SECTION A:	**QUALIFICATION DETAILS**				
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER (S)	Botho University				
TITLE	Master of Science in Accounting			**NCQF LEVEL**	9
FIELD	Business, Commerce and Management Studies	**SUB-FIELD**	Accounting	**CREDIT VALUE**	240

New Qualification		*Review of Existing Qualification*	

SUB-FRAMEWORK	*General Education*		*TVET*		*Higher Education*	✓

QUALIFICATION TYPE	*Certificate*	*I*		*II*		*III*		*IV*		*V*		*Diploma*		*Bachelor*	
	Bachelor Honours		*Post Graduate Certificate*		*Post Graduate Diploma*										
	Masters	✓	*Doctorate/ PhD*												

RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFICATION

RATIONALE:

Botswana, through Vision 2036 advocates for sustainable economic development, human and social development that require managers to attain the necessary skills, knowledge and competencies to advance in their careers. This agenda resonates with aspiration of knowledge-based society in order to embolden facilitators of teaching and learning at different educational levels, for their personal enrichment, scholarly advancement or growth.

HRDC has published 'Priority skills' for Botswana in March 2019, in which Finance Managers and Financial and Insurance Services Branch Managers with financial planning, market research, accounting procedures, numerical, negotiation, and analytical skills have been named as one of the occupations in demand. The Master of Science in Accounting qualification aims to provide learners with the necessary mix of advanced technical, organisational, and managerial knowledge and skills to qualify them as Accounting Professionals.

A market survey was embarked on to establish whether the qualification was viable or not. The responses from the survey were positive with an inkling that the qualification was contemporary, needed, and sustainable.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this qualification is to produce graduates with advanced knowledge, skills, and competence to:

- Apply accounting theory and international accounting standards in practice.
- Critically assess financial statements for their credibility and decision-making.
- Solve valuation problems and provide appropriate investment advice.
- Demonstrate proficiency in financial reporting, corporate governance, taxation, auditing, and management decision-making.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)

1. The minimum admission requirement is NCQF level 7 in the same or a related field of study.
2. Applicants that do not meet the above criteria will be considered through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) in accordance with ETP and national policies on RPL and CAT for access and inclusion.

SECTION B	***QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION***
GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)	***ASSESSMENT CRITERIA***
1. Identify, critically analyse, formulate, and serve advanced needs of individuals and society creatively and responsibly in regard to accounting, management accounting, auditing and taxation.	1.1 Identify needs by means of exploring and critically evaluating abstract and personal situations. 1.2 Suggest accounting, finance and taxation needs and opportunities in business by use of case studies, primary research, and projects. 1.3 Critically analyse and solve concrete and abstract problems in the field of accounting, finance, auditing, and taxation by drawing upon the theoretical knowledge. 1.4 Formulate suggestions for solving problems at a community and national level, international and global level.
2. Apply advanced ethical conduct as a group member or leader to contribute to group output with special reference to accounting, finance, and auditing.	2.1 Apply people skills (tolerance, empathy, listening skills, leadership) in liaising with other professionals and clients. 2.2 Demonstrate respect for the opinion of others through unbiased reporting. 2.3 Demonstrate a high level of tolerance of diversity through unbiased reporting. 2.4 Make autonomous ethical decisions that affect knowledge production, or complex organisational or professional issues. 2.5 Critically contribute to the development of ethical standards in the professional practice of risk management.

3. Demonstrate advanced application of new skills and techniques to identify and solve problems and to critically analyse current and future resources for decision making.	3.1 Analyse and interpret collected data critically showing evidence of applying appropriate principles and making sound judgement. 3.2 Use scientific research techniques to gather and interpret information. 3.3 Critically analyse actual outcomes and compare them to initial hypotheses/problem statements and draw conclusions about the contribution of the research. 3.4 Evaluate complex situations critically with flexibility and adaptability.
4. Demonstrate innovation, autonomy, scholarly and professional integrity and exercise a high level of initiative in formulation and implementation of innovative practices.	4.1 Comply with all internal and external regulations, policies and procedures and the maintenance of ethical and professional conduct. 4.2 Adhere to a strong code of ethics and corporate governance as prescribed by best practice. 4.3 Apply advanced systems thinking to solving economic and management related problems. 4.4 Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of the accounting discipline/field and relate it to own research.
5. Demonstrate ability to self-direct, strategically lead, and high level of mastery of professional practice.	5.1 Critically analyse technical and descriptive reports to produce succinct market commentary and identify links between potential risks and market fundamentals.

	5.2 Translate complex technical concepts into understandable notions for non-experts and senior management. 5.3 Communicate institutions' purpose through discussions and be analytical about the Business administration practices in various contexts of professional mastery of business processes with respect to collaborative business strategies and strategic marketing.

