

BQA NCQF QUALIFICATION TEMPLATE

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SECTION A: QUALIFICATION DETAILS															
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER (S)			University of Botswana												
TITLE		Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning								NCQF LEVEL		10			
STRANDS (where applicable)		N/A													
FIELD		Physical Planning and Construction		SUB-FIELD			Architecture			CREDIT VALUE		390			
New Qualification						Legacy Qualification				X					
SUB-FRAMEWORK		General Education					TVET					Higher Education		X	
QUALIFICATION TYPE		Certificate	I	II	III	IV	V	Diploma	Bachelor						
		Bachelor Honours			Post Graduate Certificate					Post Graduate Diploma					
		Masters							Doctorate/ PhD			X			
RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFICATION															
RATIONALE: The qualification responds to Botswana's social and economic needs and those of the region in urban and regional planning. It is aligned to the key strategic sectors of the built environment, research, innovation, science, and technology identified by the Human Resource Development Council, which requires a high performing workforce to transform Botswana into a knowledge-based and circular economy. The qualification's core mandate is to produce researchers in urban and regional planning. Furthermore, the qualification contributes toward the strategic role of meeting the country's development needs through advancing human resource development and developing research and innovation															

capacity in urban and regional planning. In so far as it deals with human settlements, this qualification is in line with Botswana Vision 2036's Pillar 3 which seeks the production of a 'sustainable environment' within which sustainable human settlements feature prominently. With a focus on urban and regional planning, the qualification is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goal 11 which seeks to 'make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.'

PURPOSE: (itemise exit level outcomes)

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

- Conduct independent, professional research in urban and regional planning careers at university, government, scientific institutes, or industry.
- Contribute to the body of knowledge within the field of urban and regional planning.
- Demonstrate transferrable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, presentation, communication, analytical, critical thinking, and perseverance.
- Provide guidance to learners who seek greater depth of knowledge in urban and regional planning.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)

The standard requirements for entrance to the Doctoral Degree qualification shall be:

- NCQF Level 9 or equivalent, degree in urban and Regional Planning or related disciplines such as Master's Degree in Housing Studies, Master's Degree in Environmental Planning.
- Recognition of Prior Learning and Credit Accumulation and Transfer shall be considered.

SECTION B QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION	
GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
1. Demonstrate expert understanding of theoretical knowledge and its application in the field of Urban and Regional Planning.	1.1 Develop research within a specific field of study related to urban and regional planning. 1.2 Evaluate existing literature (conduct critical literature review) to inform the direction of the study and ensure that the research will be original. 1.3 Formulate a research proposal to contribute to the body of knowledge in Urban and Regional Planning based on the knowledge gap identified in and/or supported by the literature. 1.4 Defend a research proposal in a colloquium/research seminar/conference made up of a panel of subject experts.
2. Conduct most advanced research in the field of Urban and Regional Planning (evaluate existing knowledge and ideas, undertake systematic investigation, and reflect on theory and practice to generate original knowledge).	2.1 Execute appropriate data collection methods and techniques for the proposed study. 2.2 Develop appropriate data collection instruments for the proposed study. 2.3 Formulate a sound methodology for data analysis and effective presentation. 2.4 Conduct data analysis of the data collected through fieldwork, experiments, etc.

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	2.5 Conduct fieldwork, experiments, etc., data gathering & analysing the results. 2.6 Critique the collected data against the existing body of knowledge. 2.7 Construct a compelling argument based on the analysed data and supported by literature to contribute to the identified research/knowledge gap. 2.8 Supervise independent study that produces significant and original research outcomes culminating in a thesis, dissertation, exegesis or equivalent for independent examination, or a scientific journal article, conference paper, book or book chapter etc.
3. Communicate complex research concepts, plans and outcomes to the general community, peers, research community, and the local, national and/or international policy makers.	3.1 Prepare research papers for presentation at seminars and conference papers. 3.2 Present a complex investigation of originality or original research to a diverse audience. 3.3 Explain and critique theoretical propositions, methodologies, conclusions, and implications. 3.4 Author research papers publishable in recognised journals.

