



**BOTHO**

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**UNIVERSITY**

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**EXCELLENCE | LEADERSHIP | INNOVATION**

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## 1 Abbreviations and Key Terms

### Abbreviations

CGPA: Cumulative Grade Point Average

SFAC: Faculty Assessment Committee

FPC: Faculty Programmes Committee

SGPA: Semester Grade Point Average

SRC: Student Representative Council

SSCC: Staff Student Consultative Committee

### Key Terms

**Academic Good Standing:** The status of a student who achieved a SGPA of 2.00 or higher in the previous registered semester. A student will be in academic good standing during their first semester.

**Academic Probation:** The status of a student who achieved a SGPA of less than 2.00 in the previous registered semester.

**Academic Year:** The academic year is normally from July to June and consists of two semesters with short breaks between each semester.

**Appeal:** A formal request to change an official decision normally in writing accompanied by substantial supporting evidence to support the request.

**Assessment:** Any method used to formally evaluate a student's achievement of the learning outcomes. Assessments may consist of written examinations, computer-based examinations, practical examinations, oral examinations, tests, assignments, presentations, projects and portfolios amongst others.

**Co-requisite Modules:** Modules that must be studied together in the same semester. If one corequisite module is passed while the other is failed, the failed module may be retaken independent of the passed module.

**Core Module:** A module that must compulsorily be passed in order to achieve a qualification. **Course:** Typically refers to a module that leads to a qualification of its own. **Credit:** The number of points allocated to any programme of study based upon the number of hours of learning typically expected of the student to achieve the learning outcomes for the given programme of study. One credit is equal to ten notional learning hours.

**Drop-Out:** The status of a student who has been excluded from continuing their studies normally due to non-payment of fees, academic performance, disciplinary concerns amongst other reasons. A student may choose to drop out and not to continue with their studies due to personal reasons.

**Elective Module:** A module that is part of a list of modules from which a given number must be compulsorily passed in order to achieve a qualification.

**Executive Authority:** Any member of staff or other authority representing the University or acting on behalf of the University who is responsible for providing the service, in charge of the activity or in charge of the facility being considered.

**Full-Time Student:** A student registered for 60 or more credits in a semester. **Guided Learning Hours:** The estimated formal and structured study time needed to help an average student achieve the learning outcomes of a module or course. This formal and structured study time is supported in person or at a distance by a lecturer or teaching assistant. Examples of guided study time include time spent in a formal classroom or lab session, time spent in a project supervision meeting with a project advisor, and time spent studying using structured learning material or a virtual learning environment as may be the case in distance or blended learning programmes.

**Grade and Grade Point:** Standardised measures of a student's performance in a given module.

**Higher Education Qualification:** Typically longer programmes that consist of large or multiple modules which build knowledge and skills in a broad area of a discipline at lower levels while focusing on a more specialised area of a discipline at higher levels. These qualifications also build skills in research, independent study, and communication.

**Home Institution:** In the case of a student exchange programme, this is the University or institution at which the given student is enrolled for their primary programme of study. This is the University or institution from which the student is sent out on an exchange programme.

**Host Institution:** In the case of a student exchange programme, this is the University or institution to which the student goes to study from their Home Institution.

**Independent Learning Hours:** The estimated time an average student is expected to spend outside of guided learning hours to achieve the learning outcomes of a module or course. Examples of independent learning hours include time spent studying, time spent researching, time spent doing an assessment or activity, and time spent actively participating in a group meeting.

**Laboratory:** A room or facility that is used for practical, hands-on learning, teaching, assessment or research. Examples of laboratories include food and beverage laboratories, computing laboratories, classrooms or practice rooms equipped with computers or networking equipment, or science laboratories stocked with special equipment, tools, or chemicals.

**Module:** A component of a programme that is assigned a specific credit value and which, in the case of higher education qualifications, appears independently on a transcript with a grade and grade point.

**Notional Learning Hours:** The number of hours an average student is expected to study in order to achieve the learning outcomes of a module or course. Notional learning hours consist of both guided learning hours and independent learning hours.

**Part-Time Student:** A student registered for less than 60 credits in a semester. **Pre-requisite:** Required preliminary knowledge or a module that must be passed in order to attempt a given module.

**Programme:** A sequence of one or more core and elective modules over a specified period, successful completion of which leads to a qualification such as certificate, diploma and degree.

**Skills Training Course:** A course, normally leading to a certificate, that is designed to teach workrelated skills. These courses may be attendance-based or assessed. Successful completion of a skills training course earns the student a course attendance or completion certificate depending on the type of skills training course.

**Student Exchange Programme:** A programme of study whereby a student from a Home Institution goes to study for a given period of time at a Host Institution. This could be a student from Botho University going to study at one of the University's partner institutions or could be a student from the partner institution coming to study for a given period at Botho University. Student exchange programme may involve studying abroad or within the same country.

## 2 Credits and Learning Hours

The credit value of a module or course is determined by the number of notional learning hours required to achieve the learning outcomes. Notional learning hours consist of guided learning hours and independent learning hours. One credit is equivalent to ten notional learning hours.

The ratio of guided learning hours to independent learning hours may vary based on the nature and level of the module. Modules that require more work- based learning such as professional practice or internship modules, as well as more research-based modules such as dissertation modules require very little guided and far more independent study hours. In addition, the higher the level of the module, the more the student is typically expected to learn through independent study. For example, students at Level 10 (doctoral level programmes) typically have minimal guided learning hours, with the vast majority of learning happening through readings, self-directed study and research – all considered as independent learning hours.

### 2.1 Guided Learning Hours

Guided learning hours are typically formal and structured study sessions supported by a lecturer or teaching assistant. Examples of guided study time include, but are not limited to:

- Time spent in a formal lecture or laboratory session guided by a learning facilitator, such as a lecturer or teaching assistant,
- Time spent in a project supervision meeting with a project advisor,
- Time spent studying using a structured study guide or lecture videos as may be the case in distance or blended learning,
- Time spent taking an invigilated, typically time-constrained, assessment or examination.

### 2.2 Independent Learning Hours

Independent learning hours represents time spent by the student outside of these structured and supported sessions. Examples of independent study time include, but are not limited to: • Doing set reading,

- Self-directed study,
- Preparing for a lecture, tutorial, laboratory or supervisory session,
- Doing an assessment activity in the student's own time, typically with no direct monitoring, •  
Participating in a group meeting,
- Working in industry monitored by a lecturer through means such as logbooks and site visits,
  - Conducting research.

## 2.3 Work Placement Credit Recognition

Botho University believes that critical learning happens at the workplace especially for students who are building key employability skills and an appreciation of how their knowledge and skills can be utilised in a formal work environment. Work placement is thus eligible for credits, on the condition that it is monitored by a lecturer and is formally contained as part of a module. The lecturer may use various means to monitor the work done such as logbooks, online meetings and site visits. Such monitored work is considered towards independent learning hours.

## 2.4 Credit Accumulation and Transfer

Students may accumulate credits by registering for and studying modules individually and then retrospectively request for them to be considered together for an existing qualification. Furthermore, students may choose to change from one programme to another within the University and transfer their credits earned thus far towards the new programme. Any credits earned from any given module may only be counted towards one qualification.

# 3 General Academic Regulations

## 3.1 Entry Requirements and Exemptions

A prospective student who is applying for Botho University programmes is typically required to have successfully completed their studies up to at least a qualification level one lower than the one being applied for. Mature applicants with lower level qualifications, but with ample relevant work experience may be considered. Such mature applicants may be required to pass additional admission requirements such as an interview or test and may be required to take a bridging programme. The normal entry requirements for applicants are detailed below for each level of qualification offered at Botho University. It must be noted that a person who meets all entry requirements is not automatically guaranteed admission as a number of other factors may be considered from time to time. All applicants who intend to join a programme at Botho University are advised to get the required information related to their programme of choice through our website or from our Admissions department officials before they enrol for the programme. Adequate support will be offered through emails, phone calls and in person.

### 3.1.1 Certificate

Most certificate programmes at Botho University have no special entry requirements, however applicants may be required to attend an interview or take a test to ascertain English skill and ability to study at this level. Specific programmes may have additional entry requirements.



