

BQA NCQF Qualification Template

DNCQF.FDMD.GD03

Issue No.: 01

SECTION A: QUALIFICATION DETAILS																
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER			University of Botswana													
TITLE	Master of Philosophy in Population Studies										NCQF LEVEL	9				
FIELD	Humanities and Social Sciences			SUB-FIELD	Population Studies					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																
<p>RATIONALE:</p> <p>Since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) of Cairo, 1994, there has been a new orientation of interlinkages between population and development which has been reinforced in the agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). 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,</p>																

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.

In short, the provision of continuous demographic/population training would help to maintain enough trained demographers at the national and subnational levels, so that the implementation and monitoring of programmes such as the SDGs and other national priorities can proceed efficiently. It is well known that no evidence-based development planning can be undertaken without the knowledge of the population dynamics.

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 students' research training". In this respect, the proposed qualification would fulfil the enhancement of students' research training and capacity building in the field of 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 planning & implementation of government policies on inclusive development in Botswana. At present, there are no opportunities available in Botswana to undertake MPhil Degree programme in Population Studies. There exists a severe shortage of citizens who have completed MPhil degrees in Demography/ Population Studies so that they can proceed to PhD. 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 MPhil in Population Studies would be quite high in the country.

The proposed qualification expected to prepare students as demographer to interface with a range of population issues in various community spaces as part of their training and to develop analytically competent in problem-solvers. The qualification is also would enhance for building a competitive human capacity for understanding Population Studies issues and for conducting demographic research in the country and at global level in general. The graduates of M.Phil. qualification could work as project leader/demographer in various public office departments, international organisations, private companies, research institutions and NGOs.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the MPhil qualification is to produce graduates who have advanced knowledge, skill, and competences to:

- Produce high quality, critical, original research in Population Studies.
- Demonstrate deeper understanding of philosophical problems to develop the ability to carry out independent analytical research.
- Synthesize methodological, theoretical, and empirical aspects of population research with a multi-disciplinary focus.
- Develop and present a research output to wider audience and participate scientific debate both national and international forum.
- Monitor the effectiveness of policy implementation in line with the goals of social development, and population and development programmes.
- Execute the role of project manager, officers, data analyst and researcher.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)

Minimum entry requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree (NCQF level 7) in the same or a cognate field of study.
- There will be access through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) in accordance with RPL and CAT National Policies.

SECTION B

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION

GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

LO 1. Demonstrate scrutiny and identify a variety of research techniques to explain the population science and an advanced knowledge at the frontier in their specific area of research interest in Population Studies, both in theory and techniques.

- 1.1 Build knowledge in recent development in the frontier areas of both substantive and technical aspects of Population Studies.
- 1.2 Assimilate the philosophical perspectives informing quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.
- 1.3 Generate knowledge about fundamentals of the scientific approach to research and to develop innovative research in Population Studies.

	<p>1.4 Develop and implement a research design and data gathering method.</p> <p>1.5 Evaluate the quantitative and qualitative research design and methods and interpret the findings analytically.</p>
LO 2. Demonstrate the advanced application of knowledge, critically evaluate current research, and acquire advanced scholarship in Population Studies.	<p>2.1 Review current literature critically in the field of study.</p> <p>2.2 Synthesize current research, identify research gaps, and develop research problems within the subject area of research.</p> <p>2.3 Analyze complex research problem, summarize, and interpret the complex data structure.</p> <p>2.4 Determine mastery leadership of presenting theoretical literature in a coherent and logical manner.</p> <p>2.5 Evaluate theories and methods in the field of study and generate new knowledge in Population Studies.</p> <p>2.6 Generate new hypothesis and test analytically in the field of study</p>
LO 3. Create and interpret new knowledge and/or generate new ideas, through original research that satisfy peer review process in terms of quality and extend the discipline that merit quality publication.	<p>3.1 Build existing knowledge that acquire competence for managerial leadership.</p> <p>3.2 Solve complex population and development issues.</p> <p>3.3 Generate new knowledge through research of publishable quality which satisfies peer review and critical debate.</p> <p>3.4 Publish an article from the thesis in a peer reviewed journal prior to the award of a degree.</p> <p>3.5 Deliver oral presentations that demonstrate high communication and presentation competence.</p> <p>3.6 Display competence in academic writings and publications.</p> <p>3.7 Participate in scientific debate both national and international forum.</p>
LO 4. Demonstrate advanced leadership, self-direction, and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act substantially in the	<p>4.1 Execute research project successfully.</p> <p>4.2 Generate reasoned and well-informed judgments on issues whilst understanding the limitations on</p>

