

BQA NCQF QUALIFICATION TEMPLATE

SECTION A: QUALIFICATION DETAILS												
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER (S)	Regulatory Authority: Architects' Registration Council											
TITLE	Bachelor of Architectural Studies						NCQF LEVEL	7				
STRANDS (where applicable)	1. 2. 3. 4.											
FIELD	Physical Planning and Construction						CREDIT VALUE	480				
SUB FIELD	Architecture											
New Qualification	✓	Legacy Qualification				Renewal Qualification		Registration Code				
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>a. The Architects' Registration Council (Architects Registration Act of 2008, Cap. 61.08 Section 23(2)(a)(i), and Architects Registration Regulations of 2015, 3(2)(b)(i)) provides for the registration of Architectural Technologists and for one to qualify for registration as a technologist, one has to have;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minimum of a Degree or Diploma in Architecture or A Degree or Diploma in Architectural or Construction Technology. b. Minimum duration of full-time study for three (3) years <p>b. Architectural Technology in Botswana is an emerging field focused on the science behind building design, construction, and performance. Rooted in engineering and construction principles, it addresses technical architectural challenges and is becoming increasingly valued</p>												

within a resource-strained and risk-conscious industry. In the digital era, its data-driven approach—especially through tools like Building Information Modelling—is seen as vital for enhancing sustainability, productivity, and cost-effectiveness

- c. Architectural Technology supports creative, science-based building design within Physical Planning and Construction. In Botswana’s developing economy, it’s essential to meet the growing demand for Technologists, Draughtspersons, and Architects in order to deliver efficient and sustainable buildings. The Human Resource Development Council Priority Skills list of 2023/24: https://www.hrdc.org.bw/web/sites/default/files/2024-06/priority_skills_20232024_consolidated_list_of_priority_occupations_and_skills.pdf: Accessed 18 June '25, lists Medical Facility/Healthcare Architects as one of the priority occupations and skills. The same report also lists CAD Technician/ Draughtsman and Construction Technologists, who are part of the architectural profession, as priority occupations.
- d. The qualification, Bachelor of Architectural Studies therefor has the purpose of closing the gap between the design stage (mainly done by the professional architect) and the delivery of the finished working drawings to the client or their representative (done by Draughtspersons).
- e. The Botswana Labour market observatory <https://www.botswanalmo.org.bw/sites/default/files/Priority%20Occupations%20in%20Demand.pdf>: accessed 19 June '25 under Table 1: List of priority occupations in demand includes *architects, planners & surveyors* as professions in deficit for both current and projected trends. It is this identified gap as well that the proposed program seeks to address.

PURPOSE: (itemise exit level outcomes)

The purpose of the qualification is to produce graduates with specialised knowledge, skills, and competence to:

- a. Apply specialised knowledge of architectural theories and concepts to produce, present, and communicate architectural designs as per the design brief for simple to standard architectural projects.
- b. Develop architectural designs that thoughtfully integrate materials, spatial concepts, and environmental considerations to produce innovative, culturally and contextually responsive built environments.
- c. Manage simple to standard architectural projects and office operations for the projects from concept to delivery, integrating innovative design solutions with ethical, legal, and professional standards, while coordinating multidisciplinary teams to achieve contextually responsive and timely outcomes.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)

1. Access and inclusion measures have been created and considered in this qualification to allow fair and equal entry requirements for learners from a wide spectrum of learning. The qualification admits learners from any design field regardless of their age, gender, disability, or learning difficulty.
2. Minimum Entry Requirement:
 - a. Certificate IV, NCQF level 4 (BGCSE) or equivalent, or
 - b. Approved Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation Transfer (CAT), (Where applicants who do not meet the above criteria but possess relevant industry experience may be considered through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation Transfer (CAT) policies for access. This consideration will be done following the guidelines of the ETP policies, which are aligned with BQA/National RPL and CAT policies.)

