
	BQA NCQF QUALIFICATION TEMPLATE	Document No.	DNCQF.QIDD.GD02
		Issue No.	01
		Effective Date	04/02/2020

SECTION A: QUALIFICATION DETAILS														
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER (S)		University of Botswana												
TITLE	Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology										NCQF LEVEL	9		
FIELD	Health Sciences and Social Services			SUB-FIELD		Obstetrics and Gynaecology			CREDIT VALUE	640				
New Qualification						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Review of Existing Qualification						
SUB-FRAMEWORK		General Education			<input type="checkbox"/>		TVET			<input type="checkbox"/>		Higher Education		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
QUALIFICATION TYPE	Certificate	I	II	III	IV	V	Diploma	Bachelor						
	Bachelor Honours			Post Graduate Certificate			Post Graduate Diploma							
	Masters					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Doctorate/ PhD						
RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFICATION														
<p>RATIONALE:</p> <p>A Master of Medicine (MMed) postgraduate training program in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (OBGYN) is designed to meet the growing health needs of Botswana. According to the 2019 Human Resource Development Council of Botswana Priority Skills and Employment Trends report, high quality specialists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology are in demand in order to meet the sexual and reproductive health needs of the population.</p> <p>Furthermore, according to the Botswana Ministry of Health and Wellness' integrated Health Service Delivery Strategic Plan for 2010 - 2020, the principal issues affecting Botswana are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High infant and child mortality including post-neonatal mortality • High maternal mortality ratio 														

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- High mortality and morbidity from communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS, diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections, etc.)
- Under nutrition of mothers and children
- High incidence of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and TB
- Poor quality of care
- Excessive shortage of skilled human resources
- Poor quality management and regulation in both public and private sector


The plan specifically lays out its goal to address these issues and raise the status of women in Botswana. It aims to achieve optimal comprehensive sexual and reproductive health for women across the life-span and to ensure access to high quality antenatal, perinatal and newborn care.

The plan highlights the shortage of trained and qualified staff as a major bottleneck in the availability of quality health care in Botswana. Botswana has 10 Obstetrician and Gynaecologists practicing in the public sector. This includes 3 MOHW specialists and 4 UB specialists at Princess Marina Hospital, 1 specialist in Nyangabgwe, 1 specialist in Serowe and 1 specialist in Maun. There are approximately three times that many specialists practicing in the private sector. Of the specialists who are practicing clinically, only 7 are Batswana, with only 3 Batswana practicing in the public sector. The current waiting time to see a specialist in the public sector in Gaborone is 8 months. Once they are seen if they require surgical intervention, the waiting time is an additional 8 months.

In addition to long waiting times for specialist review, Botswana's maternal mortality ratio in 2016 was 156 per 100,000. The goal is to reduce the maternal mortality ratio to less than 21 per 100,000.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology is to meet the national healthcare goals and improve access to care. The qualification will train highly qualified specialists in OBGYN in order to address the severe shortage of Specialist OBGYNs in Botswana and serve the community. Graduates will be registrable to practice as Specialist OBGYN with the Botswana Health Professions Council (BHPC) or equivalent regulatory professional bodies internationally.

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The qualification will enable graduates to do the following:


- 1) Provide a high standard of Obstetrics and Gynaecology clinical services in the country and beyond.
- 2) Educate the next generation of doctors in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Botswana and foster an interest in lifelong learning.
- 3) Conduct clinical research so as to improve the quality of research in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Botswana.
- 4) Develop interest in sub-specialty Obstetrics and Gynaecology training to address the shortage of sub-specialists within the health system and academic medicine in Botswana (and sub-Saharan Africa generally).
- 5) Engage in multi-disciplinary team collaboration with other specialties in the healthcare system.
- 6) Foster a culture of quality improvement in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and train specialists who can participate in the improvement of health systems.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)


- 1) Bachelor Honours degree (NCQF Level 8) in Medicine (MBBS or equivalent) from a recognized University
- 2) Have completed at least two years of clinical practice that must include at least 12 months in a recognized supervised internship programme.
- 3) Be registered or registrable with the Botswana Health Professions Council (BHPC)

