

	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 Research and Public Policy										NCQF LEVEL	9		
FIELD	Humanities And Social Science			SUB-FIELD		Research & Public Policy				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	Bachel or						
	Bachelor Honours			Post Graduate Certificate				Post Graduate Diploma						
	Masters					✓		Doctorate/ PhD						

RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFICATION

RATIONALE:

The rationale for the post-graduate qualification in Master of Research and Public Policy is to increase the capacity of academic institutions and researchers to contribute stronger evidence-based research on public policy that can have a positive impact on pro-poor development policies. It provides a range of capacity building activities designed for different audiences in the research, academic and policy communities.

In line with the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), there are areas which have been identified where there is a shortage of skills in Botswana. For example, there are shortages of skills needed for public policy formulation and implementation, policy research, management and other soft skills (HRDC, 2012). Furthermore, Government departments and ministries, non-profit organisations and private companies need highly skilled, well trained policy analysts who can dissect a problem, analyse and interpret data as well as evaluate and create alternative courses of action. A systematic and critical approach to evaluating and designing

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public policies, which combines theory and application to particular cases and problems, is needed if all stakeholders involved in the policy process are to achieve the fundamental goal of formulating and implementing public policies that are relevant to the needs, aspirations and demands of the citizens. In both the public and private sector, there is a shortage of people who have been trained on policy research.

This qualification will impart graduate with the research skills that can enable them to competently collect and analyse data related to the complex problems that are addressed through various public policies. The training of public officers in research and public policy under this qualification will, therefore, go a long way in addressing the current shortage of trained personnel in both the public and private sectors.

The vision underpinning this qualification is the value of strengthening the production of social science researchers so that they may contribute to public policy development in Botswana and Sub-Saharan Africa. It goes a long way in providing for the development of competencies in research and public policy and therefore generates a cadre of professionals able to work in a wide variety of settings including but not limited to government bodies, think tanks, civil society organisations, regional and international organisations, media and universities. Graduates are expected to produce social science research that can contribute to public policy and good governance, and also be able to utilise research evidence in public policy development.


It improves the practical experience of students through the field work component which allows them to be attached to various organisations for a period of eight weeks. In other words, the attachment is meant to impart practical knowledge and reduce the gap between theory and practice.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this qualification is to produce graduates with advanced knowledge, Skills and competences to:

- Solve problems by combining ethics, technical competence, critical thinking, communications, research techniques and analytical and leadership abilities.
- Collect and analyse data related to the complex problems competently.
- Think critically, analytically and strategically about issues related to national development.


ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)

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The normal basic minimum requirement for admission to the qualification shall be:

- i) Bachelor's degree, NCQF Level 7 or equivalent.


SECTION B QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION	
GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
LO 1: Evaluate the different conceptual and methodological approaches to social science research.	1.1 Choose appropriate research methodology to collect data in different areas of public policy. 1.2 Interpret issues surrounding sample selection, research bias, etc. 1.3 Assess qualitative or quantitative research proposals so as to write appropriate research reports.
LO 2: Apply different research techniques to unpack and explain current community challenges and those that are likely to emerge in the future.	2.1 Prepare and present qualitative and quantitative research proposals. 2.2 Use the available data to write research reports. 2.3 Interpret existing and new research findings to inform public policies. 2.4 Demonstrate how effective monitoring and evaluation of public policies can be done.
LO 3: Analyse various research tools to inform policy decisions.	3.1 Demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of research tools appropriate for policy. 3.2 Show capability to conduct research using appropriate research tools in order to influence modification of existing policies. 3.3 Differentiate between evidence-based policies and those that are not based on research findings

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SECTION C	QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE				
COMPONENT	TITLE	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level			Total (Per Subject/ Course/ Module/ Units)
		Level [9]	Level []	Level []	
CORE COMPONENT <i>Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	Qualitative Research Methods for Public Policy	10			10
	Quantitative Research Methods for Public Policy	10			10
	Public Policy Development and Analysis	10			10
	Governance and Politics of Public Policy	10			10
	Social Science Foundations for Public Policy	10			10
	Economics For Public Policy	10			10
	Research Policy and Public Interface	10			10
	Gender, Social Diversity, Equality and Public Policy	10			10
	Leadership and Public Policy	10			10
	Ethics in Research and Public Policy	10			10

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	Fieldwork – 6 weeks	30			30
	Research essay	80			80
ELECTIVE/ OPTIONAL COMPONENT <i>Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	Advanced Qualitative Methods	10			10
	Advanced Quantitative Methods	10			10
	Political Economy of Public Policy	10			10
	Applied Policy Analysis	10			10
	Contemporary Issues In Public Policy	10			10
	Global Context of Public Policy	10			10

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SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL	
TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL	
NCQF Level	Credit Value
9	240
TOTAL CREDITS	240
Rules of Combination: <i>(Please Indicate combinations for the different constituent components of the qualification)</i>	
Rules The credit distribution is as indicated below: Core courses – 210 credits Elective/Optional – 30 credits Qualification Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each student has to do 15 courses, 12 of which are core courses and three are optional courses. The total number of credits is 240. 	

