

The Higher Education Quality Committee  
Council of Higher Education

Pretoria,

South Africa

WEST DEAN  
COLLEGE 

25<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Endorsement- The S.A. Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation

Dear Chairperson,

As Programme Leader for the Conservation of Ceramics and Related Materials Graduate and Post Graduate programmes and Co-ordinator of the interdisciplinary MA in Conservation Studies here at West Dean College, UK, I write in support of the South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation's candidacy for formal accreditation within South Africa's qualifications system.

West Dean College enjoys an international reputation as a provider of both full-time and part-time conservation programmes. There is an emphasis on developing an holistic approach to conservation through theory, ethical best practice and continuing professional development. The Programmes above are validated and awarded by the University of Sussex, UK.

It is the case that opportunities to train in the field of conservation are comparatively rare. As a small profession it is our common goal to embed professional skills and attitudes and support sustainability of cultural heritage in its full diversity. I believe the opportunity to formally accredit a Postgraduate conservation training programme in South Africa is a very positive step.

It has been my pleasure over an extensive number of years to have professional contact with faculty members and students from the South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation. Our PGD programme in Ceramics and Related Materials Conservation has benefitted from the attendance of a most able student joining us from the Institute. Studies carried-out prior to arrival demonstrated a sound understanding of conservation theory and practice and the student ultimately was awarded a Distinction on graduating from West Dean.

My personal experience of the lengthy commitment of the Institute personnel to maintain and develop educational standards means that I fully support the Institute's application for the admission and registration of their Post graduate Diploma programme within the sphere of higher education in South Africa.

I wish the Institute every success in this application

Lorna Calcutt , MA, ACR, FHEA [Lorna.calcutt@westdean.org.uk](mailto:Lorna.calcutt@westdean.org.uk) Tel: 01243 818 237

*Lorna Calcutt*

West Dean College, The Edward James Foundation, West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0QZ, England  
Tel +44 (0)1243 811301 [enquiries@westdean.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@westdean.org.uk) [www.westdean.org.uk](http://www.westdean.org.uk)

Chief Executive: Peter Pearce FRICS Director of Higher Education: Francine Norris BA(Hons), MA

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