

BQA NCQF QUALIFICATION TEMPLATE

SECTION A:		QUALIFICATION DETAILS										
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER (S)	BA ISAGO UNIVERSITY											
TITLE	Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Governance								NCQF LEVEL	7		
STRANDS (where applicable)	N/A											
FIELD	Humanities and Social Sciences								CREDIT VALUE	480		
SUB-FIELD	Social and Behavioral Sciences											
New Qualification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legacy Qualification						Renewal Qualification				
				Registration Code								
SUB-FRAMEWORK	General Education						TVET					
										Higher Education		
QUALIFICATION TYPE	Certificate	I	II	III	IV	V	Diploma	Bachelor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	Bachelor Honours			Post Graduate Certificate			Post Graduate Diploma					
	Masters					Doctorate/ PhD						
RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFICATION												
RATIONALE:												
<p>The Preamble to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969) affirms the sovereignty of states and underscores the significance of treaties in shaping international relations. Within this framework, regional and international integration are essential to promoting economic growth, peace, and sustainable development. As a developing nation, Botswana is steadily expanding its footprint in regional and international affairs, with strategic efforts to enhance trade, attract foreign investment, share resources, and foster political cooperation and collective security.</p>												

This growing engagement is firmly aligned with national priorities articulated in Vision 2036, which aspires to position Botswana as a high-income, globally competitive nation built on good governance, human capital development, and international partnerships. Similarly, National Development Plan 11 (NDP 11) emphasises regional integration, economic diversification, and enhanced global cooperation as core strategic objectives. Achieving these goals requires a robust institutional and human capacity base in international relations and governance, to effectively represent national interests on the global stage and respond to increasingly complex international dynamics.

Currently, the country lacks an undergraduate qualification in international relations or diplomacy, resulting in a critical skills gap in an area that is becoming increasingly important to national development. Therefore, the proposed Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Governance will be the first of its kind in the country. The qualification aims to address this gap by providing foundational training and professional preparation for students aspiring to careers in diplomacy, policy analysis, global governance, and international development.

Furthermore, the qualification directly aligns with the Revised Human Resource Development Strategy, which advocates responsive education systems that equip graduates with competencies for a globalised world. It also supports Botswana's commitment to fulfilling its obligations under international treaties, protocols, and regional frameworks, including those established through SADC, the African Union, the United Nations, and the World Trade Organisation.

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Governance is designed to respond to national and global demands by preparing graduates with the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to navigate the complexities of international affairs. The qualification will equip students to understand, interpret, and analyse global political, economic, and social issues, including international treaties and policies. Graduates from this qualification will be well positioned for employment opportunities in diplomatic missions, international organisations, the public service, NGOs, and multinational enterprises.

PURPOSE: (itemise exit level outcomes)

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

- Manage stakeholder relationships and support negotiation processes in order to contribute effectively to diplomacy, policy development and multilateral cooperation at national, regional, and global levels.

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- Contribute to the design, implementation and monitoring of policies and strategies that promote democracy, economic prosperity and sustainable development.
- Develop practical and context-appropriate solutions to address contemporary global political issues, including conflict, human rights and global governance challenges, etc.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)

i. Applicants must have a minimum of Certificate IV, NCQF Level 4 (TVET/GE) or equivalent.

OR

ii. Candidates who do not meet the minimum academic qualifications stated above will be considered through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process, which shall be administered according to the National RPL Policy. There will also be provision for Credit Accumulation Transfer to the learner in case they transfer in from another institution, as per the National Policy on CAT.

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SECTION B		QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION	
GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
<p>1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of major analytical and theoretical frameworks regarding international relations employed in political science and related disciplines.</p>	<p>1.1 Analyse foreign policies using relevant international relations theories to determine their impact on global and regional dynamics.</p> <p>1.2 Conduct comparative studies to assess the alignment of national policies with regional and international governance frameworks.</p> <p>1.3 Evaluate governance policies using theoretical frameworks and propose evidence-based reforms to improve policy effectiveness.</p>		