## 3.1.2 Diploma, Bachelors and Bachelors (Hons) Degree

Applicants are expected to have successfully completed secondary schooling for admission to Diploma and Bachelors programmes.

For admission to Diploma programmes, the typical minimum entry requirement is BGCSE, IGCSE, LGCSE, NSSC(O), SGCSE, WASSCE, SSSCE, GBCE or other equivalent secondary school leaving qualification with a minimum of five subjects. Below are the requirements for various campuses;

- Botswana: A minimum of Pass (D) in 5 subjects or better.
- Lesotho: A minimum of Pass (D) in 5 subjects or better.
- Namibia: A minimum of 20 points in any 5 subjects.
- ESwatini: A minimum of Pass (D) in 5 subjects or better
- Ghana: A minimum of 6 Passes (A1- D7/A-D) in all subjects.
- Blended & Distance Learning: A minimum of Pass (D) in 5 subjects or better.

Additional entry requirements specific to the programmes are applicable depending on the context.

For admission to Bachelors degree programmes, the typical minimum entry requirement is BGCSE, IGCSE, LGCSE, NSSC(O), SGCSE, WASSCE, SSSCE, GBCE or other equivalent secondary school leaving qualification. There can be additional entry requirements specific to a campus as follows:

- Botswana: A minimum of Pass (D) in 5 subjects or better including English.
- Lesotho: A minimum of 5 subjects of which 3 Credits (C), 2 Pass (D) including minimum Pass (D) in English, Pass (D) in Mathematics.
- Namibia: A minimum of 25 points in any 5 subjects.
- ESwatini: A minimum Credit (C) in 5 subjects including English.
- Ghana: A minimum of 6 credits (A1-C6 in WASSCE/A-D in SSSCE/A-D in GBCE) including English, Core Mathematics.
- Blended & Distance Learning: A minimum of Pass (D) in 5 subjects or better including English.

Additional entry requirements specific to the programmes are applicable depending on the context.

## 3.1.3 Postgraduate Qualifications (PG Certificate, PG Diploma, Masters degree)

Applicants are expected to have completed an undergraduate degree at a reputed institution. Specific programmes may have additional entry requirements.

## 3.1.4 Doctoral Qualifications (PhD)

Applicants are expected to have completed a Masters degree or equivalent from a reputed institution. Specific programmes may have additional entry requirements.

## 3.1.5 Exemptions

Applicants who have any prior learning or current competence relevant to the programme may apply for exemption from specific modules. Applications for exemption must be made to the Department of Assessments and Registry at least one month prior to the start of the module for which exemption is being sought. Applicants who have successfully completed a qualification from an institution with which Botho University has an articulation agreement for that qualification will be

given exemptions as per the agreement. Other external qualifications (as well as industry vendor certifications) will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be awarded exemptions if articulated to existing Botho University modules and if the qualification was awarded within five years of the start of the programme at Botho University. In cases where a previous qualification is not articulated, or the application is based on current competence, the applicant may be required to take one or more tests. An applicant is typically required to achieve the pass mark for the given module in an exemption test to be considered for exemption. The final decision on whether an exemption may be granted or not rests with the Dean of Faculty. Exemptions for studies or competence gained outside of Botho University may not be given for more than two-thirds of the total credits in the programme. An exemption fee may be levied for each exemption received.

Any student who successfully completes a qualification at Botho University may apply to rejoin for a higher-level qualification within the same stream. The student may not gain exemption for all modules especially in the case of any curriculum changes or if the qualification was earned over five years prior to the start of the higher-level qualification.

### 3.2 General Higher Education Qualification Structures

The following are standard structures for different Higher Education Qualifications, however the University may offer programmes with non-standard but comparable structures.

A standard higher education Certificate at Botho University will have at least 120 credits and typically take at least one year to complete under the normal full-time mode of study. A Certificate must be completed in at most two years from when the programme is started.

A standard Diploma qualification at Botho University will have at least 240 credits and typically take at least two years to complete under the normal full-time mode of study. A Diploma must be completed in at most four years from when the programme is started.

A standard Bachelors Degree qualification will have a minimum of 480 credits and take at least four years to complete including internship under the normal full-time mode of study. The internship module, called the Professional Practice module, may typically be done after the student has passed at least 240 credits worth of modules. A Bachelors Degree must be completed in 6 years. However, learners who need additional time to complete their studies will be given the opportunity to motivate for an additional 2 years maximum to complete the programme.

A standard Bachelors Degree with Honours qualification will have a minimum of 540 credits and take at least four-and-a-half years to complete including a full semester internship under the normal fulltime mode of study. The full semester internship module, called the Professional Practice module, may typically be done after the student has passed at least 240 credits worth of modules. A Bachelors Degree with Honours must be completed in seven years from when the programme is started. However, learners who need additional time to complete their studies will be given the opportunity to motivate for an additional 2 years maximum to complete the programme.

A standard Post Graduate Certificate qualification will have a minimum of 60 credits at postgraduate level and take at least one semester to complete under the normal full-time mode of study. A Post Graduate Certificate must be completed in at most two years from when the programme is started.

A standard Post Graduate Diploma qualification will have a minimum of 120 credits at postgraduate level and take at least one year to complete under the normal full-time mode of study. A Post Graduate Diploma must be completed in at most three years from when the programme is started.

A standard Masters Degree qualification will have a minimum of 240 credits at postgraduate level and take at least one-and-a-half year to complete under the normal full-time mode of study. A Masters Degree must be completed in at most four years from when the programme is started.

A standard Doctoral Degree qualification will have a minimum of 360 credits and take at least three years to complete under normal full-time mode of study. It must be noted that for doctoral study, full time study involves the completion of 120 credits in one year. A Doctoral Degree must be completed in at most six years from when the programme is started.

A student will be dropped out from their programme of study if the maximum time period for the qualification elapses. The Dean may grant an extension of up to one-year on the maximum time period for a qualification, depending on the student's motivation for additional time.

### 3.3 Certification

Certificates will be awarded only for the qualification for which the student has registered.

### 3.4 Credit Load and Module Availability

Every programme consists of one or more modules where each module is worth a specific number of credits. 120 credits per year or 60 credits per semester is a normal full-time load. A student who wishes to take more than the normal full-time load requires special permission from the Dean.

Modules available to students may vary from semester to semester. Any Faculty has the right to withdraw a module before its start if there are fewer than 15 students registered on the module.

### 3.5 General Assessment Structure

#### 3.5.1 For Certificate upto Masters level:

Although different modules may have different assessment structures with different assessment categories and weightages, the typical assessment structure for most undergraduate modules consists of Internal/formative Assessment and End/Summative Assessment giving a total of 100%. All End Assessments are standardised and are taken by students across all lecturers and batches for a given module.

The pass mark for each module is 50% calculated as the weighted average of the marks for each individual assessment component (such as Internal and End Assessment). A student who scores 40% or higher but fails to achieve the 50% pass mark in a module after all assessment components

have been considered may be given the opportunity to take a Supplementary Assessment, if available for the given module, that assesses the entire module. On a case-by- case basis, the Faculty Assessment Committee may choose an alternative assessment method it deems appropriate for a particular module by which to assess a failed student. Students who score less than 40% in a module are not eligible for a Supplementary Assessment for that module. Some modules may not have a Supplementary Assessment.

The Supplementary Assessment, where offered, will normally be worth 100% of the supplementary mark for the module. The supplementary mark will be capped at the pass mark. The supplementary mark and the original mark will be indicated on the transcript. The students' grade point averages will consider the greater of the supplementary mark and the original failed mark.

Students are required to attend all assessments. Students who miss assessments without mitigating circumstances may be considered for disciplinary action including being dropped out from school.

Students are required to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty at all times, especially with assessments. The Academic Honesty Regulation places stringent penalties on academic misconduct such as plagiarism. Students caught for academic misconduct may be considered for disciplinary action including being dropped out from school.

