# ANNEXURE C: QUALIFICATION TYPES
## National Qualifications Framework

Regulations Made in Terms of Namibia Qualifications Authority Act 29 Of 1996 Section 14, Regulations setting-up the National Qualifications Framework for Namibia, Government Notice 125 of 2006 (GG 3685) came into force on date of publication: 28 August 2006

## QUALIFICATION TYPES AND NOMENCLATURE

### Broad characteristics of Qualifications and Nomenclature

Namibia recognises three broad types of qualifications (Certificate, Diplomas and Degrees) which are introduced and placed on the NQF. Each qualification type is further characterised by specific criteria representing a standard that must be complied with if any qualification is to be specified as a particular type.

| Type | Basis of Award | Characteristics | | Characteristics and Purpose | Level of Certification | Size of Qualification |
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| | | Broad | Specific[1] | | | |
| **Certificates** | The award of a certificate generally follows the attainment of a meaningful and coherent cluster of outcomes of learning associated with one or more areas of learning. The volume of attainment recognised by a Certificate is generally less than that required for the award of a diploma. | **Certificates** | **Undergraduate Certificate** | • Qualifications carrying the name Certificate generally recognise ability or preparedness for both employment and further education and training.<br>• Such qualifications recognise proven ability in a coherent cluster of outcomes of learning pertinent to a work role or a recognisable and meaningful milestone on an education and training pathway. | Certificates may be awarded at Levels 1 to 8. This plan envisions certificates from level 4 excluding Vocational Education and Training (VET) Courses. | A *minimum* of 40 NQF credits of which a *minimum* of 40 must be at or above the level of certification. |

[1] Each qualification type is further characterised by specific criteria representing a standard that must be complied with if any qualification is to be specified as a particular type.

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| | Certificates may be an integral component of a degree and/or diploma and/or may be a stand-alone qualification.<br><br>Certificates may be awarded at more than one level of the NQF between Levels 1 and 8 inclusive. Distinguishing between Certificates at different awarding levels may be achieved by the inclusion in the Level in the title. | | **Postgraduate Certificate** | 5.1 Qualifications carrying the name Certificate generally recognise ability or preparedness for both employment and further education and training.<br>5.2 Post Graduate Certificate are awardable at a level in advance of the level of certification of a Bachelor degree.<br>5.3 Such qualifications often recognise ongoing professional development or continuing professional development in the same subject as an earlier degree. Such qualifications broaden, extend and/or deepen currently recognised knowledge and skills. | Certificates may be awarded at Level 8. | A *minimum* of 40 NQF credits of which a *minimum* of 40 must be at or above the level of certification. |
| **Diplomas** | A diploma is generally awarded following the satisfactory attainment of a sizeable, coherent cluster of outcomes of learning requiring a high level of demand and aligned with one or more learning areas.<br><br>Diplomas generally require the attainment of a volume of learning smaller than that required for the award of a degree. Diplomas may be an integral component of a degree and/or standalone from any other qualification.<br><br>Diplomas may be awarded across more than one level of the NQF between Levels 5 and 8 | | **Undergraduate Diploma** | Qualifications carrying the name Diploma recognise:<br>• preparedness of learners for self-directed application of skills and knowledge.<br>• capacity for initiative and judgement across a broad range of educational and vocational areas, and<br>• capacity for initiative and judgement in technical, professional, and/or management roles.<br>The knowledge, understanding and skills recognised in a diploma qualification are generally an extension of that recognised in prior qualifications or experience.<br><br>A lower qualification may not be awarded for early exit from a Diploma programme except where exit represents the attainment of another qualification. | Diplomas may be registered at Levels 5 to 8 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), although this plan limits diplomas to Level 6 on the NQF.<br><br>This excludes Diploma qualifications issued in advance of the level of certification of a Bachelor Degree – a Post Graduate Diploma at NQF Level 8. | A *minimum* of 120 NQF credits are required of which a *minimum* of 72 must be at or above the level of certification. |

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| | inclusive. Distinguishing between diplomas certificated at different levels may be achieved by the inclusion in the Level in the title. | | **Postgraduate Diploma** | 7.1 All Post Graduate Diploma shall be a Diploma qualification issued in advance of the level of certification of a Bachelor Degree.<br>7.2 A Post Graduate Diploma – shall recognise:<br>• an extended and deepened level of knowledge and skills that build on those developed in the principal subjects of an earlier degree (or other degree).<br>• awareness and familiarity, through a systematic and current survey, of current thinking and research in a particular body of knowledge, and<br>• instruction in relevant research methodologies.<br>A lower qualification may not be awarded for early exit from a Post Graduate Diploma programme except where exit represents the attainment of another qualification. | Post Graduate Diploma shall be registered and awarded at levels 8. | A minimum of 120 NQF credits are required of which a minimum of 72 must be at or above the level of certification. |