	<p>1.4 Examine contemporary global political issues and governance mechanisms using theory informed perspectives.</p> <p>1.5 Propose innovative solutions addressing 21st century challenges for the international community, including cybersecurity, climate change, and pandemics.</p> <p>1.6 Create policy briefs and reports that assess how global political trends impact national or regional governance structures.</p>
<p>2. Develop strategic partnerships aimed at promoting peacebuilding, sustainable development and international cooperation.</p>	<p>2.1 Demonstrate professionalism, ethical awareness and respect for international norms in cross-border political and policy engagements.</p> <p>2.2 Contribute to diplomatic, political and policy dialogues across national, regional and international platforms to build alliances and influence on global decision-making.</p> <p>2.3 Apply diplomatic protocols, negotiation techniques and intercultural communication skills in bilateral and multilateral affairs.</p> <p>2.4 Facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration and communication between governments, international organisations, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders to advance shared goals.</p> <p>2.5 Resolve diplomatic conflicts through mediation, arbitration, or structured negotiations.</p> <p>2.6 Manage stakeholder relationships and support negotiation processes for regional and international treaties, agreements and partnerships.</p>

<p>3. Apply advanced knowledge of global trade and development policies to support economic diplomacy and policy-related decision-making.</p>	<p>3.1 Assess international trade agreements, tariffs, and policy instruments to determine their impact on national and regional development goals.</p> <p>3.2 Evaluate foreign direct investment flows, economic integration frameworks and their socio-economic implications for developing economies.</p> <p>3.3 Apply political economic theories to explain real-world development challenges such as inequality, debt, and resource dependency.</p> <p>3.4 Formulate evidence-based recommendations for development aid, investment promotion, or trade facilitation aligned with current global economic trends and sustainable development goals.</p> <p>3.5 Guide government agencies, regional bodies, or international organisations on economic diplomacy approaches that enhance national competitiveness and inclusive development.</p>
<p>4. Contribute to the design and implementation of policies and strategies that promote peacebuilding, support development aid and advance sustainable international development.</p>	<p>4.1 Evaluate the frameworks and global instruments related to peacebuilding, human rights, development aid, and conflict resolution.</p> <p>4.2 Assist in conducting stakeholder analyses to inform the development of peacebuilding or development strategies.</p> <p>4.3 Contribute to the formulation of policy proposals and programmes aligned with international development goals.</p> <p>4.4 Conduct impact assessments of international aid programs and policy interventions.</p> <p>4.5 Prepare clear and concise reports or presentations on peacebuilding and development activities</p>

<p>5. Assist in conducting specialised research on international law, governance frameworks, and regional integration processes to evaluate global issues and support policy development.</p>	<p>5.1 Critically assess local, regional, and global legal and policy challenges affecting international relations, governance, and treaty compliance.</p> <p>5.2 Evaluate emerging governance and diplomatic tools, including digital diplomacy and regulatory technologies, to address real-world international and regional governance challenges.</p> <p>5.3 Use relevant primary and secondary sources to conduct legal and policy research in international relations.</p> <p>5.4 Apply appropriate data collection methods to gather information on trends and developments in global governance, international law, and regional integration processes.</p> <p>5.5 Critically analyse quantitative and qualitative data to interpret complex legal, policy, and governance frameworks affecting international cooperation and compliance.</p> <p>5.6 Propose practical, ethical, and sustainable policy solutions that align with international standards and promote good governance, peacebuilding, and human rights.</p>
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SECTION C	QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE				
COMPONENT	TITLE	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level			Total Credits
		Level [5]	Level [6]	Level [7]	
FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT <i>Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	Communication Skills	10			10
	Computing and Information Skills	10			10
	Research Methods			12	12
CORE COMPONENT <i>Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	Theories of International Relations		12		12
	Introduction to Diplomacy and Negotiations		10		10
	Introduction to Public Administration		12		12
	Comparative Politics		10		10
	Principles of Economics		10		10
	Global History and Civilizations		10		10
	Communication and Media in International Relations			12	12
	International Economic and Investment Law			12	12
	Global Governance and Institutions			12	12

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	Foreign Policy Analysis			12	12
	International Political Economy			12	12
	Regional Integration Laws			12	12
	International Security			12	12
	International Development and Aid Policy			12	12
	Geopolitics and Global Strategy			12	12
	Artificial Intelligence and International Relations			12	12
	International Business and Global Trade			12	12
	Cyber Diplomacy and Digital Governance			12	12
	Crisis Management and Humanitarian Diplomacy			12	12
	Regional Integration and Multilateralism			12	12
	Human Rights and Global Justice			12	12
	Law of Armed Conflict			12	12
	Immigration and Refugee Law			12	12
	International Law			12	12

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	Economic Diplomacy			12	12
	Development Economics			12	12
	International Protocol and Etiquette			12	12
	Modern State			12	12
	Regional Politics and Development			12	12
	Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies			12	12
	Industrial Attachment			60	60
	Research Project			24	24
STRANDS/ SPECIALIZATION	Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level			Total Credits
		Level [5]	Level [6]	Level [7]	
1.	N/A				
2.	N/A				
Electives	Environmental Policy and Climate Change			12	12
	Conflict of Laws			12	12
	Gender and Global Politics			12	12

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SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL

TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL

<i>NCQF Level</i>	<i>Credit Value</i>
5	20
6	64
7	396
TOTAL CREDITS	480

Rules of Combination:

(Please indicate combinations for the different constituent components of the qualification)

The credit distribution comprises 32 credits from the fundamental component, 436 credits from the core component, and 12 credits from the elective component, with students choosing only one (1) module.

ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

All assessments which are leading to the award of the qualification should be based on learning outcomes and associated assessment criteria. Assessment will be conducted by Assessors who have registered with the Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA). The assessments will be as follows:

i. Formative Assessment

Formative assessment accounts for 60% of the final assessment mark.

ii. Summative Assessment

The weighting of summative assessment is 40 % of the final assessment mark.

MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS

There will be provision for internal and external moderation, conducted by Moderators registered with the Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA).

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered for the award of this qualification, in line with the institution's RPL policies.

CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER

Credit Accumulation Transfer (CAT) will be considered for the award of this qualification, in line with CAT institutional policies.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)

Learning Pathways

Horizontal Articulation:

- Bachelor of Arts in Global Governance and Public Policy
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy and Global Development
- Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy

Vertical Articulation

- Postgraduate Certificate in Diplomatic Studies and Foreign Policy
- Postgraduate Diploma in International Diplomacy and Negotiations
- Postgraduate Diploma in Public Policy and Governance
- Bachelor of International Relations (Hons)
- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Politics and International Relations
- Masters in International Relations and Global Governance
- Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies

Employment Pathways:

- Diplomat/Foreign Service Officer
- International Relations Officer
- Protocol Officer
- NGO Program Coordinator
- Human Rights Officer
- Policy Analyst
- Public Administrator
- International Security Analyst
- Peace and Conflict Resolution Expert

QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

Candidates meeting the prescribed requirements will be awarded the qualification in accordance with the qualification composition rules and applicable policies. To be eligible for the award of the Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Governance, candidates should have passed all course work and the final examination and obtained a minimum of 480 credits. A certificate will be issued to learners who are awarded the qualification.

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Governance has been benchmarked with the following regional and international qualifications:

- Bachelor of Arts in International Relations – University of South Africa (UNISA)-South Africa
- Bachelor of International Relations – Australian National University (ANU) – Australia
- Bachelor of Political Science and International Relations – Griffith University – Australia

The benchmarking exercise revealed that the proposed Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Governance compares favourably with other regional and international Universities. All the qualifications are pitched at level 7, following the qualification framework adopted by each country (NCQF, NQF and AQF). The titles of all four qualifications are similarly focused, reflecting core themes of diplomacy, international relations, governance and global political engagement. While all share a commitment to preparing students for international engagement, the proposed qualification integrates governance and international integration as central pillars, therefore making it more contextually responsive to national and continental development agendas.

All qualifications cover common academic domains, including political science, international law, diplomacy, economics, research and public policy. However, the proposed qualification is notably more interdisciplinary and contemporary by covering emerging fields such as cyber diplomacy, digital governance and artificial intelligence in international relations, crisis management, climate diplomacy and regional integration laws. The proposed qualification has a provision for a mandatory industry attachment component to enable learners gain practical experience, whereas University of South Africa, Australian National University and Griffith University offer optional internships or capstone projects. The assessment strategies for all qualifications include both formative and summative to assess the achievement of the stated learning outcomes.

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Based on the qualification frameworks used by each country, there are some differences in terms of credits and duration. The proposed qualification is designed to run for four years, comprising of 480 credits. In comparison, qualifications offered by ANU, Griffith University and UNISA run for three years, carrying 144, 240 and 360 credits, respectively.

In terms of career and educational pathways, the proposed qualification and the benchmarked ones prepare graduates for employment as diplomats, public administrators, international organizations officers and policy researchers. Furthermore, all qualifications prepare and allow learners to progress and pursue other postgraduate qualifications in international relations, public policy, diplomacy, peace and conflict studies etc.

REVIEW PERIOD

This qualification will be reviewed after every 5 years.

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For Official Use Only:

CODE (ID)			
REGISTRATION STATUS	BQA DECISION NO.	REGISTRATION START DATE	REGISTRATION END DATE
LAST DATE FOR ENROLMENT		LAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	
REVISION DATE:		NAME OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES/REGULATORY	