

**BQA NCQF Qualification Template**

DNCQF.FDMD.GD03

Issue No.: 01

<b>SECTION A: QUALIFICATION DETAILS</b>														
<b>QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER</b>		University of Botswana												
<b>TITLE</b>	Master of Arts in Population Studies										<b>NCQF LEVEL</b>	9		
<b>FIELD</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences				<b>SUB-FIELD</b>	Population Studies				<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	240			
New Qualification					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of Existing Qualification									
<b>SUB-FRAMEWORK</b>	General Education				TVET				Higher Education				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>QUALIFICATION TYPE</b>	Certificate	I	II	III	IV	V	Diploma	Bachelor						
	Bachelor Honours		Post Graduate Certificate				Post Graduate Diploma							
	Masters				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Doctorate/ PhD							
<b>RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFICATION</b>														
<p><b>RATIONALE</b></p> <p>The field of Population Studies reflects on and deals with contemporary demographic topics and related societal issues such as the economy, social networks, health, health care, family life and well-being. Globally, population is a paramount issue for the 21<sup>st</sup> century (1). There is a demand for demographers and population scientists to meet the need for demographic research and its applications at the national, regional and global level and sustainable development (2).</p> <p>Also, this qualification is essential as there is generally a lack of essential human personnel skills with demographic methods and models for studying population dynamics across sub-Saharan Africa (3). Previously, the findings from a project “Strengthening Training and Regional Networks in Demography” (STARND), which comprises a consortium of 5 Southern African Universities (Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Witwatersrand, Zambia) and the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom, funded by the EDULINK showed a recognised gap in Botswana and the region in the number of people with knowledge, skills, and competencies to collect, manage and analyse demographic data (4). Moreover, the demographic knowledge, skills, and competencies acquired from the proposed curriculum/training are not available from other curricula and training resources in the region. Thus the Master of Arts in Population Studies qualification is designed to advance students’ knowledge, skills and competencies in analysing demographic data, methods and applications to population and contemporary population issues across a range of sectors anywhere in the world.</p> <p>This curriculum’s primary beneficiaries are individuals with a Bachelor’s Degree (NCQF Level 8) in Demography / Population Studies or a related field of study. Once trained, the graduates can play substantive</p>														

roles in the practice, management, and operational components of demography. The curriculum is consistent with the internationally agreed core principles for Demography and Population Studies training, including the frameworks endorsed by regional and international professional bodies related to Demography / Population Studies. These professional bodies include the: International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), American Population Association (APA), Union of African Population Studies (UAPS), Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA), and Population Association of Southern Africa (PASA). Accordingly, this qualification provides a standard for capacity building through human resource training in Population Studies in Botswana. Lastly, the Master of Arts in Population Studies reflects the University of Botswana's vision of being a leading centre of academic in Africa and the World and increasing the number and quality of research degrees it offers. The qualification will be part of a periodic review system every five years, designed to ensure its continuing quality and relevance.

### **References**

1. Grundy E, Murphy M. Oxford Textbook of Global Public Health. Roger Detels MG, Quarraisha Abdool Karim, and Chorh Chuan Tan, editor. Oxford University Press 2015. 718-35 p.
2. UNFPA. Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics. 2014.
3. Moultrie T, Dorrington R, Hill A, Hill K, Timæus I, Zaba B. Tools for Demographic Estimation. Paris, France: International Union for the Scientific Study of Population; 2013.
4. Letamo G, Ntshebe O, Rakgoasi SD. Botswana Report: Socio-Economic Developmental Priorities 2010.

### **PURPOSE**

The qualification aims to produce a graduate who has advanced knowledge, skills, and competencies to:

- Demonstrate a high level of mastery of the theoretical, analytical and methodological skills in Demography and Population Studies.
- Develop analytic and critical skills to integrate population variables into developing programs and interventions in public and private sectors.
- Construct population and socio-economic projections and demographic estimations.
- Conduct and manage the scientifically rigorous analysis of demographic data.
- Assess and evaluate the quality of demographic data and overcome data limitations using demographic methods.
- Communicate sound demographic decisions to a non-academic and academic audience.
- Develop into versatile demographers who understand how the context in which we live affect individual demographic behaviour, leads to different population dynamics and socio-economic issues in their daily lives.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)**

Minimum entry requirement:

- Bachelor's Degree (NCQF level 7) in the same or a cognate field of study.



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- There will be access through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) under the policy on Recognition of Prior Learning and CAT National Policies.

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<b>SECTION B</b>		<b>QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION</b>	
<b>GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)</b>		<b>ASSESSMENT CRITERIA</b>	
1. Demonstrate a high level of mastery of the theoretical, analytical, and methodological skills in demography and population studies.		1.1 Analyse causes of population change and relationships between demographic events and socio-economic factors. 1.2 Critique population and development interactions and implications in considerable depth. 1.3 Evaluate the quality of demographic data. 1.4 Construct population and socio-economic projections and population estimates. 1.5 Integrate population variables into development planning. 1.6 Assess the quality of demographic data and overcome data limitations using demographic methods.	
2. Demonstrate technical proficiency in constructing population and socio-economic projections and population estimates.		2.1 Develop an understanding of population and socio-economic projections and population estimates. 2.2 Carry out population and socio-economic projections and population estimates. 2.3 Communicate socio-economic and population projections proficiently and effectively using techniques and methods suitable for target audiences. 2.4 Be able to take responsibility for their projections' results by acknowledging limitations and gaps in the data and their implications.	
3. Demonstrate active learning and advanced aptitude to conduct independent research, interpreting the results and disseminating the findings to an academic audience		3.1 Analyse data, interpret the results, and present the findings to a non-academic and academic audience. 3.2 Formulate population-related research questions. 3.3 Implement statistical analysis into aspects of population dynamics, such as births, deaths, migration, morbidity, and many population change causes.	
4. Develop advanced knowledge of other fields that reinforce their research capabilities and other aspects of the population, eg. Health		4.1 Formulate research topic in data sets used in the dissertation and or research essay. 4.2 Conduct data analysis in ways that incorporates insight from other fields to generate more insights from the data. 4.3 Evaluate and communicate research results creatively in ways that improve understanding and adoption among various stakeholders.	