For Certificate and higher level qualifications up to the Masters level, the letter grade and grade point allocated to a module will be based on the aggregate mark earned for the given module. Any grade will remain provisional until it has been approved by the Faculty Assessment Committee. The letter grade and grade point will be allocated as per the table below:

Aggregate mark	Letter grade	Grade point	Description
90% ≤ Mark ≤ 100%	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85% ≤ Mark < 90%	A	3.75	Excellent
80% ≤ Mark < 85%	A-	3.50	Excellent
75% ≤ Mark < 80%	B+	3.25	Good
70% ≤ Mark < 75%	B	3.00	Good
65% ≤ Mark < 70%	B-	2.75	Good
60% ≤ Mark < 65%	C+	2.50	Satisfactory
55% ≤ Mark < 60%	C	2.25	Satisfactory
50% ≤ Mark < 55%	C-	2.00	Satisfactory
40% ≤ Mark < 50%	D	1.00	Marginal Fail
20% ≤ Mark < 40%	E	0.00	Fail
0% ≤ Mark < 20%	F	0.00	Fail
N/A	M	N/A	Exempted
N/A	W	N/A	Withdrawn N/A
	X	N/A	Pending

An 'X' or 'Pending' grade indicates that the student's final grade is still under consideration by the Faculty Assessment Committee. A 'W' or 'Withdrawn' grade is given where a student has withdrawn from a module after having attended at least one class or where a student has been absent for the majority of the module including absent from most assessments – the decision to declare a student as

withdrawn will be taken by the Faculty Assessment Committee. An ‘M’ or ‘Exempted’ grade is given for modules for which the student has been exempted due to recognition of prior learning or current competence. Exempted modules are included in the total credits earned towards a programme but are not considered when calculating the grade point averages. Pending and Withdrawn modules are also not considered when calculating the grade point averages.

### 3.5.2

Doctoral qualifications (PhD):

A PhD degree is a full research degree, requiring a thesis which contributes 100% of the final grade. A PhD thesis does not get a percentage mark, however a grade “Pass” or “Fail” will be allocated based on the outcome from the examiners.

### 3.6 Classification

When a student has successfully met all the requirements to pass an undergraduate qualification, the CGPA will be considered to determine the classification of the qualification. Certificate level qualifications will have no classification. Diploma and higher- level qualifications (except Bachelors level) use the classifications “Distinction”, “Merit”, and “Pass” determined as per the table below.

CGPA Range	Classification
$3.50 \leq \text{CGPA} \leq 4.00$	Distinction
$2.75 \leq \text{CGPA} < 3.50$	Merit
$\text{CGPA} < 2.75$	Pass (no special classification)

Bachelors level qualifications use the classifications “First”, “Upper Second”, “Lower Second”, and “Third” determined as per the table below.

CGPA Range	Classification
$3.50 \leq \text{CGPA} \leq 4.00$	First
$3.00 \leq \text{CGPA} < 3.50$	Upper Second
$2.50 \leq \text{CGPA} < 3.00$	Lower Second
$\text{CGPA} < 2.50$	Third

The Faculty Assessments Committee will consider student results and decide on classification levels as per the given guidelines. The FAC may consider border cases within 0.10 CGPA for possible increase to a higher classification level if necessary. The recommendation of the FAC must be submitted to the Academic Board for ratification.

### 3.7 Academic Standing

A student who has a SGPA of 2.00 or higher from the just completed semester will be considered in Academic Good Standing. A student who has met the requirement to progress but has a SGPA of less than 2.00 from the just completed semester will be considered in Academic Probation. Students in Academic Probation will be supported and monitored by an Academic Advisor. Where a student remains in Academic Probation for an extended period (more than one semester) and in the opinion

of the Academic Advisor is not capable of successfully completing his or her programme of study, the student may be advised to change their programme of study to suit their skills and area of interest.

### 3.8 Communication

Communication with students by various departments in the University will normally be through the student portal, a notice board, an internal server, students' Botho University e-mail addresses where available, a Virtual Learning Environment or other web location. Assessment results and other important information such as schedules and announcements will be posted on the student portal; notices may also be posted on designated notice boards on campus. It is the responsibility of the student to regularly check their student portal account, Botho e-mail account and notice boards on campus, in particular those in the buildings in which they have class and the general notices boards. Students should not expect to receive results, announcements and another important notification through any other means.

### 3.9 Partnership Programmes

Botho University may run some programmes in partnership with other institutions for which the student may be dual registered with both institutions. In such cases, the student must abide by all regulations of both Botho University and the other institution. Wherever there is material ambiguity in a given circumstance, the stricter of the two regulations will normally apply; however, in all cases, the decision of the Vice-Chancellor will be final on which regulation to follow in that situation.

## 4 Assessment Regulations

### 4.1 Examination Regulation

An examination is a time-constrained assessment consisting of questions or tasks designed to test students' knowledge and skills. It may be a practical examination, which expects students to demonstrate proficiency in conducting an experiment or executing a series of steps, or it may be a written, computer-based or oral examination. An examination may be closed or open book.

#### 4.1.1 Before the Examination

The Assessment Department will schedule the examination at a particular time and room(s). The schedule will be posted at least one week before the examination. Students are expected to study the schedule and understand when and where they will be taking which examination. Any queries concerning the schedule must be addressed to the Assessment Department as soon as possible before the examination. Any queries concerning the type of examination (e.g., practical examination, written examination, computer-based examination, etc.) should be addressed to the students' lecturer before the examination.

In the case of an assessment for a programme awarded by an external authority, which does not have a specific schedule from the external authority (such as with many computer-based assessments which can be written throughout the year), Botho University will determine the assessment schedule

for its students. Students are required to attempt the assessment as per the Botho University schedule.

Students who due to an illness or disability require any special arrangement must inform the Assessment Department of these requirements with evidence well in advance. The Assessment Department will consider these requests and where possible make the requested arrangements if deemed necessary.

### 4.1.2 Entering the Examination Room

Students are expected to arrive well in advance of the start time for the examination. Students will normally be allowed into the examination room fifteen to thirty minutes before the start of the examination. Students will be required to show their Botho University Identity Card whenever required. The student's photograph, name and student identity number on the Botho University Identity Card must be clearly visible else the student may not be allowed to enter the examination room. Seating plans outside the room will help students find their seats. Seats are labelled in the rooms according to the seating plan. Students are expected to leave their belongings at a designated location as instructed by the invigilators and take their seats as quickly and quietly as possible. Students may only take to their examination table writing stationary and any other special material as allowed for the specific examination and detailed in its instructions (e.g., calculator). Students must display their Botho University Student Identity Card visibly on the table during the entire examination.

Students who arrive late will be allowed into the examination room up to thirty minutes from the start of the examination but will not be given any additional time. Students arriving after this time and those who do not attend the examination will be considered to be absent and to have achieved a mark of zero for the assessment. Students, who are absent due to severe mitigating circumstances, may apply for mitigation as per the Mitigation Regulation.

### 4.1.3 During the Examination

Students will be given five minutes before the start of the examination to read the instructions carefully and, where possible, skim the paper to check that it is the correct examination, that all pages are clear, that no pages are missing and that the correct equipment has been provided. Students who notice any problems at this stage or at any time during the examination should immediately raise their hand to attract the attention of an invigilator and report it to the invigilator in charge. The student may begin the examination only once told to do so by the invigilator. In addition to these regulations, the student is required to also follow the instructions provided in the examination and given by the invigilator during the examination.

Students who complete the examination before the stipulated ending time, should raise their hand to attract an invigilator to collect their examination; once all documents and equipment have been collected, the student should then leave the room as quietly as possible – regulations may vary for certain practical examinations; such changes will be clearly indicated as part of the instructions of the examination.

Students wishing to visit the toilet should also raise their hand to attract an invigilator; an invigilator will then accompany the student to the toilet – the invigilator may ask the student to empty out their pockets and search the student if necessary. A student may visit the toilet at most once per hour unless given special permission by the invigilator.

Students who feel ill during the examination should also raise their hand to attract an invigilator; the invigilator will then assist the student as the invigilator feels most appropriate which may include calling the nurse, allowing the student to temporarily leave the examination room under supervision, or allowing the student to terminate the examination early. The student's illness will be noted by the invigilator in their report at the end of the examination. Students who feel their illness greatly affected their performance may apply for mitigation as per the Mitigation Regulation.

