BQA NCQF QUALIFICATION TEMPLATE

SECTION A:	QUALIFICATION DETAILS														
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER (S)	Architects' Registration Council														
TITLE	Diploma in Architectural Technology											**NCQF LEVEL**	6		
STRANDS (where applicable)	N/A														
FIELD	Field 13: Physical Planning and Construction											**CREDIT VALUE**	360		
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

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 Technologist and for one to qualify for registration as a technologist one has to have;

   i. Minimum of a Degree or Diploma in Architecture or A Degree or Diploma in Architectural or Construction Technology.

   ii. Minimum duration of full-time study for three (3) years.

b. The **Human Resource Development Council (HRDC)** in Botswana has published several reports identifying priority skills and occupations in high demand. According to the Priority Skills 2025 report, *https://www.hrdc.org.bw/web/sites/default/files/2025-07/prioirty_skills_report-_30th_may_2025.pdf,* (Accessed 22nd August 2025), the demand for architecture and related specialisations are listed as follows:

   i. Emerging Green Domain and Skills (Table 24, Page 33), where **Architect Specialists** and **Building Supervisors** with skills in climate change mitigation in the built environment and green facilities management are earmarked to be an emerging growing field.
   ii. An indicated demand for up to 4 specialists annually up to 2028 in the Medical Facilities or Healthcare Architecture field (Appendix 4; Skills Forecasts, page 96)

   Due to the nature of their work in the Physical Planning and Construction industry, architects typically require the support of two to three—or sometimes more—Architectural Technologists, depending on the scope of the project. These technologists play a vital role in detailing and modelling. Their importance is further highlighted in Government National Development Plans and HRDC Sector Committee reports, which emphasize the growing demand for specialist architects.

c. The Botswana Labour market observatory List of priority occupations in demand, *https://www.botswanalmo.org.bw/sites/default/files/Priority Occupations in Demand.pdf* accessed (19th of August. 2025 under Table 1), there will be a projected deficit of 324 architects, planners, and surveyors by the year 2028. This shortfall highlights the urgent need to develop Diploma-level TVET training qualification to support these professions and ensure effective project delivery across the built environment sector.

d. Article 63 of the Botswana National 2025 Budget Speech https://www.finance.gov.bw/images/speeches/2025_Budget_Speech__MINISTER_09-02-2025_FINAL.pdf (Accessed 18th August 2025, Page 14) outlines a 5 year housing initiative aimed at empowering landowners to build homes and access financing. To realize this vision of 100,000 housing units, architectural professionals are essential—they ensure quality, safety, and culturally appropriate design, turning policy into liveable spaces for all Batswana.

PURPOSE: (itemise exit level outcomes)

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

- Apply basic design principles and relevant interdisciplinary knowledge to produce, present, and communicate architectural concepts and documentation using industry-standard written, graphical, and digital tools for simple to standard architectural projects.

- Select, apply, appropriate materials, construction methods, and environmental strategies to deliver safe, sustainable, and contextually responsive architectural solutions for simple to standard architectural projects independently and for complex architectural solutions under supervision.

- Manage simple to standard architectural projects and practice operations effectively, including contract administration, legal compliance, ethical conduct, and coordination of construction activities within scheduled timeframes and in accordance with design and performance requirements

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)

Fulltime Entry Requirements:

- 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.

The candidate to have obtained a minimum of:

- Certificate IV NCQF level 4 from TVET or General education or equivalent

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation Transfer (CAT)

- 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 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**
1. Design and Studio Create architectural designs as per design brief for simple to standard projects.	1.1 Illustrate the impact of environmental and site conditions on architectural design for a specific project. 1.2 Create a design and demonstrate how the concept shapes the proposed architectural solution. 1.3 Refine and adapt architectural components to suit simple to standard projects. 1.4 Use appropriate techniques to effectively showcase the connection between the design and its surrounding site. 1.5 Clearly explain to the client how the prepared architectural design has been influenced by planning requirements, development controls, and technological systems

2. Art and History Interpret architectural cultural movements from the ancient civilisation to contemporary architecture to develop contextually informed and critically engaged design approaches. .	2.1 Research and present on architectural cultural movements from the ancient civilisation to contemporary architecture to demonstrate how they affected your design strategy in a project 2.2 Compare different approaches in architectural history and art and present their relevance to the project to support design decision making.
3. Architectural Science and Technology Demonstrate advanced knowledge of building materials, construction methods, and building services, and apply this knowledge to resolve technical design and construction challenges in architectural practice.	3.1 Recommend appropriate building materials and finishes for a specific structure or space. 3.2 Choose, define, and implement suitable construction techniques for a simple to medium-scale project. 3.3 Apply knowledge of the effects of different building materials and finishes on the character of a structure or space for a simple to medium-scale project 3.4 Identify and demonstrate the essential environmental considerations for different structures or spaces. 3.5 Select and use safe environmentally friendly materials in a project. 3.6 Interpret building regulations and apply their requirements to the design of a simple to medium project. 3.7 Apply specialised knowledge of technologies and the function of buildings internally and externally to provide protection against the climate. 3.8 Determine materials, tectonics, structural stability and building services applied in construction.
4. Professional Practice and Ethics Effectively manage simple to standard architectural projects, demonstrating planning, coordination, and professional communication in practice.	4.1 Supervise teams in simple to medium projects while applying fundamental construction management principles. 4.2 Supervise and Inspect construction site operations. 4.3 Integrate different disciplines in architectural work.

