

**SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA)**

In accordance with Regulation 24(c) of the National Standards Bodies Regulations of 28 March 1998, the Standards Generating Body (SGB) for

**Architecture**

registered by Organising Field 12, Physical Planning and Construction, publishes the following qualification for public comment.

This notice contains the titles, fields, sub-fields, NQF levels, credits, and purpose of the qualification. The full qualification can be accessed via the SAQA web-site at [www.saqg.org.za](http://www.saqg.org.za). Copies may also be obtained from the Directorate of Standards Setting and Development at the SAQA offices, SAQA House, 1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria.

Comment on the qualification should reach SAQA at the address below and **no later 4 June 2007**. All correspondence should be marked Standards Setting – **Architecture** addressed to

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**DIRECTOR STANDARDS SETTING AND DEVELOPMENT**



## SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**QUALIFICATION:**  
**Master of Arts: Architecture**

SAQA QUAL ID	QUALIFICATION TITLE		
58540	Master of Arts. Architecture		
<b>SGB</b>	<b>PROVIDER</b>		
SGB Architecture			
<b>ETQA</b>			
QUALIFICATION N P E	FIELD	SUBFIELD	
Masters Degree	12 -Physical Planning and Construction	Physical Planning, Design and Management	
ABET BAND	MINIMUM CREDITS	NQF LEVEL	QUAL CLASS
Undefined	240	Level 8 and above	Regular-ELOAC

**PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION**

Purpose:

The principal purposes of the qualification are to:

- Provide advanced training in research methods and procedures.
- Facilitate advanced, prescribed study.
- Produce qualified persons:
  - Whose work will be to the advantage of the national economy.
  - With the capacity to work in teams appointed to conduct research.
  - For employment in fields of economic activity related to the built environment.
  - With the capacity to work at an advanced intellectual level.
- Provide appropriately qualified persons with opportunities for career-path advancement/articulation routes leading to Ph D study/research.

The following table illustrates the relationship between the M Arch and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF):

NQF Principle; Master's Degree In Architecture:

- Recognition of Prior learning; Allows for Recognition of Prior Learning as a means of career advancement.
- Articulation/Progression; Forms part of a learning pathway incorporating a range of architectural and related qualifications.
- Life-Long learning; Produces qualifying learners who are prepared for and understand the principles of:
  - Life-long learning.
  - Critical citizenship.
  - Lateral, critical and creative thinking.
  - A wide range of issues which are crucial to the welfare of society.

Rationale:

The Master's Degree in Architecture by Research (M Arch) may be obtained by completing a research dissertation. This programme is research-based and includes specified advanced study, under the guidance of a supervisor or supervisors appointed for that purpose.

The **M** Arch is:

- For persons who:
  - Meet the admission requirements.
  - Satisfy the requirements for the award of the qualification.
  - Desire to undertake research and specified study at an advanced level.
- Intended to assist all relevant stakeholders and roleplayers, such as potential employers operating in the built environment or other fields related to physical planning and construction, curriculum developers and providers of learning programmes, all education and training bodies, moderators, learners and their parents, to understand the criteria which determine the level and the outcomes associated with this postgraduate programme.

Through the pursuance of research-based enquiry and dissemination of information via dynamic post-graduate study, the **M** Arch also:

- Serves as a prerequisite qualification for entry to doctoral study (Ph D) in the context of the built environment, arts and architecture.
- Enhances the body of knowledge pertaining to architecture and related fields in South Africa and internationally.

#### **RECOGNIZE PREVIOUS LEARNING?**

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#### **LEARNING ASSUMED TO BE IN PLACE**

- A qualification at NQF Level 7, or equivalent.
- Prior experience in research.
- Demonstrable competence in analytical thought at a level appropriate to the carrying out of independent research and advanced study.
- Good communication skills.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

Persons desiring entrance to the programme leading to this qualification are:

- Advised, assisted and supported (portfolio compilation, orientation to required levels of competence, substantiation of their claims regarding prior ~~skills/experience~~, planning of progression).
- Evaluated and assessed in accordance with their claims regarding prior skills and experience gained (portfolio review, implementation of assessment/evaluation methods, recommendations arising from the assessment/evaluation processes).
- Provided with quality management assurance objectives to support the achievement of competence leading to the award of the qualification (assessment of competence in respect of required outcomes, auditing, approval, recommendation, reporting).

Access to the qualification:

Any NQF Level 7 qualification recognised for the purposes of access to this postgraduate programme.

Or

Appropriate prior learning, skills/competence and experience which has been evaluated and assessed in accordance with the Recognition of Prior Learning policy defined in the South African Qualifications Framework (SAQA) Act 1998 (No 58 of 1998).

#### **QUALIFICATION RULES**

Credits and Learning Components:

A minimum of **240** credits is assigned to the **M Arch.**, reflecting the area of specialisation of the qualification and emphasis placed on independent research.

Since the **M Arch** is a (~~specialised~~) post-graduate qualification, all credits pertain to elective learning. Fundamental and core learning is assumed to be in place.

### **EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES**

There are no interim exit levels. The qualification is awarded on completion of the programme

Qualifying learners are competent to demonstrate:

- Acquired skills following exposure to epistemological issues and research methods
- Familiarity with literature relevant to (selected) fields of research.
- Their capacity for competent execution of the following research tasks:
  - Writing a research proposal.
  - Using literature to identify the theoretical issues pertaining to the proposal.
  - Formulating precise research questions.
  - Selecting or devising appropriate research methods.
  - Executing the research.
  - Critical analysis of the results and findings emanating from the research.
  - Writing up the research.
  - Undertaking advanced postgraduate study.