No student, except when approved by the invigilator in the case of illness, may leave the examination room during the first thirty minutes and the last fifteen minutes before the end of the examination.

Any student suspected of misconduct will be handled as per the Academic Honesty Regulation and/or the Student Discipline Regulation.

#### 4.1.4 Late Submission of Assessments

The Late Submission regulation addresses the issues pertaining to the submission of required assessments (any typed submission). The basic procedure consists of allocation of the topics or projects to the students and depending on the schedule found in the milestone or submission deadlines given to the students. Submission of the projects or ICA etc. may normally occur over a period of one day or one week or more and anything submitted after the final time will be considered late. Late submissions can affect the evaluator's approach to the student's document and/or presentation.

These are Botho University's stipulations regarding late submission of assessments.

1. A document is considered late when submitted immediately after the deadline. If a submission is made using any software, the submission time is calculated up to the minute. In other words, a submission is marked late by the software immediately after deadline time.
2. Students should ensure they give themselves a lot of time to upload their documents in spite of any network access problems. As is the case throughout their degree course, students will have to accept responsibility for submitting their documents on time, in spite of any network issues.
3. Students can do any late submission only under the severe mitigating circumstances up on approval from the Assessments and Registry Manager.

#### 4.1.5 Announcement of Results

Student results will be announced through either the online student portal, Blackboard or on one or more specifically allocated notice boards on campus. Any queries related to the published results



should be addressed only to the Assessments department within 5 working days of the results publication. For external examinations, for which the external authority directly informs the student of their result, students are required to submit results to the Assessments Department as soon as they receive their results.

Internal assessments are managed by the lecturer and for any corrections in the internal assessments marks students need to approach the lecturer within 5 working days after the internal assessment results is published and before the normal date by which internal assessment results are submitted to assessments.

## 4.2 Academic Honesty Regulation

### 4.2.1 Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism

An academic misconduct is any action or attempted action which may give a candidate an unfair advantage.

The following will be considered as Academic misconduct under this regulation:

1. Plagiarism, including but not limited to:
  - a) Using the ideas or concepts of another person without appropriately acknowledging the source of the information.
  - b) Failure to properly paraphrase or quote a source within the document.
  - c) Failure to cite a source within the document where necessary.
  - d) Failure to add a properly prepared reference section or bibliography at the end of the document.
  - e) Providing false sources as acknowledgement.
  - f) Producing work prepared and written by anyone other than the person submitting the assignment.
  - g) Copying another person's work partly or wholly and handing it in as one's own.
  - h) Two or more students copying all or part of each other's work and submitting their individual documents as their own, independent pieces of work, also known as collusion.
2. Handing in a document under a false name, or the name of another person.
3. Sabotaging or stealing another person's work.
4. Submitting a part or all of a single assignment or project to meet the requirements of an assessment in two different classes except where such a practice is expressly permitted.
5. Cheating in examinations by any means including but not limited to using notes, calculators or mobile phones when not permitted.
6. Tampering with equipment provided for a given assessment, such as tampering with or shutting down the computer during a computer-based assessment
7. Any attempt to change one's grade by unauthorised means.
8. Any act which aids another person in committing an act of academic misconduct.
10. Any other act which a Dean or higher officer may determine to be an act of academic misconduct.

### Gross Academic Misconduct

Gross Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Threatening or physically harming other fellow students or members of staff before, during or after an examination.
2. Tarnishing the university's image on social media and other media by posting course assignment questions on social media, websites or any other online site, app or tool, especially when this is done to solicit answers to these questions. Providing false information as evidence.
3. Destroying the answer scripts in the classroom which are with the invigilator by various means such as spilling liquids or burning.
4. Bribing academic staff members, assessment staff members or invigilators to allow them to cheat in the exam in various ways.
5. Hacking the university systems and question paper repository to steal the questions papers obtaining an examination paper ahead of the normal schedule.
6. Having unauthorised access or stealing empty answer scripts.
7. Impersonation or sending someone else to take the examination on one's behalf.
8. Any other act which a Dean or higher officer may determine to be an act of gross academic misconduct.

Academic misconduct of any form at any level is an adequate reason for a student to fail an assessment or module or even be expelled from the institution.

#### 4.2.2 Plagiarism Detection Software

Botho University may use plagiarism detection software to assist academic staff in identifying plagiarism in a student's submitted work. When using such software, the student is required to submit their files on time, with clear filenames which indicate the student's or group's name. The files should contain the exact version of any hard copy handed in. Files infected with one or more computer viruses may be considered as non-submissions. Specific modules may have specific submission requirements which must be followed.

#### 4.2.3 Penalty for Academic Misconduct

All cases of academic misconduct may result in a student being expelled from the institution at the very first instance. Occurrence of academic misconduct will be monitored across students' careers at Botho University. Repeated academic misconduct across any module or programme will be considered as repeat offences at Botho University and will be treated with more severity.

#### **Handling Misconduct for In-person exams (Presentations, Practical, Written etc)**

Whenever a student is caught for academic misconduct excluding plagiarism, the appropriate member of staff (evaluator, senior invigilator, etc.) will need to submit to the Assessments and Registry Department an Exam Misconduct form containing details of the reported incident and provide as much relevant evidence as possible.

Academic misconduct during an exam from an external awarding body other than Botho University will be handled as per the external awarding body's Student Regulations. The external awarding body will also be informed of the misconduct and at liberty to impose a penalty independent from any penalty imposed by Botho University.

Academic misconduct for in-person exams will be handled by the Assessments and Registry Department directly. The Assessments and Registry Department will form an Academic Honesty Panel consisting senior members of staff from Assessment and Registry and the faculty office. The panel will assess and evaluate the case and give a verdict.

Depending on the severity, the following penalties may be imposed by the panel:

1. A reduction in the mark for an assessment or module for which academic misconduct is reported.
2. A mark of zero for an assessment.
3. A mark of zero for a module with no further supplementary opportunities for the given module.

### **Handling Misconduct for Online or Submission Based Assessments (Plagiarism)**

In case of Academic Misconduct specifically related to Plagiarism, the following actions will be taken:

1. Plagiarised sections of a document will not be considered when marking the document.
2. A lecturer will issue a student with a formal warning letter for each reported case.
3. Reported students will be scheduled for academic misconduct counselling
4. At the beginning of every new semester, the Assessment and Registry Department will issue relevant warning letters to all the students involved in any plagiarism during the previous semester

### **Handling Academic Misconduct for Repeat Offenders**

Whenever a student is reported for Academic Misconduct in a semester:

1. For first time offenders the student will receive a first warning letter.
2. Similarly, second time offenders will receive a second warning letter.
3. Students who have been reported as third time offenders will receive a final warning letter.
4. If a student is already a third offender and has received a final warning letter, and commits academic misconduct in assessments such as in-person exams, such cases will be taken through the procedure of Academic Honesty Panel as outlined above. If the outcome of the panel proves the offence, then the student will be treated as a fourth offender and the relevant penalty will be imposed.
5. Fourth offenders onwards irrespective of the type of assessments, will be penalized with a zero (0) mark for a particular assessment for a reported module before results publication

A student who is a repeat offender or is involved with gross academic misconduct may be referred to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for further disciplinary action as per the Student Regulations. A student may appeal the decisions taken as per the Appeals Regulation.

### **4.3 Appeals Regulation**

An appeal is a request to formally change an official decision. This regulation concerns appeals against assessment decisions and academic misconduct penalties issued by the Academic Honesty Panel.

### 4.3.1 Grounds for Appeals

Students may make an appeal in the following circumstances if the situation disadvantaged the student and is significant enough to have materially affected the decision being appealed:

1. Those parts of the Assessment Regulations were not applied.
2. That there was procedural irregularity with the conduct of the assessment.
3. That prejudice or bias has materially affected the decision being appealed.

Any appeal must be accompanied by sufficient evidence to support the claim being made in the appeal.

The following circumstances will not be considered grounds for appeal:

1. Perceived past shortcomings in tuition, supervision or support cannot be considered as grounds for appeal.
2. An Appeal may not be made to question the academic decision of the University or member of staff.
3. An Appeal may not be made against the actual mark awarded for a piece of assessed work, which is a matter of academic decision, except where the case rests on a claim of procedural irregularity.
4. Examiners have discretion to take into consideration extenuating circumstances, which are usually personal or medical. The extent of any discretion exercised by the examiners in relation to the student's extenuating circumstances is not a ground for appeal.