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<b>SECTION C</b>		<b>QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE</b>			
<b>FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT</b> <i>Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level</b>			<b>Total (Per Subject/ Course/ Module/ Units)</b>
		<b>Level [ ]</b>	<b>Level [ ]</b>	<b>Level [ 9 ]</b>	
	Working with data in population research			15	<b>15</b>
	Communication and writing skills			15	<b>15</b>
<b>CORE COMPONENT</b> <i>Subjects/Courses / Modules/Units</i>	Research methods			15	<b>15</b>
	Demographic techniques			15	<b>15</b>
	Contemporary population issues & special topics in Demography			15	<b>15</b>
	Population projections and estimates			15	<b>15</b>
	Dissertation			120	<b>120</b>
<b>ELECTIVE/ OPTIONAL COMPONENT</b> <i>Subjects/Courses / Modules/Units</i>	General education course			15	<b>15</b>
	Elective course from any other discipline			15	<b>15</b>

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<b>SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL</b>	
<b>TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL</b>	
<b>NCQF Level</b>	<b>Credit Value</b>
<b>Level 9</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>240</b>

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

**Fundamental Component – 30 Credits**  
**Core Component – 180 Credits**  
**Elective Component – 30 Credits**

Funadamental and Core Components are all compulsory that all add up to **210 Credits** and a choice of 2 electives that add up to **30 Credits**.

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### **ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The qualification will use a combination of formative and summative assessment. All assessments will be carried out by BQA registered and accredited Assessors.

### **MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS**

All course assessments and related materials will be subject to internal and external moderation by BQA registered and accredited Moderators

### **RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (if applicable)**

Recognition of prior learning shall be implemented following the National Recognition and Prior Learning policies.

### **PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)**

#### **LEARNING PATHWAY**

Horizontal pathway:

- Master of Arts in Population Public Health.
- Master of Arts in Epidemiology.
- Master of Arts in Sociology.
- Master of Arts in Social Work.
- Master of Arts in Economics
- Master of Arts Environmental Science

Vertical Pathways:

- Master of Arts in Demography and
- Master of Arts in Population Studies
- MPhil in Demography
- MPhil in Population Studies

#### **EMPLOYMENT PATHWAY**

- Statistician
- Data analyst
- Consultant
- Research analyst

### **QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION**

#### **QUALIFICATION AWARD:**

The Master of Arts in Population Studies degree is awarded once the postgraduate student has completed the required 240 credits.

***CERTIFICATION:***

The Master of Arts in Population Studies qualification will be awarded upon completion.

***REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY***

The Master of Arts in Population Studies qualification compares well with the following:

1. The University of Witwatersrand of South Africa in the Faculty of Humanities offers a Master of Arts in Demography & Population Studies. The entry requirements are a bachelor's degree with honours from Wits or another university with a 65 per cent total mark aggregate. The program produces candidates with demographic methods competencies, a broader interdisciplinary and applied focus in population sciences. This program's duration is 1-2 years on full- time and part-time modes.
2. The University of Groningen of Netherlands offers a Master of Science in Population Studies. The program produces candidates with competence in theories, methods and skills needed to comprehend population dynamics, decision making regarding life events and how demographic events impact population-level trends. The program in the Netherlands is one year, it is well resourced- which makes the teaching more interactive, and it employs more advanced statistical analysis software. The study mode is full-time.
3. The University of Southampton in the United Kingdom offers a Master of Science in Demography. The program involves a core of compulsory modules covering contemporary demographic issues, demographic methods and approaches, and general social science research methods – both qualitative and quantitative. The program length is one year, and it is full-time. The program produces graduates with the quantitative analysis skills to support social policy-making across a range of sectors.
4. The University of Minnesota Population Center (MPC) in the United States of America graduate training program in Population Studies produces well-trained demographers who do high-quality population research. MPC trainees are highly interdisciplinary, skilled in the production and use of "big data," and can apply cutting-edge theory and methods. The MPC program in Population Studies is a three-year training program in which, in Years 1 and 2 of the training program, the trainees complete four courses. By the end of year 2, all trainees defend a second-year demographic research paper, written with close supervision from their faculty mentor(s), to submit for possible publication with a population research journal during the final year.
5. The Australian National University (ANU) in the College of Arts & Social Sciences offers a Master of Demography. The Master of Demography requires 96 units from introductory demography courses, discipline-specific courses, research training courses, and ANU electives. The entry requirements are a Bachelor degree or international equivalent with a minimum GPA of 5.0/7.0. The length of the program is two years. The program produces candidates with competencies in cutting edge skills in demographic techniques, research and writing.





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As shown above, the Master of Arts in Population Studies qualification compares well with the above qualifications on the exit outcomes and competencies required to understand population dynamics, socio-economic factors associated with population change, and analyse demographic data. However, there are slight differences in the program's duration and the program material's delivery and resources compared to the current one. Also, what sets apart the Master of Arts in Population Studies qualification in Botswana is that compared to the ones examined above, there is provision to develop attributes such as population monitoring and evaluation and population and health management into future learning programs. These anticipated aspects are critical for influencing decision-making processes behind the relationship between demographic events and their effects on people's daily lives, such as the economy, social networks, health, healthcare, family life, and well-being.

**REVIEW PERIOD**

Every five (5) years.

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