



# Peer-Review Statements

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All the articles in this proceedings volume have been presented at the University of Fort Hare Annual Teaching-Learning Conference, from 13-14th September 2023 in East London. These articles have been peer reviewed by academics from the University of Fort Hare (UFH), Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and University of Pretoria (UP) who publish on e-learning/blended learning. The articles were approved by the Editors who affirm that this document is a truthful description of the conference's review process.

## 1. REVIEW PROCEDURE

The reviews were double-blind. Each submission was examined by two different reviewers independently. The submissions were first screened for generic quality and suitability. After the initial screening, they were sent for peer review by matching each paper's topic with the reviewers' expertise. Reviewers were sourced from several South African universities. A paper could only be considered for acceptance if it had received favourable recommendations from the two reviewers. Authors of a rejected submission, or a submission that needed substantial revision were given the opportunity to revise and re-submit after addressing the reviewers' comments. The acceptance or rejection of a revised manuscript was final.

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## 2. QUALITY CRITERIA

The manuscripts that were sent out to reviewers were anonymised (given a number, and any information relating to the author/s was removed).

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Reviewers were instructed to assess the quality of submissions solely based on the academic merit of their content using a rubric. They were also advised to recuse themselves from the review process if there were manuscripts of friends or relatives amongst those they were asked to review.

In addition, all the articles have been checked for textual overlap in an effort to detect possible signs of plagiarism by the publisher.

Reviewers were instructed to assess the quality of submissions solely based on the academic merit of their content. The manuscripts were rated on a 5 point-scale (Poor-Good) based on the following criteria:

1. Introduction and Literature Review
2. Methodology
3. Conclusions
4. Writing Style

#### **Recommendation**

Accept	
Accept with revisions	
Reject	

## **GENERAL IMPRESSIONS AND FURTHER COMMENTS**

### **3. KEY METRICS**

Total submissions:	20
Number of articles sent for peer review:	15
Number of accepted articles:	13
Acceptance rate:	65%
Number of reviewers:	16

### **4. COMPETING INTERESTS**

Neither the Editor-in-Chief nor any member of the Reviewing Committee declared any competing interest.

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