
	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 Arts in Theology and Religious Studies										NCQF LEVEL	9	
FIELD	Humanities and Social Sciences			SUB-FIELD		Humanities				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

RATIONALE:

The Master of Arts in Theology and Religious Studies (MA) is designed to give students the tools for practical application of theological knowledge. In pursuance of a purposeful and industry-relevant and high quality qualification, the MA in Theology and Religious Studies is anchored on Botswana's Vision 2036. Through the vision Botswana endeavors to have a moral, tolerant and inclusive society which is built on such factors as the spiritual well-being of its people, strong family institution's, social inclusion and equality (including gender equality), education and skills development (Botswana Vision 2036). The qualification is also informed by NDP 9's Revised National Policy on Education (RNPE) which underscores the infusion and integration of emerging issues into the education system including HIV and AIDS issues, environmental, population/family education and gender education. In consultation with the department of Theology and Religious Studies Advisory Board and their representative stakeholders, the MA in Theology and Religious Studies qualification seeks to advance practical theological skills aimed at changing mindsets in relation to such issues as environmental conservation, gender justice, sexualities and sexual orientations all of which are pertinent global issues. The issues are to be addressed from different religious and philosophical perspectives which allows for critical thinking aimed at

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

creating unity in diversity. As such the MA in Theology and Religious Studies offers learners the choice between four specialization areas of Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, Religious Studies and Philosophy.

The qualification acknowledges that religion is an integral part of human life and culture. As such theological education that aims for the humanization and liberation of the human mind is significantly needed to achieve such competencies and values as tolerance, justice, compassion as espoused in the *National Human Resource Development Strategy* (2009-2022) and the *Botswana Education and Training Sector Strategy Plan* (2015-2020) which emphasize the preparation of students for life, citizenship and the world of work by providing training that is responsive and relevant to the needs of the economy. Therefore there is need for high quality research and ethical training to address such social ills as gender-based violence, global warming etc. by graduates of this qualification who will approach the issues from diversified religious, cultural and philosophical perspectives.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this qualification is to produce graduates with advanced knowledge, skills and competencies to:


- Provide both the Clergy and the laity with life skills and spiritual resources from Christian traditions and diverse and multi-faith contexts.
- Articulate the themes and distinctiveness of the field of Theology and Religious Studies from the disciplines of counselling, sociology, and psychology Teaching (religious education)
- Engage in research projects for the field of Theology and Religious Studies aimed at improving the lives of their communities.


ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)


Entry requirements for Master of Arts Theology and Religious Studies qualification are as follows:

- NCQF Level 7 or equivalent qualification.
- Entry through Recognition of Prior Learning in line with Institutional and National Policies on recognition of prior learning.

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

SECTION B QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION	
GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<p>1. Articulate concepts in the areas of the bible, religion, systematic theology, and philosophy</p> 	<p>1.1 Communicate appropriate argumentation and methodological skills of the discipline.</p> <p>1.2 Demonstrate knowledge of translation and interpretation of theological and religious materials/texts</p> <p>1.3 Display critical philosophical skills in analysing texts</p> <p>1.4 Utilize critical analytical skills to evaluate one's own written work and other written works published by other scholars</p> <p>1.5 Illustrate key theological and philosophical understanding of religious texts and the ability to make such texts relevant to contemporary religious practitioners and audiences</p>
<p>2. Utilize appropriate data and methods in theological, religious and philosophical writing.</p>	<p>2.1 Utilize information from primary sources like the Bible, Quran etc. and relevant secondary print sources like textbooks, effectively.</p> <p>2.2 Analyse information that takes into cognisance the genre and context of religious texts.</p> <p>2.3 Draw appropriate conclusions supported by evidence.</p> <p>2.4 Utilise appropriate theological and philosophical ideas to deliver a lecture, sermon or message that is well informed and relevant to the situational context</p>


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

<p>3. Analyse and evaluate the existing professional practice and put issues and ideas into perspective</p>	<p>3.1 Evaluate existing policies like sexual harassment policies in the work place</p> <p>3.2 Analyse and evaluate policies like environmental policies, gender-based violence policies and others</p> <p>3.3 Apply critical thinking in resolving workplace issues</p>
<p>4. Carry out research to solve problems in a range of professional contexts</p>	<p>4.1 Prepare a relevant and feasible research proposal in the discipline of theology and religious studies.</p> <p>4.2 Design a manageable and reasonable research plan to elicit relevant data.</p> <p>4.3 Write scholarly reports and reviews on research findings.</p> <p>4.4 Apply research findings to the resolve of societal issues.</p> <p>4.5 Present research findings at conferences and seminars for dissemination</p> <p>4.6 Write scholarly papers and articles for publication</p>
<p>5. Apply ICT in information retrieval and processing in research work and writing skills.</p>	<p>5.1 Use ICT responsibly and ethically.</p> <p>5.2 Communicate and collaborate locally and globally using ICT.</p> <p>5.3 Research, access and retrieve information using ICT.</p> <p>5.4 Gather, analyse, and organize data and information using ICT.</p> <p>5.5 Organize and synthesize information using ICT.</p> <p>5.6 Manage information using ICT.</p> <p>5.7 Use ICT information backup strategies to prevent loss of data.</p> <p>5.8 Store and present data in different formats through the use of ICT.</p>