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| **Degrees** | A degree is generally awarded on the basis of the satisfactory completion of a course of advanced learning that is taught mainly by people engaged in research and that gives an emphasis to general principles and basic knowledge as the basis for self-directed work and learning. Five broad types of degrees are available.<br><br>The distinguishing features that characterise each and which may represent a standard to be met for any qualification to carry any of the above terms are provided and in some aspects discussed in the following sections.<br><br>The distinguishing features of these broad categories only have been described.<br><br>Often such degrees are represented as a number of | **Bachelors** | 3.1 A Bachelor's degree represent a systematic, well-rounded and coherent introduction to the broad knowledge, ideas, principles, concepts, chief research methods and problem-solving techniques of a recognised major subject (or subjects, in the case of a double degree or a double major).<br>3.2 It generally involves at least one sequential study programme in which content is progressively developed to the point where a candidate is prepared for postgraduate study and supervised research. It prepares a candidate for advanced study as well as directed research and scholarship in the major subject(s) of the degree.<br>3.3 A qualification carrying the name Bachelor must be taught mainly by people engaged in research.<br>3.4 The qualification must require:<br>• an emphasis to the general principles, concepts, chief research methods, problem-solving techniques, and basic knowledge of an area(s) of learning<br>• development and use of ability in self-directed work and learning<br>• the use of skills needed to acquire, understand and assess information from a range of sources<br>• intellectual independence, critical thinking and analytical rigor, and<br>• advanced communication and collaborative skills.<br>A lower qualification may not be awarded for early exit from a Bachelor degree programme except where exit represents the attainment of another qualification. | Bachelor Degrees will be awarded at Level 7. | A minimum of 360 NQF credits is required from Level 4 and above.<br>A minimum of 72 NQF credits (60% of a full year of study) must come from Level 7.<br>The number of contributing credits from Level 4 is restricted to a maximum of 40 credits. |

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| | subject specialisms of the broad category, ie, a Bachelor of <Specialism>. Any specialism must firstly, however, meet the agreed standard for the relevant broad type of degree. | **Bachelor Honours** | 4.1 Bachelor Honours degrees represent an initial post graduate specialisation qualification building on a Bachelor degree in the same cognate area, often preparing people for research-based post graduate study.<br>4.2 Bachelor Honours degrees must:<br>• consolidate and deepen expertise in a particular discipline beyond that recognised in a Bachelor programme<br>• develop research capacity in the methodology and techniques of that discipline<br>• demand a high level of theoretical engagement and intellectual independence, and<br>• require the conduct and reporting of supervised research representing a minimum of 25% of the total credits at the level of certification.<br>A lower qualification may not be awarded for early exit from a Bachelor Honours degree programme except where exit represents the attainment of another qualification. | Bachelor Honours degrees shall be awarded at Level 8. | A minimum of 120 NQF credits at Level 8 in addition to those required to attain a Bachelor Degree.<br>A minimum of 30 of these Level 8 credits must be research related. |
| | | **Professional Bachelor** | 5.4 Professional Bachelor degrees represent substantial attainment of a body of outcomes of learning greater than and in advance of a Bachelor degree. Such degrees normally contain a substantial element of 'learning by doing' and often focus on preparation for entry into a professional field of practice.<br>5.5 Professional Bachelor degrees must:<br>• build to a level of conceptual sophistication, specialised knowledge and intellectual autonomy (similar to that described for Bachelor Honours degrees)<br>• include a terminal project or other supervised practice-based exercise(s) intended to demonstrate readiness for employment in the professional or occupational field of the qualification, and<br>• require performance in accordance with a regulatory framework administered by a regulatory or professional body (and thus have the direct recognition and endorsement of that body).<br>A lower qualification may not be awarded for early exit from a Professional Bachelor degree programme except where exit represents the attainment of another qualification. | A Professional Bachelor Degree shall be awarded at Level 8. | A minimum of 480 NQF credits at Level 4 and above are required of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at level 8.<br>The number of contributing credits from Level 4 is restricted to a maximum of 40 credits. |