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SECTION B		QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION	
GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
<p>1. Design and Studio</p> <p>Create innovative and context-sensitive architectural designs from a given brief for simple to standard projects.</p>	<p>1.1 Interpret client requirements, constraints, and objectives to inform architectural design decisions that align with project goals, contextual conditions, and stakeholder expectations.</p> <p>1.2 Conduct systematic site research and feasibility studies to inform site decision-making before implementing the project.</p> <p>1.3 Analyse the site, study the neighbourhood context, environmental aspects, and report on their potential effects on the design response.</p> <p>1.4 Research on, analyse, and present theories in architecture and illustrate their application to the design.</p> <p>1.5 Generate original and inventive design solutions for simple to standard projects that explore creative concepts, experimental forms, and novel approaches to spatial, material, and environmental challenges.</p> <p>1.6 Develop the designs for simple to standard projects and demonstrate the influence of the concept on the proposed solution.</p> <p>1.7 Simplify elements of designs for simple to standard architectural projects to enhance clarity, sustainability, constructability, and response to context.</p> <p>1.8 Present to a client using appropriate visual communication techniques, the relationship between the design and site.</p> <p>1.9 Communicate architectural design concepts effectively to a client, using appropriate visual, verbal, and written methods to ensure clarity, engagement, and assist the client with informed decision-making</p>		
<p>1. Art and History</p> <p>Interpret historical and contemporary architectural movements from the ancient civilisation to contemporary architecture</p>	<p>2.1. Research, analyse and present on architectural cultural movements from the ancient civilisation to contemporary architecture to demonstrate how historical</p>		

<p>to develop imaginative and original design approaches that respond to cultural and environmental contexts.</p>	<p>precedents inform current design strategies.</p> <p>2.2. Compare different philosophies in architectural history and art and present their relevance to the project to support design decision-making.</p> <p>2.3. Synthesise insights from historical architectural movements to develop original and innovative design concepts that translate precedent into novel, contextually responsive solutions.</p>
<p>3. Architectural Science and Technology</p> <p>Demonstrate specialised technical knowledge of building materials, construction methods, and building services, and apply this knowledge to resolve design and construction challenges in architectural practice.</p>	<p>3.1. Identify and prescribe appropriate building materials and finishes to create imaginative and purposeful material and finish solutions for a specific structure or space that enhance the aesthetic, functional, and contextual qualities of a building or space.</p> <p>3.2. Select and specify appropriate and alternative construction methods for a project.</p> <p>3.3. Apply relevant environmental requirements to various structures or spaces, considering climate, sustainability, regulatory standards, and site-specific conditions.</p> <p>3.4. Demonstrate the selection and application of safe, environmentally friendly materials in the design or construction of a structure, considering health, sustainability, and regulatory standards.</p> <p>3.5. Apply specialised knowledge of building physics, technologies, and functional design to create internally comfortable and climate-responsive spaces that enhance occupants' spatial experience.</p> <p>3.6. Analyse and present to a client on the suitability of materials, tectonic systems, structural systems, and building services for a project in relation to project requirements.</p>

4. Professional Practice and Ethics

Effectively manage simple to medium architectural projects and practice

- 4.1. Administer building contracts for simple to standard projects, ensuring compliance with contractual obligations, timelines, and professional standards
- 4.2. Inspect sites and consult clients, management, and other stakeholders to determine the type, style, and size of proposed buildings and alterations to existing buildings for simple to standard projects.
- 4.3. Provide information to stakeholders regarding the designs, materials, and estimated building times for simple to standard projects
- 4.4. Supervise work teams in simple to standard projects and apply general knowledge in construction management.
- 4.5. Supervise and inspect construction site operations.
- 4.6. Prepare project documentation and scale drawings, integrating multiple disciplines—such as elements from structural engineering, quantity survey, and building services—into final designs to support coordinated and functional project outcomes.
- 4.7. Manage a simple architectural practice, demonstrating competence in project coordination, client communication, resource planning, and adherence to professional standards
- 4.8. Apply relevant legal instruments—such as contracts, building regulations, and professional codes—to support the delivery of simple to standard architectural projects in compliance with industry standards and local legislation.
- 4.9. Plan and complete assigned architectural tasks within the scheduled timeframe, demonstrating effective time management, task prioritization, and accountability in a studio or project setting.

