

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

SECTION A: QUALIFICATION DETAILS													
<b>QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER (S)</b>		University of Botswana											
<b>TITLE</b>	Master of Arts (Sociology)										<b>NCQF LEVEL</b>	9	
<b>FIELD</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences		<b>SUB-FIELD</b>		Sociology					<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	260		
<i>New Qualification</i>					✓		<i>Review of Existing Qualification</i>						
<b>SUB-FRAMEWORK</b>		General Education					TVET					Higher Education	✓
<b>QUALIFICATION TYPE</b>	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

### RATIONALE:

This qualification is developed in line with the national priority of human capital and human resource development in Botswana. The first pillar of Botswana Vision 2036 is centred around “Sustainable Economic Development.” To achieve a sustainable knowledge-based economy, the Vision 2036 puts emphasis on the critical role of human capital in the development of economy, based on the view that investment in human capital will result in producing human resources that drive the growth of the economic sectors. As such, the Vision 2036 states that “our country will have developed an internationally competitive workforce that is productive, creative and has international exposure” (p. 13). The Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) of Botswana on its website acknowledges that education and training sector is “key to the empowerment of Botswana to acquire the right skills, knowledge and attitudes to propel the achievement of Vision 2036 objectives and enhance the country’s global competitiveness.” Producing an internationally competitive workforce depends on how the education and training sector accommodates the market demands in the programme designs, development, and delivery. This includes the necessity to offer academic programmes or qualifications that equip learners with a broad general education, specialised knowledge and critical skills (TEC Policy, p. 6). In a rapidly changing Botswana society,

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the discipline of Sociology is increasingly required to address the national challenges associated with social changes such as, changing family forms, gender relations, juvenile delinquency, crime and deviance, domestic violence, rural and urban poverty, poverty alleviation, unemployment and work-related behaviour, social and political dialogue, HIV and AIDS, and growing urbanization. This qualification contributes to the development of human capital in Botswana and beyond by providing learners with specialised knowledge of social theory and how it is applied in response to various societal problems. The qualification also equips learners with critical skills in social research that will enable them to provide solutions to practical problems encountered by our society.

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this qualification is to equip graduates with knowledge, skills and competences to:

1. Analyse theories and methodological approaches in Sociology that will enable them to contribute to the current debates in the field of Sociology and sociological research.
2. Apply a range of theoretical approaches to solve complex social issues and problems.
3. Use relevant theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches in the design, planning and execution of scholarly research.
4. Apply practical empirical analysis to various intellectual and public policy questions.

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

The minimum requirement for admission to this qualification shall be Bachelor's Degree (NCQF level 7) in the same or a related field of study.

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<b>SECTION B QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION</b>	
<b>GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT CRITERIA</b>
1. Apply key sociological theories and paradigms to explore, examine and address different social phenomena and problems from a sociological perspective.	1.1 Evaluate sociological theories through critical analysis of social issues. 1.2 Assess the relevance of sociological paradigms at global and local contexts. 1.3 Compare and contrast the sociological perspectives in the analysis of social change and social transformation in any given society. 1.4 Apply knowledge of social and sociological analysis at micro, meso and macro levels.
2. Conduct a systematic scholarly research based on a well-identified and well-defined research problem.	2.1 Compile a comprehensive research proposal. 2.2 Formulate research questions and objectives. 2.3 Develop a comprehensive and systematic literature review. 2.4 Outline a theoretical framework relevant to a proposed research topic. 2.5 Outline an appropriate methodological approach to investigate the research problem. 2.6 Apply quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods techniques for data collection purposes. 2.7 Analyse data using various techniques of data analysis. 2.8 Interpret study results.
3. Use ICT and computer-aided software to analyse data and present research findings.	3.1 Conduct data coding using computer-aided software. 3.2 Conduct data analysis using computer-aided software. 3.3 Produce tables, diagrams, graphs, charts and other visual aids to illustrate the study results. 3.4 Present study results in various academic and non-academic platforms.