### 4.3.2 Appeals Procedure for Examinations, other standardised assessment and Academic Honesty issues

Appeals requests should be submitted to the Assessments and Registry Department within seven days of the student receiving notification of the decision they wish to appeal against or the publication of results. Appeals requests received after these seven days will not be considered.

Appeals should be submitted using the Appeal Form duly filled and detailing the type of decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal as set out in the Appeals Regulation and the reasons why the student considers there are grounds for appeal. The application should be supported by sufficient documentary evidence to support the claim. Appeals that do not include the necessary documentation will not be considered.

The Assessments and Registry Manager or another senior official as designated by any Pro- Vice-Chancellor will consider the applications. The Assessments and Registry Manager may choose to form an Appeal Panel of two or more senior members of staff to consider the appeal and decide whether the appeal is valid. If the Assessments and Registry Manager or the Appeal Panel decides that the appeal is valid, they will determine the appropriate future steps to assist the student, which may or may not include a rerun or re-mark of an assessment. The decision of the Assessments and Registry Manager or the Appeal Panel is final and may not be appealed.

## 4.4 Re-marking

Students are eligible to apply for a re-mark for only the written portion of a standardised assessment where the script is not returned to the student. Students may be given a chance to view the remarked script upon request, however the student will not be allowed to make copies or retain the remarked script.

### 4.4.1 Re-marking Procedure for Internal Assessment

The first step when making a re-mark request is for the student to directly approach their lecturer for the respective module immediately upon receiving their marks or assessment decision. If the appeal is not resolved after meeting the lecturer, the student may then approach the appropriate Head of Department or Dean with a written or emailed request with all supporting evidence. The decision of the Head of Department or Dean is final.

### 4.4.2 Re-marking procedure for End and Supplementary Assessments

Re-marking will only be considered for the written portion of a standardised assessment where the script is not returned to the student. The student may, for a non-refundable fee fixed from time-to-time by the Office of Academic Services, request the assessment to be re-marked. It must be noted that in the case of a re-mark, the new mark will replace the previous mark whether it increases or reduces the mark originally given.

Re-mark requests should be submitted to the Assessments Department within five working days of the student receiving notification of the decision they wish to appeal against or the publication of results. Re-mark requests received after these five working days will not be considered.

Re-mark request should be submitted using the re-mark request form together with the receipt details of there-mark fee payment. The student must also include any other documents as may be requested by the Assessments Department. Re-mark requests that do not include the necessary documentation will not be considered.

In the case of a paid re-mark request, the Assessments and Registry Manager or another senior official as designated by the Assessments and Registry Manager will coordinate with the Dean/HOD of the respective Faculty to have the examination re-marked. The new mark will replace the earlier mark; this new mark is final, and the student may not file another re-mark request for that assessment.

## 4.5 Mitigation Regulation

Mitigation is the action of lessening or reducing the severity of missing all or part of an assessment due to valid reasons. Valid reasons include circumstances beyond the control of the student such as the death of an immediate family member (parent, sibling, spouse or child only) or severe incapacitating personal injury or illness. Claims of public transport delays and oversleeping among many others are not considered valid mitigating circumstances. Mitigation applications should only be submitted in very serious cases. Attempting to abuse this regulation will be considered a disciplinary offence. Mitigation applications for Supplementary Assessments will not be considered. Students who are affected by mitigating circumstances due to the COVID-19 will be considered as per the specific guidelines prepared for this situation.

Mitigation applications should be placed at the Assessments Department as soon as possible and at most five working days after the assessment for which mitigation is being applied. Mitigation applications placed after five days of the assessment may not be considered except in the case of severe injury or illness as a result of which the deadline could not be met. Mitigation is allowed only once for a given assessment.

All mitigation applications should be submitted using the Mitigation Form duly filled detailing the reason why the student was unable to submit, attend or complete the assessment. The application should be supported by sufficient documentary evidence (such as a medical certificate, death certificate or kgotla certificate) to support the claim. Applications that do not include the necessary documentation will not be considered.

The Assessments and Registry Manager or a senior official designated by the Assessments and Registry Manager will consider the applications and decide whether the mitigation application is valid and has materially disadvantaged the student. If it is determined that the student was indeed materially disadvantaged by the mitigating circumstance, the Assessments and Registry Manager in consultation with the relevant Dean of Faculty will determine how best to assist the student. The decision of the Assessments and Registry Manager is final and may not be appealed.

### 4.5.1 Possible Mitigation Decisions

Where mitigation is accepted for a component of the Internal Assessment, the lecturer may decide to either give the student an alternate assessment in place of the given component or consider the student's total Internal Assessment grade out of the remaining internal assessment components.

Where mitigation is accepted for the End-Assessment and the given module has a Supplementary Assessment, the End-Assessment mark will remain unchanged or absent as appropriate and the Supplementary Assessment will not be capped. It must be noted that the Supplementary Assessment should not be considered as an alternative End Assessment. The student's final grade will be based solely on the Supplementary Assessment result. Where a module does not have a Supplementary Assessment, mitigation requests for that module's End Assessment will not be considered.

Mitigation applications for Supplementary Assessments will not be considered.

For mitigation accepted under the COVID-19 guidelines, students may be considered to be given additional support classes. Such students will be given an opportunity for End Assessment and Supplementary Assessment.

## 5 Library Regulations

### 5.1 User Access

Only registered and active students and staff of Botho University are eligible to use the library and its facilities. Users must present their valid identification cards to the security guard at the entrance as

well as when borrowing or returning books at the circulation desk. Users may be requested at any time in the library to show their identification card and thus should keep it in their possession at all times while in the library.

Library opening and closing times will be clearly displayed at all libraries and may be changed without notice. Electronic library services will normally be available throughout the day via the Internet and may be accessed by registered and active students.

## 5.2 Conduct while in the Library

All library users must abide by the following rules; any user found in breach of these rules may be asked to leave the library and/or subject to disciplinary processes as detailed in the Student Discipline Regulations. Library users must observe strict silence at all times inside study areas. Drinking, eating and smoking are not allowed inside the library. Bags are not allowed inside the library. Mobile phones may not be used in the library and should be put on silent at all times. All computers inside the library must be used for educational purposes only. Books and other learning materials may only be taken from the library when issued out by a librarian through the library circulation system. Librarians have the right to inspect a library user and their personal belongings.

## 5.3 Lending

When loaning a book from the library, users are advised to check the return date and condition of the book before leaving the circulation desk. Any concerns about the return date or conditions must be addressed to the librarian in charge immediately else the student will be held responsible for any late return of the book and/or damage to the book.

User privileges are not transferable. A user will be held responsible for all materials taken out on his name. Users must return books in good condition on or before the return date, but the library reserves the right to ask users to present any materials issued to them for inspection at any point of time.

In case a library book is damaged, the user who is using the book or has loaned the book will be charged the replacement value of the book. If a book is lost, the user must notify the librarian immediately, in which case a one-week grace period will be given to search for the book. Users will be liable to pay the replacement value of the book if they are unable to find and return the book within the grace period.

## 5.5 User Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the user to:

- Read these regulations and clarify any questions with a senior librarian.
- Know that failure to conduct themselves as stated in the rules and regulations may lead to the suspension of their library privileges.
- Update their contact details with the library in case of any changes.
- Ensure that the photograph and information on their identity card is correct.
- Check their IPAC user account regularly.
- Ensure that they keep up to date with any changes and improvements done by the library.

## 6 Student Grievance Handling Regulations

### 6.1 Grievances

A grievance is a formal statement of concern reported to a person in authority at Botho University. A grievance can be about any kind of situation or process affecting the student, academic and nonacademic, and can be against another student or a staff member at Botho University. A grievance is not part of the regular student feedback, but rather a formal complaint. The University will not act on anonymous complaints.