### **ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Qualifying learners will be required to demonstrate:

- Understanding of the principles of epistemological and methodological issues in ~~drafting a~~ dissertation.
- Familiarity with the relevant literature.
- Competence *in* conducting research, related to:
  - Writing a research proposal.
  - Conducting a critical literature review.
  - Structuring precise research questions.
  - Selecting or devising appropriate research methods.
  - Critical analysis of the results emanating from the research.
  - Writing up the research dissertation.
  - Application of recognised referencing methods.
  - Undertaking study at an advanced level.
  - Critical analysis of the results ~~emanating~~ from the research,
- Above-average linguistic skills, including correct spelling, grammar, text formatting and presentation.

Integrated Assessment:

in the case of **part-coursework/part** dissertation programmes:

- The outcome of the coursework is required to demonstrate competent understanding of theoretical principles which are ~~prerequisite~~ to undertaking research.
- Both summative and formative evaluation methods are used for the coursework (examinations and projects).
- Evaluation of the dissertation is formative in character and synoptically assesses all outcomes.

In the case of a research-based qualification awarded on the basis of a dissertation only:

- Evaluation of the dissertation is formative in character.
- Synoptically assesses all outcomes.

In each of the above programme modes:

- Examiners submit formal reports on the dissertation.
- The examiners' reports are made available to the candidate,

### **INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY**

An accepted Master's programme, whether solely research-based or based on a programme of specified study combined with the production of a dissertation, is required to be of a standard and rigour comparable with international benchmarks. Required quality is assured by the design and implementation of external examination systems associated with Master's programmes.

### **ARTICULATION OPTIONS**

Master's qualifications provide articulation routes leading to Ph D studies.

Learners also have career path articulation options providing access to Master's degree programmes in other fields, including:

- Project Management.
- Construction Management.
- Housing.
- Town and Regional Planning.
- Property Studies.
- Facilities Management.

### **MODERATION OPTIONS**

Master's dissertations are examined by at least two examiners external to the institution concerned. External examiners and supervisors of Master's research should, ideally, themselves be in possession of (at least) a Master's degree.

In the case of part-courseworldpart-dissertationprogrammes, the coursework component (examinations and projects) is subject to both internal and external examination.

Accreditation Options:

Accreditation Options include:

- Accreditation of qualifications by statutory Councils (e.g. South African Council for the Architectural Profession, in terms of Act No 44 of 2000) and international institutions (e.g. Royal Institute of British Architects, domiciled in England). Accreditation processes vary in accordance with specific requirements of the accrediting body, and typically involve:
  - Submission of external examiners reports.
  - Interim accreditation visits by appointed external moderators.
  - A 5-yearly full accreditation visit to the host institution.
- Assessment of competence by statutory Councils (South African Council for the Architectural Profession, in terms of Act No 44 of 2000).
- Assessment of competence by international institutions (e.g. Royal Institute of British Architects).

### **CRITERIA FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ASSESSORS**

Examiners/assessors are appointed in a manner which is consistent with the quality assurance system of an institution offering the programme.

### **NOTES**

In the case of degrees by dissertation only:

Source: National Learners' Records Database

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- An original contribution to knowledge **is** not a requirement of a programme leading to a Master's qualification.
- No work will be accepted which has been accepted by another academic institution for the purpose of obtaining a qualification.
- The dissertation constitutes a rigorous research endeavour in the discipline of architecture or a related field in the built environment.
- The examination consists primarily of an assessment of the dissertation, but may be supplemented by a written or oral examination on the subject of the work presented.

#### Supplementary Information:

A dissertation may not be submitted more than twice for examination.

Specified requirements may include legal and legislative specific requirements contained in one or more of the following documents:

#### Regulations:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act: Construction Regulations, published in Government Gazette No 25207, Regulation Gazette 7721, 18 July 2003.

#### Legal:

- Act 1: The Council for the Built Environment Act No 43 of 2000.
- Act 2: The Architectural Profession Act No 44 of 2000.
- Act 3: Sectional Titles Act No 95 of 1986.
- Act 4: Physical Planning Act No 125 of 1991.
- Act 5: The National Environmental Management Act No 85 of 1993.
- Act 6: National Building Regulations and Standards Act No 103 of 1977.
- Act 7: Labour Relations Act No 66 of 1995.
- Act 8: The South African Qualifications Authority Act No 58 of 1995.
- Act 9: The Higher Education Act No 101 of 1997.
- Act 10: Housing Act No 107 of 1997.
- Act 11: Employment Equity Act No 55 of 1998.
- Act 12: Housing Consumers Protection Measures Act No 95 of 1998.
- Act 13: The Skills Development Board Act No 97 of 1998.
- Act 14: Construction Industry Development Board Act No 38 of 2000.
- Act 15: The Project and Construction Management Profession Act No 48 of 2000.
- Act 16: Planning Profession Act No 36 of 2002.
- Act 17: National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999.
- Act 18: The Occupational Health and Safety Act No 85 of 1993.
- Act 19: The Prescription Act No 68 of 1969.
- Act 20: Value Added Tax Act No 89 of 1991.
- Act 21: Unemployment Insurance Act No 30 of 1966.

Specifications, agreements and policies and procedures:

- The S A Bureau of Standards Specifications (as appropriate)
- The National Building Regulations.

#### **UNIT STANDARDS**

***This qualification is not based on Unit Standards.***