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4. Produce research reports or scholarly articles and suggest policy recommendations based on research evidence.	4.1 Compile a dissertation or a project research report. 4.2 Produce policy briefs based on research. 4.3 Develop evidenced based policy recommendations.
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SECTION C	QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE				
COMPONENT	TITLE	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level			Total (Per Subject/ Course/ Module/ Units)
		Level [ 7 ]	Level [ 8 ]	Level [ 9 ]	
<b>FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT</b> <i>Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units</i>					
<b>CORE COMPONENT</b> <i>Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	Classical and Modern Sociological Theories			30	30
	Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods			30	30
	Advanced Seminar in Sociology			15	15
	Dissertation (Coursework and Dissertation Option)			140	140

 <b>BOTSWANA</b> Qualifications Authority	<b>BQA NCQF QUALIFICATION TEMPLATE</b>	Document No.	DNCQF.QIDD.GD02
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	Research Essay (Coursework and Research Essay Option)			80	80
<b>ELECTIVE/ OPTIONAL COMPONENT</b>  Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units	<b>Learners who opt for coursework and Dissertation must complete 3 optional courses.</b>  <b>Learners who opt for coursework and Research Essay must complete 7 optional courses.</b>				
	Crime and Deviance			15	15
	Health and Illness			15	15
	Industry, Organisation and Society			15	15
	Race and Ethnicity			15	15
	Political Sociology			15	15
	Globalisation, Culture and Social Change			15	15
	Religion and Belief Systems			15	15
	Social Change and Development			15	15
	Urban Sociology			15	15
	Environmental Sociology			15	15
	Rural Development and Agrarian Change			15	15
	NGOs and Development			15	15

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	Families, Households and Development			15	15
	Gender and Development			15	15
	The Social Impacts of Structural Adjustment Policies in Africa			15	15
	Dynamics of Poverty in the Third World			15	15
	Communication for Development			15	15
	Youth and Development			15	15
	Migration, Urbanisation and Development			15	15
	Urban and Regional Planning			15	15
	Organisation theory and Practice			15	15
	Southern Africa in the World Economy			15	15
	Selected Topics in Political Thought			15	15
	Poverty and Welfare			15	15

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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>9</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Rules of Combination:</b> <b>(Please Indicate combinations for the different constituent components of the qualification)</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The MA degree shall be offered in two options. <u>Option One</u> will be Coursework and Research Essay and <u>Option Two</u> will be coursework and a Dissertation.</li> <li>2. A student pursuing <u>Option One</u> (Coursework and Research Essay) shall in addition to the 180 credits of core and optional courses take Research Essay which shall be equivalent to 80 credits in the final semester.</li> <li>3. A student pursuing <u>Option Two</u> (Coursework and Dissertation) shall in addition to the 120 credits of core and optional courses take Dissertation which shall be equivalent to 140 credits over 2 semesters.</li> <li>4. A student who elects to do the MA by course work and dissertation shall normally be expected to complete all the course work before embarking on the dissertation.</li> </ol>	

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### **ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Performance of students will be assessed through formative assessment (100%). The formative assessment will culminate in the write up of research essay or dissertation. All assessments will be carried out by BQA registered and accredited Assessors.

### **MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS**

Quality assurance will be maintained through professional internal and external moderation. Both internal and external moderation will be undertaken by moderators who have been quality assured and accredited with BQA.

### **RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING**

- Potential learners who are not in possession of a Bachelor's degree (NCQF Level 7) in the same or related field are required to provide proof of an equivalent qualification.
- In cases where a potential learner has not met the minimum requirements for admission to the qualification but has evidence that admission to the qualification can be met through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), the potential learner needs to apply to the Head of the Department of Sociology or relevant authorities for RPL.
- RPL for award of this qualification shall be in line with the BQA and the university RPL policies.