SECTION C	***QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE***				
COMPONENT	***TITLE***	***Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level***			***Total Credits***
		Level [9]	***Level [ ]***	***Level [ ]***	
FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT *Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units*	Financial Information Technology	10			10
CORE COMPONENT *Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units*	Applied Financial Accounting	20			20
	Advanced Management Accounting	20			20
	Financial Statement Analysis	10			10
	Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management	10			10
	Strategic Corporate Finance	20			20
	Applied Corporate Governance	10			10
	Strategic Performance Management	10			10
	Applied Corporate Financial Management	20			20

	Applied Public Sector Accounting	10			10
	Applied Taxation	10			10
	Research and Dissertation	80			80
ELECTIVE/ OPTIONAL COMPONENT *Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units* (Choose one)	Applied Audit and Assurance	10			10
	Applied Public Sector Auditing	10			10

SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL	
TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL	
NCQF Level	***Credit Value***
9	240
TOTAL CREDITS	240

Rules of Combination:

(Please Indicate combinations for the different constituent components of the qualification)

Fundamental component = 10 credits.

Core component = 220 credits.

Elective component = 10 credits.

Total = 240 credits.

ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

This qualification is assessed as follows:

Formative assessment:

Learners are continuously assessed through internal assessments which constitute 50% of the overall grade for all modules.

Summative assessment:

Summative assessment shall contribute 50% towards the final grade.

All assessment processes shall be conducted by assessors who are registered and accredited by Botswana Qualifications Authority, in accordance with ETP and national policies on assessment.

MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS

Both internal and external moderation will be done in-line with the ETP and national moderation policies.

moderation processes shall be conducted by moderators registered and accredited by Botswana Qualifications Authority or any relevant and recognised regulatory body or authority.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered for the award of Master of Science in Accounting qualification in accordance with applicable RPL policy of the ETP which will be aligned to the National policy on RPL.

CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER
Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) will be considered for the award of Master of Science in Accounting qualification in accordance with ETP CAT policy which will be aligned to the National policy on CAT.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)

Learning Pathways

Vertical:

Completion of Master of Science in Accounting meets the requirement for vertical progression and admission to a cognate Doctoral Degree such as the following.

- Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting.
- Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting and Finance.
- Doctor of Philosophy in Finance.
- Doctor of Philosophy in International Finance and Economics.
- Doctor of Philosophy in Risk Management.

Horizontal:

The qualification is commensurate with qualifications such as

- Master of Commerce in Development Finance
- Master of Philosophy in Development Finance and
- Master of Science in Risk Management.

Employment Pathway

The qualification will produce post-graduates suitable for positions as

- Finance Manager.
- Financial and Insurance Services Branch Managers
- Financial and Investment Advisors
- Financial Analysts

- Insurance Manager
- Accountant General
- Management Accountant
- External Auditors
- Accountant in Practice
- Forensic Accountant
- Investment Analyst
- Investment Manager
- Investment Advisor
- Financial Markets Practitioners
- Financial investment Advisor and Management Consultant.

QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

The learner will be awarded Master of Science in Accounting after attaining 240 credits as specified in the rules of combination. A certificate of the award of Master of Science in Accounting will be issued upon successful completion of the qualification.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

The proposed Master of Science in Accounting was benchmarked with Master of Accountancy at University of Zimbabwe, Master of Commerce Degree in Professional Accounting and Corporate Governance at Great Zimbabwe University, and City University of Hong Kong Master of Science in Professional Accounting and Corporate Governance.

The proposed qualification is not designed to provide an overview of accounting only, but also to develop conceptual understanding, synthesis and application of accounting techniques, theories, and practices.

There are similarities between qualifications offered in Great Zimbabwe University, University of Zimbabwe, and City University of Hong Kong, and the proposed qualification.

University of Zimbabwe Master of Accountancy and Proposed qualification:

With respect to similarities of Graduate qualification in accounting. The Domain module metrics are similar with the only difference in the Environmental international Business module and Information systems incorporate in the University of Zimbabwe Graduate qualification. Assessment Strategies for the 2 institutions are similar in the context of case-based learning and examination. Additionally, the Qualification Rules are similar for the 2 institutions. With respect to Credit Value. The University of Zimbabwe is similar to the proposed qualification with credit value of 240.

Great Zimbabwe University and Proposed qualification:

Similarity exist among the respective qualification in Great Zimbabwe University and the proposed qualification as regards the applied Finance and Accounting modules and corporate governance modules too. The only major difference is the Applied Accounting information Systems. Qualification Rules are similar for these two qualifications more specifically in terms of 240 credit value.

City University of Hong Kong Master of Science in Professional Accounting and Corporate Governance and the proposed qualification:

Even though the two qualifications have different titles, the proposed Master of Science in Accounting has modules on corporate governance, which makes it comparable to the qualification offered by City University of Hong Kong.

Learner exit outcomes for the two qualifications are similar in the context of the ability to be able to do accounting valuation, reporting and disclosure issues. Similarity also exists among the modules except for Corporate and Business Law in the Domain metric for City University of Hong Kong. Learning flexibility is same for the 2 institutions. Qualification rules are also similar.

REVIEW PERIOD

The qualification will be reviewed every five years