### 6.2 Grievance Handling Procedure

Many student grievances emerge from a lack of communication or understanding and hence students should in the first instance attempt to resolve concerns or difficulties directly with the person(s) concerned. If the issue still remains unresolved, the student may raise their concerns with the appropriate senior member of staff such as the Head of Department, Dean, etc. If after this stage, the student still feels their concern has not been addressed, he may then submit a formal grievance to the Student and Alumni Affairs Department.

To file a formal grievance with the Student and Alumni Affairs Department, the student should fill in the Student Grievance Form and provide any relevant evidence to support the grievance. The department will investigate the case, which may include a personal meeting with the student to understand the problem in detail. This meeting may be done over a web-based voice and video chat tool where a face-to-face meeting is not possible or necessary. The department may also have to raise the case with other necessary authorities within the institution.

The Student and Alumni Affairs Department will have to respond to the student in writing explaining the outcome of the investigation and the way forward. Amongst other possibilities, the ways forward may be that:

1. The student, having received advice and support, addresses the matter directly with the respondent.
2. The student receives an apology, or the issue that was the basis of the complaint is modified.
3. A mutually acceptable resolution is reached through mediation within Botho University.

It must be noted that it is not always possible to achieve a satisfactory outcome from the student's perspective, but the response should make it clear that the complaint has been investigated and responded to. The Student and Alumni Affairs Department will do its best to ensure that students who file grievances are not subjected to any victimisation. Any student who feels that they are being victimised should immediately report the case to the Student and Alumni Affairs Department.

In case if the student is registered for a professional qualification or registered with a partner institution, they may need to follow the grievance procedures of such institutions in addition to what is offered by Botho University. The student is also allowed to take advantage of the grievance handling process followed by the respective regulators in the country. However, any grievances escalated



outside the institution to be done once the student had exhausted all the grievance avenues offered by Botho University.

### 6.3 Staff-Student Consultative Committee (SSCC)

The Staff-Student Consultative Committees (SSCCs) exist to help student representatives meet with senior members of staff for formal, constructive and informative discussions on academic issues. The goal is to have ideas shared and discussed between students and staff to arrive at a consensus. These committees normally consist of senior academic and academic support staff together with a few class representatives (normally three) and are chaired by the relevant Head of Department or Dean.

Students who have grievances that affect a large number of students in their programme may choose to raise their grievances at these committee meetings through the class representative members.

### 6.4 Student Representative Council (SRC)

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is a group of students elected by the student body to promote communication between students and Botho University staff and management, promote student welfare and encourage an active student body involved in sports, community service, and other activities.

Students who have grievances that affect the greater student body may choose to raise their grievances with the SRC who in turn will work with the respective departments in the University to try and resolve the issue.

## 7 Student Discipline Regulations

### 7.1 Disciplinary Offences

It is important that students maintain the highest level of discipline at all times, especially when on campus and when dealing with University matters or representing the University outside of campus. The following are considered disciplinary offences for which a suitable penalty maybe applied.

1. Conduct on or off University premises that, in the opinion of Botho University management, damages the institution's reputation.
2. Conduct that breaks any student regulation, including academic and assessment regulations.
3. Conduct that disrupts, interferes with or obstructs the operations, activities and events of the institution.
4. Conduct that is violent, disorderly, threatens to cause injury or otherwise affect people's safety at any University activity or on University premises.
5. Conduct that is discriminatory or racist.
6. Behaving rudely with another student, member of staff or visitor.

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7. Failure to follow instructions given by a member of staff.
8. Conduct at an external location that breaks the regulations and policies of that external or host institution.
9. Conduct that violates assessment procedures including plagiarism.
10. Knowingly making a false statement or providing false information regarding Botho University including but not limited to media utterances.
11. Failing to accept or comply with any penalty imposed as per this and other regulations.
12. Revealing confidential information without permission to any third party.
13. Conduct that damages, misuses or abuses any University equipment or facilities.
14. Missing classes, appointments or assessments without written consent of the institution.
15. Rioting or showing intent (including influencing others through various media or verbal and non-verbal cues and action) to riot/protest/create general unrest in any form or manner, in and around campus including the entrance gates.
16. Causing or showing intent to set fire in any form or manner in and around the campus including at the entrance gates.
17. Malicious damage or showing intent to damage property within the campus or injury to staff, students or any member of the public
18. Possession of dangerous objects including but not limited to weapons, knives, guns, knobkerrie, toxic sprays etc.
19. Picketing in and around campus including the entrance gates of the university.
20. Deliberately concealing identity (including wearing of masks or any apparel that are not allowed) or impersonation in any form of manner
21. Fighting, assault, affray.
22. Use of offensive or abusive language to staff/students and visitors on campus and at the entrance.
23. Obstructing staff, students and or public movement in and out of University premises.
24. Obstructing and disturbing any normal class operations including but not limited to lecturers, practice sessions, workshops, seminars, events etc.
25. Threatening the peace and safety of others on campus in any form or manner Conduct that in the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor is serious enough to warrant disciplinary action.
26. Theft and possession without permission in any form or manner of property, licences, IP, information and any other tangible or intangible resource of the University, staff of fellow students.
27. Possession and/or consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs /substances.
28. Threatening in any form or manner, the security personnel and staff deployed at the University.
29. Conduct that includes unwelcome sexual advances towards any individual on campus.
30. Verbal, physical or any other behavior that stigmatizes and victimizes an individual.
31. Inviting and bringing a third party to take part in activities or events of the university without prior written consent and sanction by the university
32. Engaging in all forms of criminal activity including but not limited to cyber offences.

33. Spreading malicious and false information to students, staff and general public in any form or manner and on any form of media. This would include spreading false and unverified information in any form or manner (including social media and digital content) about the COVID-19 pandemic.
34. Failure to show up in person (except for emergencies and medical reasons provided there is valid evidence as decided by the relevant authorities at the University) for any disciplinary meetings, hearings, follow ups scheduled by the relevant authorities at the University during any disciplinary proceedings.
35. Revealing or sharing confidential information without official written permission from a relevant authority at the University
36. Failure to abide by any rules, regulations and instructions put in place by the University/an executive authority of the University in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic. These would include aspects such as frequent monitoring of body temperature, social distancing, maximum size of gatherings (if and where allowed), usage of masks, regular sanitisation etc.

## 7.2 Disciplinary Procedure

Botho University encourages and seeks to uphold high levels of learner integrity and discipline. However it is human nature to experience deviance which requires prompt and objective corrective measures within University resources.

An Executive Authority is any member of staff or other authority representing the University or acting on behalf of the University who is responsible for providing the service, in charge of the activity or in charge of the facility where the offence was committed. The Executive Authority may include University management, lecturers, event managers, consultants, and security guards amongst others. When the disciplinary offence is committed the Executive Authority has the power to immediately require the student to leave the room, facility or location where the offence was committed.

The Executive Authority shall then report the issue to the relevant department or faculty for further processing. Cases involving academic misconduct as defined in the Academic Honesty Regulations shall be reported to the Assessments Department who will handle the issue as per the regulations. A copy of any letters issued to the student will be given to the Information Systems (IS) Department for filing with the student's records. In the case of a severe or repeated offence the case may be reported to the respective Dean for further action.

The Dean may decide on the appropriate penalty for the case or escalate the matter to the Pro-Vice Chancellor. The Pro-Vice Chancellor may choose to temporarily forbid the student from coming to the institution's premises including participating in classes and other activities while the case is being considered/investigated. To assist the Pro-Vice Chancellor, he/she may constitute a Disciplinary Committee made up of a chairperson, OSSO and management representatives to listen to the presentations and make appropriate recommendations to the Pro-Vice Chancellor. If the committee wishes to interview the student, it must give the student at least 48 hours written notice of the hearing. The student will also be accorded an opportunity to bring at most four (4) witnesses, any form of evidence in his/her defense and a representative (being a fellow student or member of the SRC) to the hearing. In the event the student chooses to bring witnesses they must avail to the Committee Secretary names of witnesses and their statements latest 24 hours before the hearing. The committee may also ask for any additional evidence or witnesses. The committee will then give a

written report of the findings to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor may choose to impose any penalty including but not limited to the following or combination of the following:

1. Give a warning.
2. Order the student to pay compensation for any damages caused.
3. Impose a mark of zero for an assessment or module.
4. Withdraw any credits previously earned.
5. Suspend the student from University or a specific facility or activity.
6. Expel the student permanently from the University.