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

QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE			Section C
Title: Master of Arts: Theological Studies		NCQF LEVEL 9	Credits
FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units			
CORE COMPONENT Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units	Research Methods	9	12
	Research Proposal	9	24
	Dissertation	9	60
			Total 96 Credits
ELECTIVE COMPONENT Subjects / Units / Modules /Courses	CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY		
REGULATION ON ELECTIVE COURSES Depending on your area of specialization choose a minimum of 12 courses (144 credits)	Systematic Theology: methodological Reflections	9	12
	Old Testament hermeneutic	9	12
	Biblical Hebrews for beginners	9	12
	Christian ethics and social issues	9	12
	Biblical Greek for beginners	9	12
	New Testament Hermeneutics	9	12
	The reformation and Counter Reformation in	9	12


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

	theological perspectives		
	Liberation theologies in developing countries	9	12
	Major themes in Reformation Theology	9	12
	Theologies of Gender and Identity	9	12
	Theologies of African independent Churches	9	12
	Moral Theologies and Pluralism	9	12
	Modern and Contemporary Theologies	9	12
	RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY		
	Rational Psychology	9	12
	Critical Philosophical themes on Religion	9	12
	African Traditional Religions in Contemporary Society	9	12
	Religion and modernity	9	12
	Religion and Popular Culture	9	12
	African divinities and cosmologies	9	12
	Hinduism: its essence and development	9	12
	Buddhism its social history and thought	9	12
	A critical study of Islamic Sources	9	12
	History of Christianity in Botswana	9	12
	Ethics and Religion	9	12

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


	Philosophical reflection on God	9	12
	Debates on African Philosophy	9	12
	Religions and Society	9	12
	Hinduism in Modern Society	9	12
	Buddhism in modern World	9	12
	Judaism and Modernity	9	12
	Professional Ethics	9	12
	History of Christianity in Africa	9	12
	Modern Muslim Society	9	12

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

<i>SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL</i>	
<i>TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL</i>	
<i>NCQF Level</i>	<i>Credit Value</i>
<i>NCQF 9</i>	<i>240</i>
<i>TOTAL CREDITS</i>	<i>240</i>
<i>Rules of Combination:</i> <i>(Please Indicate combinations for the different constituent components of the qualification)</i>	
<p>Qualification Rules: For a learner to do MA qualification they will be expected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take a cumulative 240 credits, which consists of 96 credits in research, as a core component and 144 credits from elective courses in the area of specialization. To specialize either in an area of Religion and Philosophy or in an area of Christian Theology. 	

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

MODERATION AND ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Assessment

- Formative Assessment

Formative assessment will constitute 60% of the final mark.

- Summative assessment

Summative assessment will constitute 40% of the final mark.

Moderation

The qualification shall have two types of moderation, namely Internal Moderation and External Moderation, in accordance with applicable institutional and national policies and regulations. Assessors and moderators shall be registered and accredited by BQA.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Provision for awarding the qualification through Prior Learning Recognition and Credit Accumulation and Transfer modes in accordance with national and institutional policies and guidelines shall be put in place

CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER

Credit Accumulation Transfer (CAT) for the award of this qualification will be in line with the Institutional and National policies.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)

Horizontal Articulation (related qualifications of similar level that graduates may consider)


At the horizontal level, students doing Theology and Religious Studies qualification will have the following education pathways:

Horizontal pathways

- MA in Biblical Studies
- MA in Religious studies
- MA in Theology
- MA in Philosophy
- MA in Pastoral Studies

Vertical Pathways

- MPhil/PhD in Biblical Studies
- MPhil/PhD in Religions

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

- MPhil/PhD in Theology
- MPhil/PhD in Philosophy

Possible jobs or employment (which the holder of this qualification may take up)

Graduates with MA in Theology and Religious Studies qualification will qualify to work in, but not Limited to the following professions:

- Ecumenical Organizations Consultant
- Clergy
- Leader of Church or Religious Agencies
- Faith Based Organizations Officer/Consultant
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Mediator
- Educator
- Counsellor
- Gender Officer
- Chaplain
- Equality, diversity and inclusion officer
- Charity officer

QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

Minimum standards of achievement for the award of the qualification

- To be awarded a Master of Arts Theology and Religious Studies qualification, a Learner must satisfy the appropriate provisions of the relevant general academic regulations
- The total credits to be accumulated for a Learner to be awarded the qualification is 240.


Certification

- Learners meeting the prescribed requirements will be awarded the qualification in accordance with the standards prescribed for the award of the certificate
- The Degree shall be known as Master of Arts Degree in Theology and Religious Studies

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

Essence of Benchmarking

To ensure quality and high standard of the qualification, the Qualification was benchmarked with the following world-class regional and international institutions of higher learning:

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

Regional:

University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)

International:

University of Wales (UK)

Similarities

The proposed MA in Theology and Religious Studies is similar to both regional and international Universities, in terms of title of Qualification, employment Pathways and assessment strategies and content.

Differences

At the University of Wales the duration for the MA in Theological Studies is One (1) year while for the proposed qualification and the region the duration is Two (2) years. This is because in some international universities the MA is by research only and there is no course work required.

REVIEW PERIOD

This Qualification shall be reviewed after every 5 years.

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