

## BQA NCQF QUALIFICATION TEMPLATE

<b>SECTION A: QUALIFICATION DETAILS</b>														
<b>QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER (S)</b>	University of Botswana													
<b>TITLE</b>	Master of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning						<b>NCQF LEVEL</b>	9						
<b>STRANDS (where applicable)</b>	N/A													
<b>FIELD</b>	Physical Planning & Construction			<b>SUB-FIELD</b>	Architecture			<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	240					
<i>New Qualification</i>					<i>Legacy Qualification</i>							√		
<b>SUB-FRAMEWORK</b>	<i>General Education</i>				<i>TVET</i>				<i>Higher Education</i>				√	
<b>QUALIFICATION TYPE</b>	<i>Certificate</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>Diploma</i>	<i>Bachelor or</i>						
<i>Bachelor Honours</i>		<i>Post Graduate Certificate</i>				<i>Post Graduate Diploma</i>								
<i>Masters</i>						√		<i>Doctorate/ PhD</i>						
<b>RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFICATION</b>														
<p><b>RATIONALE:</b></p> <p>The qualification has been designed to respond to Botswana's social and economic needs and that of the region, especially in urban and regional planning. It is aligned to the key strategic sectors of the built, research, innovation, science, and technology identified by the Human Resource Development Council, which requires a high workforce demand to transform Botswana into a knowledge-based and circular economy. The qualification's core mandate is to produce researchers in various built environment subfields. The qualification contributes toward the strategic role of meeting the country's development needs through advancing human resource development and developing research and innovation capacity (Towards a knowledge Society. Tertiary Education Policy, 2010; Revised National Policy of Education 1994; National Human Resource Development Plan, 2009-2022; Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan, 2015; National Development Plan</p>														

11, 2017 and HRDC, 2019 top occupations priority area - manufacturing). Furthermore, this qualification is commensurate with three pillars of Vision 2036 of producing 'sustainable economic development, human and social development, and sustainable environment' and key future imperatives of research, innovation, and sustainability.

***PURPOSE: (itemise exit level outcomes)***

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

1. Carry out independent analytical research in the urban and regional planning space and present a research output to diverse audience, including private and public sector, community members, Non-Governmental Organisations, and policy makers.
2. Demonstrate transferrable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, presentation, communication, analytical, critical thinking, and perseverance.
3. Lead a team as a researcher, data analyst or project manager.

***MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)***

The minimum requirements for entrance to the Master of Philosophy degree qualification shall be:

- Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning or related area at NCQF Level 7 or equivalent.
- Recognition of Prior Learning, RPL, shall be considered in accordance with institutional and national policies on RPL.

<b>SECTION B QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION</b>	
<b>GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT CRITERIA</b>
<p>1. Conduct original, independent research in Urban and Regional Planning.</p>	<p>1.1 Conceptualise a relevant research issue in the urban and regional planning space.</p> <p>1.2 Conduct critical literature review to identify gap(s) in knowledge, either in theory or practice.</p> <p>1.3 Formulate a research proposal.</p> <p>1.4 Defend the research proposal in a colloquium/research seminar/conference made up of a panel of subject experts.</p> <p>1.5 Develop appropriate data collection methods and instruments.</p> <p>1.6 Conduct fieldwork, experiments, etc., gathering data &amp; analysis of results in urban and regional planning.</p> <p>1.7 Conduct data analysis of the data collected through fieldwork, experiments, etc.</p> <p>1.8 Construct a compelling argument based on the analysed data and supported by literature to contribute to the identified research/knowledge gap.</p>
<p>2. Communicate complex research findings to a diverse audience.</p>	<p>2.1 Defend the results of research analysis in a panel of experts (e.g. colloquia, conferences).</p> <p>2.2 Author research papers publishable in recognised journals.</p>