### **CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER**

Students from universities that offer similar qualification may be allowed to transfer their credits. Those who intend to transfer their credits shall apply to the Head of the Department of Sociology. Assessment of credit accumulation and transfer should be in accordance with the university policies.

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

This qualification allows for both vertical and horizontal articulations.

#### **Horizontal articulation:**

- Master of Arts in Development Studies (MADVS), NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Arts in Applied Sociology or related fields, NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Research and Public Policy, NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Arts in Communication and Media Studies, NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Arts in Population Studies, NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Philosophy in Sociology or related fields, NCQF Level 9.



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### **Vertical articulation:**

- Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology, NCQF Level 10.
- Doctor of Philosophy in Social Sciences or related fields, NCQF Level 10.

### **Employment pathways:**

- Researcher and/or analyst
- Teacher/lecturer
- Market researcher/analyst
- Project manager/Project management consultant
- Policy and media analyst
- Public relation specialist
- Survey researcher/pollster
- Research assistant
- Social media consultant/specialist
- Data analyst/scientist

## **QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION**

### ***Minimum standards of achievement for the award of the qualification***

A candidate is required to achieve the stipulated 240 credits inclusive of the core and optional components, to be awarded the qualification of MA in Sociology at NCQF level 9. A candidate who completes all required taught courses (120 credits for Dissertation option and 180 credits for Research Essay option) but fails to pass the Dissertation or Research Essay may be awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma in Sociology at NCQF Level 8 or appropriate exit award in accordance with applicable policies.

### ***Certification***

The qualification shall be awarded to the learner on successful completion of all the prescribed requirements in accordance with standards prescribed for the award of the qualification and applicable policies. To successfully complete the programme a student shall be required to obtain a total of 240 credits. Candidates who do not meet the prescribed minimum standards may, where applicable, be considered for appropriate exit awards in accordance with applicable policies.

## **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY**

The Master of Arts in Sociology qualification has been benchmarked against qualifications offered by the University of Pretoria (South Africa), the Central European University (Hungary) and the Manchester Metropolitan University (United Kingdom).

### **Similarities:**

This qualification and qualifications offered by the University of Pretoria, the Central European University and the Manchester Metropolitan University are multi-disciplinary programmes which infuse academic with policy-

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oriented and empirical studies of social issues and social phenomena. The qualifications offer modules in advanced sociological theories and research methods. This qualification also compares well with the qualifications offered by these universities on the qualification structure as well as exit outcomes and competencies required to understand contemporary social problems, apply advanced knowledge and practice of the methods in sociology and design a quality scholarly research.

#### **Differences:**

The following differences are observed:

- 1) Credit requirements: This qualification requires 240 credits. Qualifications offered by the University of Pretoria, the Central European University and the Manchester Metropolitan University require either 62 or 180 credits.
- 2) Duration: While this qualification and qualifications offered by the Central European University and the University of Pretoria are 2 years full-time or equivalent in duration, the one offered by the Manchester Metropolitan University is a 1 year full-time or equivalent in duration.
- 3) Entry requirement: The minimum requirement for admission to this qualification is a Bachelor's degree in Sociology or Social Sciences or related disciplines at NCQF level 7. The qualification offered by the University of Pretoria builds on a 1 year Honours in Sociology.
- 4) Options: This qualification can be completed through either a coursework only option or coursework with dissertation option. Qualifications offered by the University of Pretoria, the Central European University and the Manchester Metropolitan University have dissertation/project is mandatory.

#### **Comparability:**

This qualification is comparable well with the regional and international qualifications on the structure, exit level outcomes, assessment criteria and employment pathways. This qualification, however, is unique as it facilitates both the vertical and horizontal articulation in the academic progression in the area of sociology and social studies in general. In addition, unlike regional and international qualifications, the structure of this qualification provides a wide range of optional modules to accommodate the interests of learners. In addition, this qualification also puts emphasis on applying practical empirical analysis to various intellectual and public policy questions.

#### **REVIEW PERIOD**

The qualification shall be reviewed after every 5 (five) years.

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