### Gross Misconduct

In the event of gross misconduct i.e., cases of serious transgressions, the student's case will be escalated to disciplinary hearing without having to go through the initial stages of the ordinary disciplinary procedure. Such cases include and are not limited to the following;

1. Participation or involvement including inciting others to participate or initiate in illegal strikes/riots/protests and general unrest.
2. Causing serious destruction to facilities and resources of the university.
3. Causing or attempting to cause arson.
4. Inflicting serious bodily harm including murder/killing of a fellow student, staff and or visitor.
5. Possession of or trading in illegal firearms/ weapons of any sort and illicit or habit forming substances.
6. Possession of and or trading in diamonds or any precious stones.
7. Holding staff and or students hostage in classes, offices or any other facilities of the institution.
8. Sexual harassment, rape or attempted rape.
9. Conduct that is violent, disorderly, threatens to cause injury or otherwise affect people's safety at any University activity or on University premises.
10. Deliberate attempts to disobey national and University protocols put in place in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any decision shall be given in writing within seven working days after the hearing. In the case of suspension, the University will not be responsible for any classes, assessments or other activities that the student may miss during such suspension. The University will also not be held responsible for any cost or time lost arising from the suspension of the student.

The student has the right to appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within seven (7) days of receipt of the penalty letter who may decide to call the student to present his/her grounds of appeal before him/her or issue a decision based on what is presented in the letter. The Vice-Chancellor may elect an appeals committee to consider and recommend a decision. The Vice-Chancellor shall then inform the student whether or not the original verdict and penalty are maintained or altered following the appeal. The Vice Chancellor's Appeal decision is final and may not be appealed.

In light of COVID-19, all correspondences with regards to the disciplinary procedure may be over email and telephone. Records of such meetings will be kept as evidence. The same may be applicable for any disciplinary meetings which may have to be conducted over video conference. Where the use of technology is not possible, a decision will be made to either conduct the same at a later date or to use any other alternative method acceptable to all involved parties.

## 8 Laboratory Resource Usage Regulations

### 8.1 Introduction

Laboratory resources at Botho University are provided to support the educational, instructional, research and administrative activities of Botho University and the use of these resources is a privilege that is extended to members of the Botho University community. Users of these services and facilities have access to valuable University resources, to sensitive data, and to internal and external networks, thus it is important for users to behave in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner. Furthermore, computers and networks can provide access to resources on and off campus, as well as the ability to communicate with other users worldwide. Users must respect the rights of other users and respect the integrity of the systems and related physical resources.

Laboratory staff, system administrators or other designated individuals (including security guards) may monitor the activity of individual users to ensure the integrity and security of the resources provided.

These regulations apply to all users of laboratory resources owned or managed by Botho University. Individuals covered by the policy include (but are not limited to) Botho University staff, visiting faculty, students, alumni, guests, agents of the administration, external individuals and organizations accessing network services via Botho University's computing facilities, personally owned computers and devices connected by wire or wireless to the campus network, and off-campus computers that connect remotely to the University's network services.

### 8.2 Acceptable and Unacceptable Use

Users may use only the laboratory resources and equipment as well as any user accounts and files (such as domain accounts, student portal and VLE accounts, and computer files) for which they have authorisation. Users are individually responsible for appropriate use of all resources assigned to them, including physical resources (such as tools, computers, laboratory equipment, chemicals and other inventory items), electronic resources (such as network addresses and software) and facilities (such as furniture, network ports and other fixtures). All precautions should be taken when working in a laboratory and with laboratory equipment; these include wearing appropriate clothing or uniform and protective gear such as when working in the food and beverage lab or with chemicals. Users are accountable to Botho University for all use of such resources. Authorized Botho University users may not enable or assist unauthorised users to access any University facility, including computer networks.

Users must comply with the regulations for any specific set of resources to which they have been granted access. When other regulations are more restrictive than this one, the more restrictive regulation takes precedence.

Users must not use Botho University computing and/or network resources in conjunction with the execution of programs, software, processes, or automated transaction-based commands that are intended to disrupt (or reasonably be expected to disrupt) other computer or network users, or

damage or degrade performance of software or hardware components of a system. On the Botho University network and/or computing systems, users should not use tools that are normally used to assess security or to attack computer systems or networks (such as password 'crackers,' vulnerability scanners, network sniffers, etc.) unless they have been specifically authorised to do so.

The following are examples of misuse of laboratory privileges when performed without specific authorisation from the relevant Botho University authority.

1. Attempting to circumvent data protection schemes or uncover security loopholes.
2. Violating terms of applicable software licensing agreements or copyright laws.
3. Deliberately wasting resources.
4. Disconnecting of Botho University/Campus computer equipment in favour of personal equipment, including laptops or other electronic devices.
5. Posting materials on electronic bulletin boards that violate existing laws or Botho University codes of conduct.
6. Unauthorised troubleshooting and fixing of Botho University equipment.
7. Performing experiments without appropriate supervision.
8. Drinking, eating or smoking in the laboratory.
9. Conducting laboratory work (such as experiments) without following procedures and supervisor instructions.
10. Not following hygiene and safety standards (such as not wearing appropriate protective clothing).

### 8.3 Enforcement and legal context

Misuse of laboratory or information resources may result in the revocation of the user's privileges. Users may be held accountable for their conduct under any applicable University or campus regulations. All relevant national and international laws, regulations and policies also apply. If abuse of laboratory facilities occurs, and the user is found to have violated these regulations, the user may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as per relevant disciplinary regulations.

## 9 Fee Regulations

### 9.1 Fee Schedule

A schedule of all fees will be available with the Accounts Department and with the Admissions Department. Administrative fees are subject to change without notice. Tuition fees are subject to a 10% increase every year and thus students and sponsors are advised to budget this increase in fees. Any annual increase in tuition fees up to 10% may be made without notice. Any increase in tuition fees greater than 10% may be made after giving a minimum of two weeks written notice, which may be in the form of a letter to the students' sponsors or through a notice on the notice boards on campus.

### 9.2 Payment Regulation

Fees are charged in full and are due prior to the provision of any given service. Tuition fees are therefore charged in full and are due prior to the start of orientation and classes. Students may contact

the Accounts Departments to request a payment plan where they are unable to pay the full fee in time. If a payment plan is approved and agreed upon, the first installment is due prior to the commencement of orientation and classes. The second and further installments are due on the first day of the month indicated on the payment plan.

A grace period of seven days may be given for the payment of second and subsequent installments on special request; however, if the fees are not paid by the end of the grace period the student may be charged a late payment fee and will be sent out of class until the outstanding dues are settled. Students with overdue fees older than one month may be dropped out of the register. Such a student may be charged a drop-out fee and where relevant a down-grade fee so that they can be certified at a lower-level than the registered programme. The student will also be required to immediately pay the full fee (including all monthly installments) for the modules which have started. A student with outstanding dues may not be issued with any learning material and may not be allowed to write assessments.

Students may be awarded full, or part scholarships based on criteria that will be in effect from time to time. All students on scholarship must complete the programme for which they are enrolled. Students on scholarship who discontinue their studies or take a break from their studies will be liable to pay the scholarship amount back to the institution immediately.

### 9.3 Refund policy

Tuition fees will only be refundable if the refund request is received at least 96 hours before the scheduled start of the given module or programme and if the student has not collected any study material from the institution. Refunds are subject to a refund fee. Registration and admission fees are non-refundable unless Botho University cancels or changes the scheduled start of classes; in such a case no refund fee will be charged.

## 10 Student Exchange Regulations

### 10.1 Student Eligibility and Selection

Student exchange programmes are typically offered for specific parts of a given qualification and will be advertised to eligible students. Typical eligibility requirements require students to be studying full-time and to maintain a CGPA of at least 3.00. Students are also expected to have strong interpersonal skills, cultural awareness and a willingness to adapt to different conditions. Specific and additional eligibility criteria will be determined for each given student exchange programme and will be advertised to students when the programme is offered.