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	<p>2.3 Explain results and implications to community members and policy makers and any other stakeholder.</p> <p>2.4 Write simplified briefing notes and abstracts for non-expert audiences.</p>
<p>3. Adhere to professional ethics in the field of urban and regional planning.</p>	<p>3.1 Maintain the highest standards of personal, academic, and professional integrity.</p> <p>3.2 Observe ethical codes and legal guidelines in conducting responsible scientific research and implementing projects.</p> <p>3.3 Show responsibility and accountability towards a client, community and/or employer.</p>

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SECTION C	QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE				
COMPONENT	TITLE	Credits Per Relevant NCQF Level			Total Credits
		Level [8]	Level [9]	Level [ ]	
		<b>FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT</b> <i>Subjects/ Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	Research Methods		
<b>CORE COMPONENT</b> <i>Subjects/Courses/ Modules/Units</i>	Research Proposal		60		<b>60</b>
	Journal Article		30		<b>30</b>
	Thesis for Master of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning		120		<b>120</b>
<b>Electives</b>	Not applicable				

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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>
9	240
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>240</b>

**Rules of Combination:**

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

A candidate will obtain the qualification by:

- i. Completing the fundamental coursework (research methods module - 30 credits) and Core coursework (research proposal - 60 credits and a dissertation - 120 credits).
- ii. Publishing at least one (1) journal article in reputable journals recognised by the University (30 Credits).

**Total credits: 240**

### **ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

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

#### **Formative assessment**

Formative assessment (proposal defense) will contribute 38% towards the award of the final standing.

#### **Summative assessment**

Summative assessment will contribute 62% to the final standing.

### **MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS**

The qualification shall have an internal and external moderation following applicable policies and regulations for quality assurance to ensure fairness, validity, reliability, and consistency of assessments. The moderators shall be registered and accredited by the Botswana Qualifications Authority and/or equivalent regulatory board.

### **RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING**

Learners 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 policy and relevant national-level policy and legislative framework.

### **CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER**

The Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) shall be applicable in accordance with Institutional and National Policies on CAT.

### **PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)**

**Horizontal Articulation** (related qualifications of a similar level (NCQF Level 9) that graduates may progress to):

Master of Philosophy in Urban Studies,

Master of Philosophy in Spatial Planning,

Master of Philosophy in Town and Country Planning

**Vertical Articulation (NCQF Level 10)** qualifications to which the holder may progress to:

Learners may proceed to pursue:

- Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning.
- Doctor of Philosophy Urban Studies.
- Doctor of Philosophy Regional Science.
- Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies.

### Employment Pathways

- Professional researchers at universities, government, scientific institutes.
- Researchers in research and development and innovation assignments.

### QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

#### Minimum standards of achievement for the award of the qualification

To be awarded a Master of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning a learner should have satisfied all learning outcomes and met the minimum credit requirements 240 credits.

#### Certification

After satisfying all the requirements, a learner will be awarded a Master of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning certificate.

### SUMMARY OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

This qualification is aligned with equivalent qualifications awarded elsewhere in the region and internationally with respect to exit outcomes, content, assessments, and qualification rules. Some notable points of comparison are summarised below from three (3) qualifications; one regionally in South African University of Stellenbosch, and two international universities in the United Kingdom (University of Cambridge).

#### Similarities

- i. Admission into the Master of Philosophy qualification requires a bachelor's degree.
- ii. Learning domains are similar.

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- iii. Employability pathways are the similar.
- iv. An oral examination must be conducted to defend the dissertation to attain the qualification.
- v. Emphasis for all the qualifications is on the ability to carry out independent research.

### Differences

- The University of Johannesburg qualification is purely by research, though students can attend seminars, like the proposed qualification, while the University of Cambridge qualification has taught courses.
- The duration of the qualification for the three universities ranges from ten months to three years for the three universities.
- The nomenclature in all the three qualifications differs.

The Master of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning qualification aligns well with qualifications offered in South Africa and the United Kingdom. Therefore, the qualification provides for the international mobility of graduates. It prepares graduates for research and careers in higher education, government and research institutes, and industry, especially in research and development and innovation, and to pursue doctoral studies.

### REVIEW PERIOD

The qualification shall be reviewed every five years.

### 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	