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| | | **Masters** | Degrees at a Masterate level are normally designed to build on the principal subject(s) of a qualifying degree or qualification that itself contains a significant research component or preparation at an advanced level of the National Qualifications Framework.<br><br>Alternatively, a Masters degree may build on relevant knowledge and skills derived from occupational experience.<br><br>Masterate degrees are generally intended to prepare researchers who can contribute to the advancement of knowledge and/or prepare people for advanced and specialised employment.<br><br>Typically, Masterate degrees require people to:<br>• demonstrate mastery of theoretically sophisticated subject matter<br>• evaluate critically the findings and discussions in the literature<br>• to research, analyse and argue from evidence; to apply knowledge to new situations, and engage in rigorous intellectual analysis, criticism and problem-solving.<br><br>Masterate degrees must contain a significant element of supervised research. The results of this research would normally be embodied in a thesis, dissertation or substantial research paper, but in some cases be incorporated in a series of papers.<br><br>Where a number of papers are involved, the research component must be a minimum of 25% of the credits required for the award of the qualification.<br><br>The research component must be at the level of certification.<br><br>The research should demonstrate a capacity in the candidate for independent thinking. Creative work may also contribute to the research output.<br><br>A lower qualification may not be awarded for early exit from a Masters degree programme except where exit represents the attainment of another qualification. | Masters degrees shall be awarded at Level 9. | A minimum of 240 NQF credits at or above Level 9. A minimum of 25% of these credits must be awarded on the basis of a thesis or creative work. |

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| | | **Doctoral** | A Doctoral degree is the highest qualification awarded within the National Qualifications Framework. Such degrees may be:<br>• a pure research degree – a Doctor of Philosophy or<br>• a practice-oriented degree – a Named Doctorate or Professional Doctorate (eg Ed.D, DMus)<br>• a degree based on coursework, examination, and dissertation.<br>Degrees carrying the term 'Doctor" in the title must:<br>• refer to a research or practice degree that is at a significantly higher level and of significantly higher status than a masterate<br>• normally represent the culmination of a structured sequence of instruction at educational institutions that starts at bachelor degree level and reaches a stage beyond masterate when the student becomes an increasingly independent scholar and makes a substantial and original contribution to knowledge.<br>• Coursework may apply but should:<br>• only contribute to the preparation for research, except in the case of a Named Doctorate;<br>o be at a level above that of masterate qualifications; and<br>o not normally cover more than one full-time academic year (ie, no more than the equivalent of 120 NQF credits).<br>• require the development of the learner under the guidance of recognised experts in the field of study and under circumstances which allow the student access to appropriate research resources, and<br>• be awarded on the basis of an original and substantial contribution to knowledge in the form of a thesis as judged by independent experts applying contemporary international standards.<br>The thesis should constitute the entire body of work that will be assessed (except in the case of a Named Doctorate where it must contribute to a minimum of 2/3rds of the final award – generally a minimum of 240 NQF credits). Learners in the visual or performing arts may present a creative work in place of the thesis.<br><br>A lower qualification may not be awarded for early exit from a Doctoral degree programme except where exit represents the attainment of another qualification. | Doctoral degrees shall be awarded at Level 10. | In credit terms, a Doctoral degree would carry a value of a minimum of 360 NQF credits, all of which would be Level 10. |

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| | | | Research Doctoral degrees may not be attained through credit accumulation.<br><br>Higher Doctorates and Honorary Doctorates does not constitute part of the National Qualifications Framework nor accredited programmes of the institution. | | |

**Summary**

| NQF Qualification Type | Course of Study | NQF Levels Allowed | Characterisation | | Minimum Duration | Minimum NQF Credits | Minimum Credits at Level of Certification | Minimum Research Credits |
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| | | | Broad | Specific | | | | |
| Certificate | Coursework | 1-7 | Certificate | Undergraduate | 1 Year | 40 | 40 | 0 |
| Postgraduate Certificate | Coursework | 8 | Certificate | Postgraduate | 1 Year | 40 | 40 | 0 |
| Diploma | Coursework | 1-7 | Diploma | Undergraduate | 1 Year | 120 | 72 | 0 |
| Postgraduate Diploma | Practice-oriented | 8 | Diploma | Postgraduate | 1 Year | 120 | 72 | 0 |
| Bachelor Degree | Coursework | 7 | Bachelor Degree | Undergraduate | 3 Years | 360 | 72 | 0 |
| Bachelor Honours Degree | Coursework + Dissertation | 8 | Honours Degree | Postgraduate | 1 Year | 120 | 120 | 30 |
| Professional Bachelor's Degree | Coursework + Dissertation + Practice | 8 | Professional Bachelor | Undergraduate | 4 Years | 480 | 120 | 30 |
| Master | Pure Research | 9 | Masters | Postgraduate | 2 Years | 240 | 240 | 240 |
| | Practice-oriented | | | | | | 240 | 60 |
| | Coursework + Dissertation + Practice | | | | | | 240 | 60 |
| | Publication | | | | | | 240 | 240 |
| Doctoral | Pure Research | 10 | Masters | Postgraduate | 3 Years | 360 | 360 | 360 |
| | Practice-oriented | | | | | | 240 | 240 |
| | Coursework | | | | | | 240 | 240 |
| | Publication | | | | | | 360 | 360 |