Students may apply for exchange and study abroad programmes if they meet the advertised eligibility criteria. The relevant Faculty will select the students with the assistance of the Student and Alumni Affairs Department. Short-listed students may also be interviewed prior to selection. Any student finally selected to participate in the programme will have to be endorsed by both Botho University and the partner institution. Selected students will have to sign an agreement and will be expected to abide by the rules and regulations of the Host Institution. Parental consent will be required in writing for those participating students who are below the age of 18.

### 10.2 Programme of Study and Exemptions or Credit Transfer

Exchange programmes may vary in length and will have different modules that a student will need to study at the Host Institution. All details of the length of the programme and the modules to be studied will be advertised to students when the call for applications is released. Those exchange programmes that are a full semester in length will typically require the student to take a full-time study load at the Host Institution for which the student will typically receive the equivalent full-time study credit or exemptions at the Home Institution. The specific modules that a student will study at the Host Institution and the credits or exemptions that the student will receive at their Home Institution may vary and will depend on the nature of the agreement between Botho University and the partner institution. Any credit or exemptions given by the Home Institution for studies done at the Host institution will be in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Home Institution. No credit or exemptions may be sought or received in the case of a module that has been failed at the Host Institution. A student may or may not have an opportunity to retake a failed module at the Host Institution; additional expenses incurred to take any supplementary assessments (including travel) will be the sole responsibility of the student or their sponsor.

### 10.3 Fees and Other Costs

All fees and expenses relating to the exchange programme are the responsibility of the student or their sponsor. All standard tuition fees and other costs must be paid in advance to the Home Institution. Therefore, Botho University students going on exchange to a partner institution will need to pay all fees related to the exchange programme to Botho University. Exchange students who wish to participate in activities or studies beyond those specifically detailed in the exchange programme may be charged for such services by the Host Institution as per that institution's norms.

Where an exchange programme requires immigration formalities such as in the case of exchanges involving study abroad, the student and their sponsor will be responsible for covering the cost of any visas, permits and other immigration documentation required to participate in the programme. Botho University may assist its students with the process of procuring such documents.

Exchange students are required to have medical aid cover and travel insurance, which covers their travel to, entire stay at and travel from the Host Institution and country. Such insurance must include repatriation in case of any emergency or death. The student and their sponsor will be responsible for covering the cost of any such medical aid cover and travel insurance.

Transportation to and from the Host Institution at the start, during and at the end of the exchange programme will be the responsibility of the student or sponsor. The Home or Host Institution may provide transportation at a cost. Other direct costs, such as personal domestic transportation and food during the exchange programme, are the responsibility of the student or sponsor.

### 10.4 Housing

Exchange students will be provided with standard student accommodation provided by the Host Institution. Such accommodation may be provided at a cost. Students are expected to abide by all the rules and regulations pertaining to the accommodation provided by the Host Institution.



### 10.5 Student Support

The Student & Alumni Affairs Department at Botho University will provide support to students on the exchange programme in addition to standard support provided by the relevant Faculty. Exchange students from partner institutions studying at Botho University during the exchange programme will receive a formal student identity card valid for the duration of the exchange programme. Participation of students with special needs is possible subject to the ability of the Host Institution to support such students adequately.

### 10.6 Discipline

Exchange students will be required to abide by the rules and regulations of the Host Institution and country. Exchange students who contravene any rule or regulation of the Host Institution are subject to disciplinary procedures as set out under the Host Institution's rules and regulations, and in addition may also be subject to disciplinary procedures at their Home Institution.

## 11 Academic Advising Regulations

### 11.1 The Role of Academic Advising

Academic advising plays an important role in enhancing students' educational experience at the University by encouraging students to think critically about their programme of study, their participation in extra-curricular activities and their efforts towards achieving the Botho Graduate Profile. The success of the Botho Academic Advising Programme is built upon a strong and consistent working relationship between a student and his advisor, and the critical understanding by the student that they are personally responsible for maximising their learning experiences at the University. The student holds the ultimate responsibility for taking decisions about their academic choices within the framework of the University's regulations; the academic advisor's role is to advise and guide the student but cannot take a decision on behalf of the student. It must be noted that the academic advisor is not a professional counsellor and is thus not qualified to support the student with personal counselling matters—the University has in-house counsellors and agreements with external counselling support bodies to assist students with such matters.

### 11.2 Selection of Academic Advisors

Academic advisors may be members of academic or non-academic staff. A student should ideally be allocated the same academic advisor for his entire career at the University, but the advisor may be changed due to operational reasons. A student may request a change in their advisor if not happy with their allocated advisor; such a request must be lodged with the Academic Advising Team Leader within the Faculty who will consider whether or not to make a change as requested. There is no guarantee that a request for change in advisor will be accepted.

Academic Advisors will be allocated to all new first-year students. Existing students who do not have an allocated Academic Advisor will have the option to request an Academic Advisor with the Academic Advising Team Leader or Head of Department.

## 11.3 Responsibilities of Academic Advisors

Academic advisors must:

- Specify office hours during which their advisee students can fix appointments to meet them. This meeting can be done through face-to-face or virtual means.
- Be willing to avail reasonable time to the student to assist with making decisions critical to their academic success.
- Be knowledgeable about the student's chosen programme and the University's regulations and should always share current and accurate information about these.
- Keep themselves abreast of all developments in programmes, policies and services at the University
- Be able to communicate effectively using a number of different means including face-to-face meetings, electronic video or voice calls, and e-mails.
- Be ethical and should respect the student's right to confidentiality.
- Be able to manage conflict that may arise as a result of the advising process and work towards an amicable resolution for the purpose of the educational plan.
- Never harass or intimidate the student; the role of the advisor is to assist the student with decision-making, but not to force a decision.
- Encourage the student to maximise their university experience by studying and performing well in academics, pursuing relevant internships to gain appropriate work experience, and by participating actively in university extra-curricular activities.
- For distance learning students who are unable to get assistance on a given matter, help connect the student with the relevant department which can assist them.
- Refer the student to other resources available in the University if unable to assist the student with any matter.

## 11.4 Responsibilities of the Student in the Advising Process

Students shall:

- Make appointments to meet with their academic advisor during their office hours and attend all advisory meetings on time.
- Study in detail all University policies, regulations and other documentation related to their programme of study; students must clarify any doubts they may have on these documents with their academic advisor.
- Use appropriate means to communicate regularly with their academic advisor and use the academic advisor and the advising process to help inform decisions concerning their programme of study such as which modules to register on, which specialisations to take, etc.
- Respect the academic advisor and genuinely consider the advice provided when making decisions concerning their programme of study.

## 11.5 The Advisory Meeting

The academic advisor and student may meet as regularly as necessary, but should meet at least once every semester. It is expected that a regular advisory meeting should take about twenty minutes, however meetings may take longer where necessary and only if possible. The advisory meeting should discuss the following matters:

- Review of the action lists and performance targets set from the last advisory meeting to recognise successes and identify areas needing additional effort and support.
- The academic performance of the student since the last meeting.

- Any module and specialisation choices that the student is required to make for the upcoming semester.
- Extra-curricular activities that the student is involved in or could become involved in.
- Methods for finding and maximizing the learning from internships and other work experience opportunities.
- Areas where the student may require additional support or assistance, including special needs matters.
- Preparation of an action list and performance targets for the student for the next period.
- Any other matters including university policy matters that affect the student

The academic advisor should maintain detailed advisory meeting reports, which should be signed by student and academic advisor – these reports will be passed to future academic advisors of the student if the academic advisor is changed. Any matter deemed confidential by the student or academic advisor should not be included in the report and must remain confidential between the academic advisor and student.

## 12 Student Bereavement

In the unfortunate instance of a student's bereavement, the Student and Alumni Affairs department (SAAD) at the University will follow the following code of practice:

- Inform all stakeholders about the student's bereavement through the official university email.
- Conduct a memorial service at the University, inviting the immediate family members of the deceased student and all senior members of staff.
- Provide a nominal amount of funds to the family as a mark of respect.
- One senior staff and student representative to attend and speak at the funeral service of the deceased organised by the family.
- Closure of all the official academic records at the University for the deceased and inform the sponsor.