	4.4 Manage a simple architectural practice. 4.5 Utilize legal frameworks to ensure proper execution of simple to medium-scale projects in practice. 4.6 Plan and deliver the assigned architectural task within the scheduled time. 4.7 Impart and enforce available industry standards, best practice, professional ethics and occupational health and safety standards to a project. 4.8 Administer building contracts for simple to medium projects.
5. Complementary Apply practical skills to produce and communicate presentation and construction drawings effectively.	5.1 Use digital tools to produce construction drawings. 5.2 Demonstrate effective communication using industry-standard presentation techniques. 5.3 Effectively record and communicate using appropriate written and graphical techniques. 5.4 Apply technical tools to monitor and inspect construction operations.

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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 Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units	Communication and academic writing Skills (5)	4		4	8
	Computing & Information Skills (5)	3	3		6
	Land Surveying and Cartography (3)	5	10		15
	Studio lecture or Free Studio (1)	5	5		10

CORE COMPONENT Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units	Architectural Design Studio (1)	10	25	20	55
	Theory of Architectural Design (2)		5	5	10
	Architectural History (2)	6	6		12
	Urban Design and Regional Planning studies (1)			10	10
	Fines Arts and Architectural Presentation (2)	5	5	5	15
	Architectural Draughting (1)	5	10	10	25
	Technical Documentation (1)	10	10	10	30
	Environmental Science and/or Design (3)		7	7	14
	Sustainable Architecture (3)			6	6
	Building Services and Technology (3)		10	10	20
	Building Materials and Construction (3)		10	10	20
	Structures/ Applied Mechanics (3)		10	10	20
	Construction Processes and Contracts (4)		6	10	16
	Computer Aided Design (1)	5	5	8	18

	Legislative Environment (4)		7		7
	Project Planning Techniques (4)			5	5
	Occupational, Health and Safety for Construction projects (5)		8		8
	Internship (4)		10	10	20
STRANDS/ SPECIALIZATION	Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units	**Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level**			**Total Credits**
		Level [5]	**Level [6]**	**Level [7]**	
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)				

SUMMARY OF CREDIT DISTRIBUTION FOR EACH COMPONENT PER NCQF LEVEL	
TOTAL CREDITS PER NCQF LEVEL	
NCQF Level	**Credit Value**
Level 5	63
Level 6	152
Level 7	150
TOTAL CREDITS	**360**

Rules of Combination:

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

- The qualification of Diploma in Architectural Technology has 360 credits.
- The Composition of the qualification has three levels: Levels 5, 6 and 7 with core modules accounting for 321 credits, fundamental modules accounting for 39 credits and 10 credits for elective modules

Credit Distribution Summary per relevant NQF levels

- Level 5: 58 credits (17 Fundamentals and 41 Core)
- Level 6: 152 (18 Fundamentals and 134 Core)
- Level 7: 150 credits (140 Core and 10 Electives)

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:

- Choose one module (5 credits) from a set of two electives labeled 1 (Design and Studio) and;
- Choose one module (5 credits) from a set of two electives labeled 5 (Complementary).

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ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. ASSESSMENTS

The 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 ETPs' 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:** External moderation process shall be performed by an examination unit or awarding body. The examination unit/awarding body shall also perform 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 6 qualification including the following:
        - Architecture,
        - Construction,
        - Landscape Architecture,
        - Interior Architecture
    - The qualification allows for vertical progression with the necessary competencies to a Level 7 or 8 qualification including the following but not limited to:
        - Bachelor of Architecture Honours
        - Bachelor of Architectural Technology
        - Bachelor of Architectural Studies
        - Bachelor of Construction Management
        - Level 7 or 8 in Landscape Architecture
        - Level 7or 8 in Interior Architecture
- Employments 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,

- 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 award of a Diploma in Architectural Technology qualification is attainment of 360 credits.
- Graduates will be issued a certificate and transcript upon successful completion of the qualification.

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

The proposed Diploma in Architectural Technology is broadly comparable in purpose, level, and academic intent to the Diploma in Architectural Technology at Nelson Mandela University (South Africa), the Diploma in Architectural Technologies at Saskatchewan Polytechnic (Canada), and the Diploma in Architecture Technology and Building Services at Temasek Polytechnic (Singapore), as all four qualifications prepare graduates for technical and professional roles within the built environment through architectural design, construction knowledge, digital tools, and applied learning. The main differences lie in emphasis as the proposed qualification is holistic and interdisciplinary, while NMU is theory-focused, Saskatchewan is construction- and code-driven, and Temasek is digitally and energy-performance focused. Assessment approaches are similar in using multiple methods, and they clearly define multi-directional articulation and a broader range of contemporary employment pathways, confirming the proposed qualifications equivalence in level while demonstrating a future-focused, professionally oriented character.

REVIEW PERIOD

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	