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4. Apply most advanced expertise to solve complex problems related to the field of urban and regional planning.	4.1 Identify and define a planning problem and associated variables and assumptions. 4.2 Demonstrate key competencies such as decision making, responsibility, autonomy in applying advanced urban and regional planning knowledge. 4.3 Operate instruments appropriately and execute planning techniques to solve, predict and/or prevent complex planning problems. 4.4 Evaluate alternative potential solutions to select a justifiable and well-supported solution. 4.5 Critically evaluate and select appropriate tools and techniques to solve the identified problem. 4.6 Validate solutions using different tools, techniques, and methods as applicable in the field.
5. Demonstrate adherence to personal and professional ethics.	5.1 Maintain the highest standards of personal, academic, and professional integrity. 5.2 Observe ethical codes and legal guidelines in conducting responsible scientific research and implementing projects. 5.3 Demonstrate a work ethic that shows responsibility and accountability towards the client, community and/or employer.



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SECTION C		QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE			
COMPONENT	TITLE	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level			Total Credits
		Level [9]	Level [10]	Level [-]	
FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units	Advanced Research Methods in Social Sciences I & II		30		30
	Research Proposal		60		60
	Oral Defence I (Colloquium)		30		30
CORE COMPONENT Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units	Thesis		240		240
	Oral Defence II (Viva)		30		30
STRANDS/ SPECIALIZATION	Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level			Total Credits
		Level [-]	Level [-]	Level [-]	
1.					
2.					

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Electives					



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SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL

TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL

NCQF Level	Credit Value
10	390
TOTAL CREDITS	390

Rules of Combination:

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

A candidate will obtain the qualification by obtaining:
120 credits at NCQF Level 10 from the fundamental component.

Total Qualification Credits: 390

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ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Formative Assessment (Weighting 31%)

Continuous assessment which entails course work, oral presentation, assignment, and case studies

Summative Assessment (Weighting 69%)

Thesis

Assessment focusing on the exit-level outcomes is done by means of a doctoral thesis in fulfilment of the award of the Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning. The PhD thesis should clearly demonstrate evidence of original work and contribution to knowledge in urban and regional planning.

Publications

The candidate is required to publish at least two journal papers in recognized journals.

Oral Examination

The candidate shall present themselves for an oral examination following acceptance of their thesis.

MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS

The qualification shall have an internal and external moderation following applicable policies and regulations for quality assurance to ensure fairness, validity, reliability, and consistency of assessments. The moderators shall be registered and accredited by the Botswana Qualifications Authority and/or equivalent accreditation body.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Learners may submit evidence of prior learning and current competence and/or undergo appropriate forms of RPL assessment for the award of credits towards the qualification in accordance with applicable RPL policies.

CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER

The Credit Accumulation and Transfer, CAT shall be used for credit transfer between institutions of higher learning in accordance with institutional and national policies on CAT.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)

Horizontal Articulation

Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Studies,

Doctor of Philosophy in Regional Science,

Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies,

Doctor of Philosophy in Housing Studies

Vertical Articulation (NCQF Level 10)

Qualifications to which the holder may progress to:

This is the highest educational qualification, but candidates can proceed to do:

Postdoctoral studies in various urban and regional planning fields.

Employment

- Professional researcher at universities, government, scientific institutes or in industry.
- Researcher in research, development and innovation.

QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

To be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy Urban and Regional Planning a learner should have satisfied all exit learning outcomes and met the minimum of 390 credits.

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Certification

After satisfying all the requirements, a learner will be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning certificate.

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

A comparative analysis for this qualification was conducted against regional and international qualifications. The universities that this qualification was benchmarked against are The University of Nairobi, Kenya and Curtin University, Australia. Similarities with the compared qualifications include admission requirement is a master's degree (Research) or a high standard in a master's degree (Coursework), learning domains focus on students conducting independent research, assessment through oral defence, and submission of a thesis, employability pathways are the same, and the NQF levels are all at Level 10. There were only minor differences identified, which include the duration of the full-time study ranges from 3 years to 4 year; the credit values are slightly different, for the Kenya qualification it is 360 while for the qualification it is 390. As for the mode of delivery, the Curtin University qualification is delivered in-person and on-line, the Botswana qualification is delivered on a single mode - in person, while the Kenya qualification has three modes, namely face-to-face, online distance learning, and hybrid.

REVIEW PERIOD

The qualification will be reviewed every five years.

For Official Use Only:

CODE (ID)			
REGISTRATION STATUS	BQA DECISION NO.	REGISTRATION START DATE	REGISTRATION END DATE

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LAST DATE FOR ENROLMENT		LAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	



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