSETS can use when considering standards in professional focus, coherence and structure.

Guidance on Professional Focus, Coherence and Structure

This guidance has been developed to identify and promote 'best practice' across programme providers while recognising individual providers' unique context and contribution. The programme should be designed and delivered as an integrated professional formation experience for students, focusing on integrating theory and practice across all dimensions. Youth work must be an explicit focus throughout the programme. This should be expressed in programme learning outcomes, youth work related module learning outcomes and module descriptors.

Youth work methodology should underpin the overall approach in the programme, not only in the content/curriculum but also mirrored in the teaching practice and programme activities.

The following are some of the broad indicative areas which are considered to be important/core components of an NSETS professionally endorsed youth work programme of education:

