

BQA NCQF Qualification Template

DNCQF.FDMD.GD03

Issue No.: 01

SECTION A: QUALIFICATION DETAILS															
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER		University of Botswana													
TITLE	Doctor of Philosophy in Population Studies										NCQF LEVEL	10			
FIELD	Humanities and Social Sciences				SUB-FIELD	Population Studies					CREDIT VALUE	360			
New Qualification					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					Review of Existing Qualification					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUB-FRAMEWORK		General Education			<input type="checkbox"/>			TVET			<input type="checkbox"/>			Higher Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
QUALIFICATION TYPE	Certificate	I	<input type="checkbox"/>	II	<input type="checkbox"/>	III	<input type="checkbox"/>	IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	V	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bachelor	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Bachelor Honours			<input type="checkbox"/>	Post Graduate Certificate					<input type="checkbox"/>	Post Graduate Diploma			<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Masters					<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctorate/ PhD					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFICATION															
<p>RATIONALE:</p> <p>Since the ICPD of Cairo, 1994, there has been a new orientation of interlinkages between population and development which has been reinforced in the agenda of SDG goals. The SDG 2030 agenda emphasizes gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights which go beyond the commitments of the MDGs.</p> <p>The global consultation on population dynamics in the post-2015 development put forward two overarching messages: 1. Demography matters for Sustainable Development. Population dynamics affect the key developmental challenges that the world is confronting in the 21st century –the food security, water, and energy security; trends in poverty, employment and inequality; the provision of social protection, health, education and other goods and services; and the challenge of environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation – and therefore population dynamics must be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. 2. Demography is not destiny. Population dynamics can be shaped by policies, and these policies can and must respect and protect human rights (UNFPA, 2013).</p> <p>Many countries in the world and Sub-Saharan Africa are experiencing rapid demographic changes with respect to fertility, mortality, and migration which in turn engineer social, economic, health, education, nutrition, environmental, cultural, and political transformations in the society. There is a greater need to generate human resources who could have wider understanding of the complex relationship between population dynamics and sustainable development issues.</p> <p>The provision of continuous demographic/population training in would help maintain enough trained demographers at the national and subnational levels, so that the implementation and monitoring of</p>															

programmes such as the SDGs and other national priorities can proceed efficiently. No evidence-based development planning can be undertaken without the knowledge of the population.

Botswana's policy on tertiary education, towards a knowledge society, clearly sets the expectation that the national institutions must contribute more significantly to the new national research and innovation system which is critical for the next stage of Botswana's development. To achieve the National Development Plan 10 priority of "Intensifying Research Performance", one of the strategic goals is "to increase and enhance student research training". This qualification would fulfil the enhancement of student research training in population studies.

Further, there is a felt-need to provide advanced training in Population Studies with a view to enhancing human resource potential in teaching, research, and strategic planning & implementation of government policies on inclusive development in Botswana. At present, there are no opportunities available in Botswana to undertake PhD Degree programme in Population Studies. There exists a severe shortage of citizens who have completed Ph. D degrees in Demography/ Population Studies. This has already impacted on the quality of citizen staff available for recruitment in tertiary education sector, government departments and NGO sector. Therefore, it is anticipated that the employability of those trained in Ph.D. in Population Studies would be quite high.

This qualification prepares students as population scientist to interface with a range of population issues in various community spaces as part of their training and to develop analytically competent problem-solvers. The qualification is also enhancing for building a competitive human capacity for Population Studies and social science research in the country. PhDs from this qualification will work as project leader/population scientist in various public organisations, private companies, research institutions and NGOs.

Reference:

UNFPA (2013). Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics, UNFPA and The World We want, 2013.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the qualification is to produce graduates who have most advanced knowledge, skills, and competencies to:

- Argue, think critically, write and present original piece of high-quality research.
- undertake original and scholarly independent research.
- Evaluate and synthesize new and complex ideas to develop new knowledge in methodological, theoretical, and empirical aspects of population research.
- Develop and implement a strategy for dissemination of research findings.
- Defend the research work and outputs before a diverse audience.
- Develop a strategic research project.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)

Minimum entry requirements:

- Master's degree (NCQF Level 9) in the same or cognate field of study with course work and research studies from an accredited institution either from Botswana or an international institution.
- There will be access through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) in accordance with RPL and CAT national policies.

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SECTION B QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION	
GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
1. Undertake original and scholarly research of international standard and most advanced knowledge at the frontier of a specific area of research interest in Population Studies.	1.1 Partake in advanced research in the frontier areas of both substantive and technical aspects of Population Studies. 1.2 Build the philosophical perspectives informing quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. 1.3 Generate new development in Population Studies through in-depth knowledge about fundamentals of the scientific approach to research. 1.4 Develop a research design and data gathering method. 1.5 Respond to abstract or complex quantitative and qualitative research design and methods. 1.6 Develop new techniques and tools to interpret the findings from research methods analytically.
2. Demonstrate most advanced creativity and originality in the application of new knowledge, detailed critical evaluation of current research and acquire highly advanced scholarship in Population Studies.	2.1 Review literature critically and independently in the field of research specialization in population studies/ demography. 2.2 Synthesize contemporary research issues, identify, and evaluate research gaps within subjects of the research area. 2.3 Analyze extensively complex data and ideas. 2.4 Determine strategic leadership of presenting theoretical literature in a coherent, creative, and very logical manner. 2.5 Evaluate extensive exploration of theories and methods and apply them to areas of their study to generate new knowledge in Population Studies. 2.6 Generate new hypothesis in complex situations.
3. Create and interpret new most advanced knowledge and/or invent and generate novel ideas, through original path breaking research, of a significant high quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit high quality publication.	3.1 Redefine existing knowledge which acquire competence for strategic leadership. 3.2 Solve complex population and development issues through research. 3.3 Generate and communicate new knowledge through original novel research which satisfies peer review and engage in critical debate. 3.4 Publish a research article out of the thesis in a peer reviewed high impact journal prior to the award of the degree.

	<p>3.5 Present and communicate orally to a diverse audience.</p> <p>3.6 Exhibit competence in scientific writings.</p> <p>3.7 Participate in scientific debate both national and international forum of variety of audience.</p>
<p>4. Demonstrate strategic leadership, self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems that are complex and unpredictable, and act autonomously in the planning and implementation of research.</p>	<p>4.1 Develop analytically competent problem-solvers and proposal developer and execution of research project.</p> <p>4.2 Generate reasoned and well-informed judgments on complex issues whilst understanding the limitations on judgments made in the absence of complete data.</p> <p>4.3 Conceptualize a project for the generation of new knowledge in population science.</p> <p>4.4 Modify the project design in the light of unforeseen and not clearly defined problems.</p> <p>4.5 Provide strategic leadership in the population and development projects.</p> <p>4.6 Monitor the effectiveness of policy implementation in line with the goals of social development and reconstruction.</p> <p>4.7 Solve complex issues and operate at the expert level in the project management and implementation.</p> <p>4.8 Communicate results of research innovation to peers and defend their writing in a scientific audience and engage in critical dialogue.</p> <p>4.9 Advice policy related bodies and institutions in both the public and private sector for taking a strategic policy decision.</p>

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SECTION C		QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE			
FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT <i>Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	TITLE	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level			Total (Per Subject/ Course/ Module/ Units)
		Level []	Level []	Level []	
	Advanced Social Science Research Methods			10	15
CORE COMPONENT <i>Subjects/Courses / Modules/Units</i>	Recent Advances in Population Studies			10	30
	Guided Readings and Seminars in Population Studies			10	30
	Thesis Proposal			10	45
	Doctoral Research and Thesis in Population Studies.			10	240
ELECTIVE/ OPTIONAL COMPONENT <i>Subjects/Courses / Modules/Units</i>					

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SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL	
TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL	
NCQF Level	Credit Value
Level 10	360
TOTAL CREDITS	360

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

The course work is an integral component of a Doctoral Qualification.

Learners are Required to complete a total of 360 credits which includes 120 credits for course work and 240 credits for writing a PhD thesis. This qualification is worth a total of 360 Credits.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree is awarded in recognition of a candidate's original and substantial contribution to knowledge and the candidate's demonstrated evidence of greater depth of scholarship. The candidate's research must reveal high critical ability and synthesis, and may be in the form of new knowledge, or of significant and original adaptation, application, and interpretation of existing knowledge.

The PhD graduate qualification will have the following attributes:

- Ability to undertake original and scholarly research.
- Highest level of specialized skills and techniques to carry out critical analysis.
- Ability to evaluate and synthesize new and complex ideas to develop new knowledge; and
- Ability to develop and implement a strategy for dissemination of research findings and defend the research work and outputs before a diverse audience.

The exit outcome descriptors characteristic is in line with regional and international best practice of the same qualification type. The PhD degree qualification is comparable in terms of level and duration with similar programmes offered regionally and internationally.

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ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

There will be assessment and moderation for the PhD qualification.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment strategies shall be consistent to learning outcome for the PhD qualification. It may consist of the followings:

Course work assessment with a weightage of 33%.

- Critical review of literature.
- Critical review of published articles.
- Written assignment or term paper.
- Seminar presentation on the specific topics/methods.
- Group discussion and debate.
- Proposal seminar.
- Written thesis proposal.

Doctoral thesis assessment with a weightage of 67%.

- Pre-submission seminar for examination of thesis.
- Written Doctoral thesis.
- Thesis oral defense.
- Published articles from thesis.

All the assessments shall be carried out by BQA registered and accredited assessors.

MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS

MODERATION

There shall be internal and external moderation arrangements done by BQA registered and accredited Moderators.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (if applicable)

Recognition of prior learning shall be implemented in accordance with the National Recognition and Prior Learning policies.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)

LEARNING PAHWAYS

Horizontal

PhD degree in Population Health,
Doctor of Philosophy in Epidemiology,
Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology,
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work,

Doctor of Philosophy in Economics and Environment.

Vertical

The PhD graduates can join postdoctoral programme, though this is not a qualification but associated with major research projects and independent research, offered in many universities both at the regional and international level.

EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

- Health Sector Analyst
- Merchant Banker
- Policy Analyst
- Social Science Researcher

QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

Minimum standards of achievement for the award of the qualification

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy is awarded once the student has completed required courses of 360 credits which includes 120 credits for course work and 240 credits for PhD thesis. The PhD thesis is examined by a panel of experts which includes oral examination. After successfully defended the thesis orally, student will be recommended for the award of PhD degree in Population Studies.

Certification

The award of the Doctor of Philosophy in Population Studies shall be conferred to the successful candidate after meeting the necessary requirements in accordance with the standard prescribed for the award of the qualification and applicable policies.

The award title is **Doctor of Philosophy in Population Studies**.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

The proposed PhD qualification is very much in align with the similar qualification elsewhere in this region and internationally in relation to content, duration and exit outcome. Comparison of similar registered qualification in other places is given below.

1. **University of Western Cape, South Africa:** This University offers Doctor of Philosophy in Population Studies which requires learners to demonstrate (a) Good knowledge of Statistical Analysis, Population Studies and Demography (b) Clear understanding of the environment in a social or academic setting (c) Firm basis to manage information and carry out research and (d) Good oral and writing skills. The minimum credits required for the award of degree is 360.
2. **Regional Institute of Population Studies (University of Ghana):** The PhD programme in Population Studies is minimum of 36 months duration. The aim of the programme to contribute new knowledge in the field of population studies. This programme requires the presentation of a thesis on an approved topic to be assessed by the internal and external examiners appointed by the University. The assessment and moderation procedure for the award of the qualification is alike to this qualification.
3. **North West University, South Africa:** PhD programme in Population Studies- The aim of the programme is to equip knowledge and skill for demographic analysis and contribute scholarly and original research in the Population Studies. The minimum duration of the programme is for 3 years. The assessment and moderation procedure are similar to this qualification.

4. **London School of Economics, UK: MPhil/PhD Qualification in Demography /Population Studies** – The aim of the PhD programme aims to provide you with the skills and competencies that will enable you to successfully undertake original primary research worthy of publication in the field of demography. Student will begin on the MPhil and will need to meet certain requirements to be upgraded to PhD status. In the first year, student will register initially for the MPhil programme, and undertake specific training in research methods as required. In subsequent years, student will continue their research under the guidance of supervisors, participate in seminars and present their work from time to time, by giving seminar presentations and conference papers. The duration of the programme is 3 to 4 years. The process of transferring from MPhil to PhD programme at the University of Botswana is also similar approach followed at the London School of Economics.
5. **Australian National University, Australia: PhD in Demography-** The main goal of the PhD program is to complete a substantial piece of research that makes a real contribution to demographic knowledge and that establishes the student as a fully-fledged professional in the field. The duration of the programme is 3 to 4 years. The assessment and moderation procedure for the award of the qualification is similar to that of this qualification.

The PhD qualification awarded at the various universities within Africa and other regions of the world has similar structure, admission requirement, and duration and exit outcome as that of the PhD qualification proposed here.

REVIEW PERIOD

Every five (5) years upon registration.

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