	<p>4.10. Apply and uphold available industry standards, best practice and professional ethics as well as occupational health and safety standards in the delivery of architectural work</p> <p>4.11. Write specifications and contract documents for use by buildings and call tenders on behalf of clients for simple to standard building projects.</p> <p>4.12.</p>
<p>5. Complementary</p> <p>Produce Construction and presentation drawings using appropriate tools, techniques, and conventions, and present projects to stakeholders.</p>	<p>5.1. Use digital tools to produce construction drawings.</p> <p>5.2. Apply insights from human behaviour, cultural practices, and social contexts to communicate architectural designs effectively, ensuring presentations are meaningful, engaging, and responsive to diverse user experiences</p> <p>5.3. Use presentation skills to communicate architectural ideas effectively, in line with industry standards and professional practice.</p> <p>5.4. Effectively record and communicate architectural information using appropriate written and graphical techniques, in the context of design development, documentation, and client or team communication.</p> <p>5.5. Use appropriate technical tools to monitor and inspect construction operations, ensuring quality control, compliance, and accurate reporting on-site</p>

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SECTION C	QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE					
COMPONENT	TITLE	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level				Total Credits
		Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	
FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units	Studio lecture or Free Studio (1)	10				10
	Communication and academic writing Skills (5)		4	6		10
	Computing & Information Skills (5)	3	3			6
	Technical Draughting (1)	4	4			8
	Land Surveying and Cartography (3)	4	4			8
CORE COMPONENT Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units	Architectural Design Studio (1)		30	50	35	115
	Research methods (1)			6	6	12
	Theory of Architectural Design (2)		8	12	8	28
	Sociology / Philosophy of Architecture (2)			12	6	18
	Architectural History (2)	6	6	12	4	28
	Urban Design and Regional Planning studies (1)			10	6	16

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Fines Arts and Architectural Presentation (2)		5	8	5	18
Environmental Science and/or Design (3)			8	4	12
Sustainable Architecture (3)			8	4	12
Building Services and Technology (3)		6	7	5	18
Building Materials and Construction (3)		6	9	5	20
Theory of Structures (3)		7	8	7	22
Technical Documentation (1)		4	6	4	14
Construction Processes (4)		3	6	3	12
Professional Practice Studies (4)			7	5	12
Project Finance and Cost Control (4)			7	5	12
Project Planning Techniques (4)			7	5	12
Contracts (4)			7	5	12
Legislative Environment (4)		4	4		8
Occupational, Health and Safety for Construction projects (5)			5		5
Computer Aided Design (1)		3	4		7
Internship (4)		5	5	5	15

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STRANDS/ SPECIALIZATION	Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level				Total Credits
		Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	
1.						
2.						
Electives	Day-lighting Design and Simulation (5)			5		5
	Thermal/Energy Modelling or Simulation (5)					
	Landscape Design (1)			5		5
	Architectural Interior Design (1)					

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SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL

TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL

NCQF Level	Credit Value
8	127
7	224
6	102
5	27
TOTAL CREDITS	480

Rules of Combination:

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

1. Minimum 428 credits to be acquired from Core, minimum 42 credits from Fundamental components, and minimum 10 credits to be acquired from Elective components;
2. Learners must select and register for 2(no) electives, all offered at Level 7. A minimum of 10 elective credits is required, following these rules:
 - a. Choose one module (5 credits) from a set of two electives labelled 1 (Design and Studio) and
 - b. Choose one module (5 credits) from a set of two electives labelled 5 (Complementary).
 - c. Both to add to a total of 10 elective credits at level 7

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ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. ASSESSMENTS

The assessment weighting should be as follows:

- a. Formative Assessment: 60%
- b. Summative Assessment: 40%

MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Both internal and external moderation will be undertaken by moderators who have been accredited by BQA and registered with the Architects' Registration Council. All processes and procedures will be in line with NCQF requirements. This will be conducted in reference to each ETP's moderation policy and procedures. The following shall apply for both internal and external moderation:

- a. **Internal moderation:** The internal moderation process shall be conducted by assessors at institutional level who are accredited with BQA in their specialist areas as assessors and moderators.
- b. **External moderation:** The external moderation process shall be performed by an examination unit or awarding body. The examination unit/awarding body shall also perform the quality assurance mandate and be responsible for identifying industry players, partnerships, and experts to assist in the moderation process.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Candidates may submit evidence of prior learning and current competence and/or undergo appropriate forms of RPL assessment for the award of credits towards the qualification in accordance with applicable RPL policies and relevant national-level policy and legislative framework. Implementation of RPL shall also be consistent with requirements, if any, prescribed for the field or sub-field of study by relevant national, regional or international professional bodies

CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER

Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) will be available to learners in accordance with the National CAT Policy. It will be used for exemption from part of the qualification IN TERMS OF exemption from modules in which the prescribed learning outcomes for this qualification have already been achieved.

CAT will facilitate horizontal, vertical, and diagonal articulation between this qualification and qualifications. Learners can transfer credits between related qualifications (with assessed comparable modules, level descriptors, learning outcomes and assessment criteria), allowing them to build on previous learning experiences and access broader educational opportunities. The system will also support cross-disciplinary transitions, enhancing individuals' ability to align their studies with evolving industry demands and workforce requirements.

The procedure for Credit Transfer will be implemented in the following steps:

- (i) Assessment of Eligibility
- (ii) Mapping Credit and Level Equivalencies
- (iii) Approval and Documentation
- (iv) Integration into the New Qualification

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)

This qualification is designed to facilitate vertical, horizontal, and diagonal progression:

- Learning Pathways:
 - Learners completing the first year should have acquired fundamentals in fine arts, architecture, and planning to allow for horizontal articulation to another Level 7 qualification, including the following:
 - Architecture,
 - Architectural technology
 - Construction,
 - Landscape Architecture,
 - Interior Architecture
 - The qualification allows for vertical progression with the necessary competencies to a Level 8 or 9 qualification, including the following, but not limited to:
 - Bachelor of Architecture Honours (Level 8)
 - Level 8 in Landscape Architecture
 - Level 8 in Interior Architecture
 - Master of Architecture
- Employment Pathways – employment opportunities for this qualification, including but not limited to the following:
 - Architectural Technologist,
 - Draftsperson in the Mining industry,
 - Facilities Manager,
 - Buildings Inspector,
 - Building Control Officer,
 - Clerk of Works,
 - Site Agent,
 - Visualisation technologists,

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- Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Management Technologists

- The job opportunities, the degree, and nature of responsibility and liability for work for persons with this qualification and registered with the Architects' Registration Council will be indicated in the *Identification of Scope of Work* of the architectural profession determined by the Architects' Registration Council.

QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

Minimum standards of achievement for the award of the qualification

- The minimum requirement for the award of the Bachelor of Architectural Studies qualification is the attainment of 480 credits at NCQF level 7.
- Graduates will be issued a certificate and transcript upon successful completion of the qualification.

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

The proposed Bachelor of Architectural Studies qualification is highly comparable to the reviewed qualifications in terms of level, duration, and core academic and professional outcomes, with all programs providing a strong foundation in architectural design, theory, technical competence, and professional practice. Assessment approaches across the qualifications are consistent, integrating formative and summative methods, including projects, portfolios, presentations, and examinations, and all facilitate progression to higher-level studies and professional development. The proposed qualification distinguishes itself through an enhanced emphasis on sustainability, interdisciplinary knowledge, project management, and specialized technical competencies, alongside broader employment pathways within the built environment. Overall, the qualification aligns with recognized international standards while offering added versatility and industry-relevant skills.

REVIEW PERIOD

This Qualification shall be reviewed every five (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	