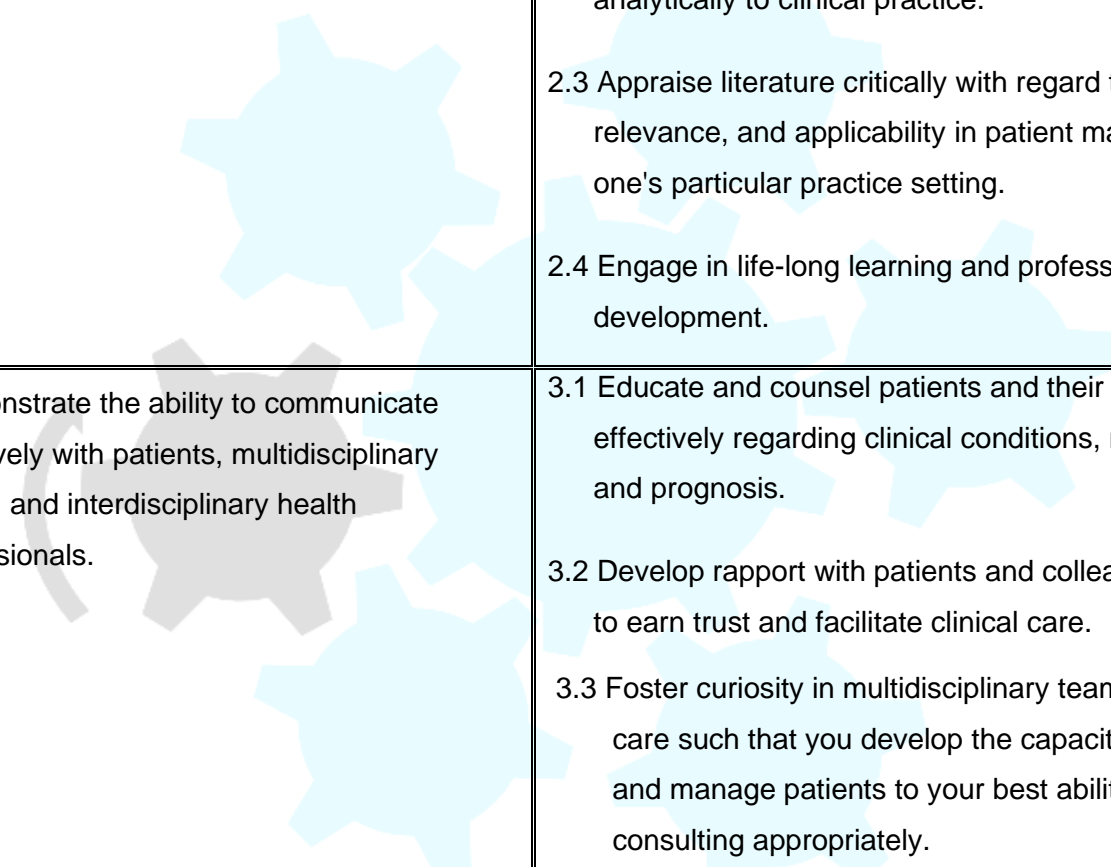
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):


Recognition of prior learning (RPL) will be allowed for entry into this qualification as for the individual ETP's policies in-line with National RPL policy.

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SECTION B		QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION	
GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
1.0 Provide high quality clinical care in OBGYN in keeping with international standards and guidelines.		1.1 Perform a clinical interview and physical examination relating to complex Obstetric and Gynaecologic problems competently. 1.2 Identify and interpret clinical findings accurately in order to formulate a differential diagnosis. 1.3 Select, perform, and interpret relevant tests appropriately and apply results in patient care. 1.4 Synthesize clinical information to make management decisions. 1.5 Refer patients for further specialised care as appropriate and co-manage patients in an interdisciplinary team to address complex clinical problems. 1.6 Implement appropriate follow-up plans. 1.7 Maintain thorough clinical records. 1.8 Perform safe and precise OBGYN surgeries.	
2.0 Apply advanced medical knowledge to the practice of OBGYN.		2.1 Apply knowledge of basic, translational, clinical and behavioural sciences to patient evaluation and management.	

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		<p>2.2 Apply national and international practice guidelines analytically to clinical practice.</p> <p>2.3 Appraise literature critically with regard to its quality, relevance, and applicability in patient management in one's particular practice setting.</p> <p>2.4 Engage in life-long learning and professional development.</p>
	<p>3.0 Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with patients, multidisciplinary teams, and interdisciplinary health professionals.</p>	<p>3.1 Educate and counsel patients and their families effectively regarding clinical conditions, management and prognosis.</p> <p>3.2 Develop rapport with patients and colleagues in order to earn trust and facilitate clinical care.</p> <p>3.3 Foster curiosity in multidisciplinary teams and clinical care such that you develop the capacity to evaluate and manage patients to your best ability, while consulting appropriately.</p>
	<p>4.0 Exemplify a high degree of professionalism in clinical care and collegial encounters.</p>	<p>4.1 Model compassionate care and professionalism with both patients and colleagues.</p> <p>4.2 Recognise the valuable role of all members of the healthcare team and treat them with respect.</p> <p>4.3 Provide leadership in both clinical and administrative settings to further advance the mission to improve patient care and experience.</p> <p>4.4 Model accountability to the patient, society and the profession.</p>

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	4.5 Mentor and teach medical students, junior doctors and other members of the healthcare team.
5.0 Contribute to a culture of practise-based learning so as to continually improve the practice environment.	<p>5.1 Embody the spirit of life-long learning by identifying areas for personal improvement with regards to knowledge, attitudes, and skills.</p> <p>5.2 Support colleagues to reflect on their own experience and skills, and devise strategies for their personal development.</p> <p>5.3 Implement quality improvement projects to improve patient care and health system efficiency.</p>
6.0 Incorporate the rational use of resources into clinical decision making while still providing the highest quality patient care.	<p>6.1 Practise cost-effective health care interventions without compromising patient care and clinical outcomes.</p> <p>6.2 Advocate for resources for effective delivery of preventative and curative reproductive health services.</p> <p>6.3 Balance preventative and interventional clinical care to reduce morbidity and mortality.</p>