<p>planning and implementation of research.</p>	<p>judgments made in the absence of complete data.</p> <p>4.3 Conceptualize, design, and implement a project for the generation of knowledge in population science.</p> <p>4.4 Modify the project design often in the light of unforeseen and not clearly defined problems.</p> <p>4.5 Provide managerial 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 professional level in the project management and implementation.</p> <p>4.8 Communicate research results to peers and defend their writing in a scientific audience to engage in a dialogue.</p> <p>4.9 Advise policy related bodies and institutions in both public and private sector for decision making on population and development issues.</p>
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SECTION C		QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE			
FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units	TITLE	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level			Total (Per Subject/ Course/ Module/ Units)
		Level []	Level []	Level [9]	
CORE COMPONENT Subjects/Courses / Modules/Units	Advanced Social Science Research Methods			15	15
	Recent Advances in Population Studies			30	30
	Guided Readings and Seminars in Population Studies			30	30
	Thesis Proposal			45	45
	Supervised Research and Thesis for MPhil in Population Studies			120	120
ELECTIVE/ OPTIONAL COMPONENT Subjects/Courses / Modules/Units					

SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL	
TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL	
NCQF Level	Credit Value
Level	9
TOTAL CREDITS	240
Rules of Combination: (Please Indicate combinations for the different constituent components of the qualification)	
<p>The course work is an integral component of MPhil programme in the Department of Population Studies. Students must complete total of 240 credits which includes 120 credits for course work and 120 credits for writing MPhil thesis. This qualification is worth a total of 240 Credits.</p> <p>The Master of Philosophy degree is awarded in recognition of a candidate's sound and substantial contribution to knowledge and the candidate's demonstrated evidence of strong scholarship. The candidate's research must reveal high critical ability and synthesis and may be in the form of substantial original knowledge, or of significant and original adaptation, application, and interpretation of existing knowledge.</p> <p>The MPhil graduate's qualification will have the following attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to undertake scholarly research. • Specialized skills and techniques to carry out critical analysis. • Ability to evaluate and synthesize new and complex ideas; and • Ability to develop and implement a strategy for dissemination of research findings and defend the research work and outputs before a diverse audience. <p>The exit outcome descriptors characteristic is in line with regional and international best practice of the same qualification type. The MPhil degree qualification is comparable in terms of level and duration with similar programmes offered regionally and internationally.</p>	

ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Assessment:

Assessment strategies shall be consistent to learning outcome for the MPhil 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

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 PATHWAYS

Horizontal progression:

- MPhil in Population Health

- MPhil in Epidemiology
- MPhil in Sociology
- MPhil in Social Work
- MPhil in Economics and the Environment

Vertical progression:

- Doctor of Philosophy in Population Studies
- Doctor of Philosophy in Population Health
- Doctor of Philosophy in Demography
- Doctor of Philosophy in Population and Development.

EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

MPhil graduates of this qualification can be employed as:

- A researcher and program associate.
- Lecturer/Assistant Professor in a teaching institution within Botswana and outside Botswana.

QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

Qualification award:

The degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Population Studies is awarded once the student has completed required courses of **240 credits** which includes **120 credits for course work** and **120 credits for MPhil thesis**.

Certification:

The graduate shall be awarded a **Master of Philosophy in Population Studies**.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

The MPhil qualification is very much in align with the qualification awarded elsewhere in this region and internationally with respect to content, evaluation and moderation, duration and exit outcome and qualification rules. We briefly compare the similar programme offered in other places below.

1. Regional Institute of Population Studies (University of Ghana): The MPhil qualification in Population Studies produces demonstrated skills in demography and population studies and demonstrated ability to undertake original primary research in the field of population studies. The total duration of the programme is 2 years. The students initially admitted to MA in Population Studies for the first year and those who secured B Plus may proceed to MPhil programme upon recommendation for another year for carrying out original research. In other words, the course entails course work for first year and writing an MPhil thesis in the second year. The assessment and moderation procedure for the award of the qualification is like that of followed at the University of Botswana.

2. London School of Economics, University of London, UK: This is integrated MPhil/PhD programme in Demography. The entry requirement is master's degree in the related discipline or equivalent. The MPhil qualification produces the skills and competencies that will enable to undertake original primary research worthy of publication in the field of demography. The assessment is based on written proposal in

the first year and written thesis in the second year. 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 written thesis of three chapters will be evaluated by the committee during the second year and based on the assessment, student is recommended to PhD, otherwise, to continue the MPhil. The duration of the MPhil programme is 2 years.

3. University of Waikato, New Zealand- A Master of Philosophy in Population studies and demography qualification equip to do high quality research that makes substantial contribution in the field of population studies and demography. This is one year programme of original research under supervision, resulting in a thesis. This award of qualification requires the completion of a thesis for the award of a degree. The entry requirement is master's degree in population studies or related discipline.

4. Centre for Actual Research, University of Cape Town, South Africa- The MPhil in Population Studies qualification equip to demonstrate professional competence in the core areas of demographic analysis and research. The MPhil qualification will be awarded with the completion of dissertation. An honours degree with at least a full first-year university mathematics course, and second year statistics, or their equivalent. This qualification consists of course work and dissertation with equal weightage.

REVIEW PERIOD

Every five (5) years.