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ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

All the assessments, formative and summative, leading or contributing to the award of credits or a qualification should be based on learning outcomes and/or sub-outcomes.

Formative assessment

Continuous assessment contributing towards the award of credits should be based on course outcomes. This includes tests, mid-term assignments, analysis of case studies, as well as group and individual presentations. The contribution of formative assessment to the final grade shall be **50%**.

Summative assessment

This will be done through a six week field work and an in-class examination or term paper. The contribution of the summative assessment to the final grade shall be **50%**

MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS


Assessments will be internally and externally moderated by registered and accredited moderators in accordance with ETP's approved assessment and moderation policies.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

RPL will be considered for award in accordance with the National and ETP's RPL policy.

CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER

CAT will be considered for award in accordance with the National and ETP's RPL policy.

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PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)

Learning Pathways

The Master of Research and Public Policy qualification has two graduate horizontal and vertical articulations as follows.

Horizontal Articulation

In accordance with the relevant University regulations and standards, the qualification articulates horizontally with local, regional and international Master of Research and Public Policy. Qualifications which are similar level at NCQF 9 includes:

- Master of Public Administration, General, NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Public Administration, Human Resource Management, NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Public Administration, Environmental resource Management , NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Public Administration, Local Government Management, NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Public Administration, Public Policy Administration, NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Public Administration, Public Financial Management, NCQF Level 9.
- Master of International Relations and Political Science, NCQF Level 9.
- Master of Defence and Strategic Studies, NCQF Level 9.
- Master's degree in Statistics/Actuarial Science, NCQF Level 9.
- Master's degree in Economics, NCQF Level 9.
- Master's degree in Population Studies, NCQF Level 9.
- Master's degree in Sociology, NCQF level 9.

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10.2 Vertical Articulation

The qualification provides vertical such as:

- Ph.D. in Policy Analysis, NCQF Level 10.
- Ph.D. in Public Policy, NCQF Level 10.
- Ph.D. in Public Administration, NCQF Level 10.
- Ph.D. in Political Science, NCQF 10.

Employment Pathways

The main purpose of this qualification is to produce graduates who have requisite competencies and attributes to work in a range of careers such as:

- Policy makers and implementers
- Policy advisors
- Policy analysts
- Policy researchers
- University Lecturers on policy studies, policy research and analysis.


QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

Minimum standards of achievement for the award of the qualification

The minimum of 240 credits should be obtained in addition to satisfying all the qualifications requirements for the learners to be issued with a certificate in Master of Research and Public Policy.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

This qualification compares as follows:

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Similarities

South Africa

Similar qualifications are offered in South Africa. For example, Management College of Southern Africa (MANCOSA), which offers a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree, NQF level 9, worth 180 credits and 11 modules, a dissertation and the duration of 2 years. The learning outcomes are also similar to this qualification. The University of Capetown (UCT) offers a similar qualification even though it is called Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Development Policy and Practice degree, NQF level 9, 180 credits and 6 modules and a minor dissertation. The duration of the qualification is 2 years.

International


A similar qualification is offered by the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom (UK) as a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy (MA/PDip), NQF level 9, worth 180 credits and 9 modules, a dissertation and the duration of 12 months.

Differences

Management College of Southern Africa (MANCOSA)'s Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree, NQF level 9, worth 180 credits; is a highly regarded programme providing postgraduate training for employees in the public sector and the Non-Government Organisation (NGO) sectors. It seeks to blend a traditional Master's level qualification with the practical skills needed for the public sector environment.

In the same vein, the Master of Philosophy: Development Policy and Practice offered by the University of Cape Town compares favourably with this qualification. The qualification offered by UCT has taught modules and a research component in the form of a research essay which is submitted for candidates to be given a certificate for the qualification.

Even though the two qualifications are similar to the Master of Research and Public Policy (MRPP) offered by the University of Botswana, there are some differences. Of particular note, is the number of modules that are offered. In this qualification, students have to do thirteen modules, internship and research essay or project while students at MANCOSA have to do eleven modules and a dissertation. At UCT, students have to do six modules and a minor dissertation. Notwithstanding the differences in terms of the number of modules offered, the design and content of the courses are similar.

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There are differences in the number of modules and duration in the Master of Arts degree in Public Policy offered at Nottingham University in the United Kingdom.

In view of the above, the proposed qualification compares very well with similar qualifications and it is of more value because it covers more ground than those offered by MANCOSA and the University of Cape Town.

REVIEW PERIOD

5 YEARS