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SECTION C	QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE				
COMPONENT	TITLE	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level			Total <i>(Per Subject/ Course/ Module/ Units)</i>
		Level []	Level []	Level [9]	
FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT <i>Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	Communication, Ethics and Professionalism			4	4
	Introduction to Clinical Research			4	4
	Introduction to the medical literature			4	4
	Principles and techniques of medical education			4	4
	Public Health Principles and International Health			4	4
CORE COMPONENT <i>Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	Introduction to Obstetrics and Gynaecology			136	136
	Intermediate Obstetrics and Gynaecology			124	124
	Advanced Obstetrics and Gynaecology			280	280
	Dissertation			80	80
	Total = 640				

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SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL		
TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL		
Component	NCQF Level	Credit Value
Fundamental	Level 9	20
Core	Level 9	620
Elective	N/A	N/A
TOTAL CREDITS		640
Rules of Combination: (Please Indicate combinations for the different constituent components of the qualification)		
The Fundamental Level 9 contributes 20 credits, and the Core Level 9 contributes 620 credits for a total of 640 credits. There are no electives for this qualification.		

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ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Assessment will be comprised of 40% formative assessment (clinical evaluations, assessment of competencies and logbook) and 60% summative assessment (examinations and final dissertation presentation).

MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS

There will be internal and external moderation as a quality assurance measure, in line with the ETP policy. Moderators must be suitably qualified in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology or related field.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of prior learning will be applicable for award of this qualification on a case by case assessment and as per the regulations of individual ETPs and in alignment with international policies.

CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER


Credit accumulation and transfer will be applicable for award of this qualification on a case by case assessment and as per the regulations of individual ETPs and in alignment with international policies

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)

Candidates who have completed this qualification will be registerable with the Botswana Health Professions Council or equivalent to practice independently as an Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialist. They can go onto further horizontal or vertical career pathways.

Horizontal articulation:

- Sub-specialty Fellowship training in:
 - Master of Medicine in Gynaecologic Oncology
 - Master of Medicine in Urogynaecology
 - Master of Medicine in Maternal-Foetal Medicine
 - Master of Medicine in Minimally Invasive Gynaecologic Surgery
 - Master of Medicine in Reproductive Endocrinology
 - Master of Medicine in Family Planning

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Vertical articulation:

- Doctor of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Doctor of Public Health
- Doctor of Reproductive Health

Employment:

- Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Medical lecturer
- Medical researcher
- Health system or hospital administrator

QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION


The qualification of the Masters of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and a certificate will be awarded to candidates who achieve 640 credits and satisfy the rules of combination as shown on the qualification structure.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

This qualification compares with the regional and international qualifications in terms of the range of competencies in the learning content offered. Further details of comparability to the Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Rwanda and attainment of the level of Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Australia and New Zealand is available in the attached Comparability Matrix Appendix. A summary is provided below.

Summary of similarities and differences observed

- The Masters of Medicine of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Rwanda is virtually identical to the proposed M Med (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) qualification. The curriculum content and the duration of the qualification training is the same and the summative exams for both programmes are conducted with both internal and external moderation. Both qualifications develop specialist obstetrician gynaecologists who have opportunities for both vertical and horizontal articulation.

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- The 4 year 'Fellowship' qualification of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is also quite similar to the proposed M Med (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) qualification in terms of exit outcomes and career pathways. There are similar formative assessments and similar components to written and oral examinations. Again, the programme aims to produce highly competent specialist obstetrician gynaecologists.
- Credits for the two qualifications in our comparability matrix are not available in their documentation nor on-line. Compared with OBGYN M Med qualifications in South Africa (see below), credits are comparable but slightly higher because our learning includes some clinical service hours within our calculation of notional hours/credit value:
 - Pretoria: NQF minimum 624 (<https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2017/pdf/programme/10250102>)
 - Wits: NQF minimum 480 (<https://www.wits.ac.za/media/wits-university/students/academic-matters/documents/2020%20HSci%20Rules%20and%20Syllabuses.pdf>)

Comparability and articulation of the proposed qualification with the ones examined

Although the qualifications examined generally follow similar structures and standards there is a difference in the case of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrician Gynaecologists programme, in terms of the required 'Advanced' training programme which has the nature of a supervised internship. This is not an academic qualification but rather a requirement of the Fellowship for independent practice.

The proposed qualification compares well with the qualifications studied, as the scope and depth of the exit-level descriptors are aligned to and typical of this level and type of qualification in the region and beyond. All three qualifications aim to produce competent specialist obstetrician gynaecologists and there is little or no difference in the expected outcomes. The competencies elaborated in the qualification are similarly aligned to those required for registration and accreditation with the relevant professional bodies, including the Health Professions Council of Rwanda and the Medical Board of Australia.

REVIEW PERIOD

The qualification will be reviewed every 5 years in line with the NCQF policy.

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