

STUDENT INDUCTION SLIDES 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND WELFARE
SERVICES

WELCOME

BOTSWANA OPEN UNIVERSITY-YOUR UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE

**WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS JOURNEY WITH YOU,
TO HANDHOLD YOU THROUGH THIS JOURNEY**

Please go through the following slides to familiarise yourself with the BOU support System. For any clarity on the information provided on these slides, send your questions to

director-saw@staff.bou.ac.bw, or any of the email addresses provided on the last slide. We will be happy to assist you.

Introduction

- **Botswana Open University (BOU) commenced its operations in December 2017**
- **BOU was instituted through Act No. 13 of 2017 which formalised transformation of Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning into a University**
- **The transformation followed approval of Tertiary Education Policy 2008 Recommendation 6(vii)**
 - “A university or institute of ODL should be established as a separate institution dedicated to tertiary level ODL either as a new institution or through the development of BOCODOL with a mandate expanded beyond its current remit to embrace tertiary education.”
- **CAB 37A of 2011 communicated Cabinet’s acceptance of the transformation**

BOU Mandate

- **To expand access to tertiary education and training on a nation-wide scale using Open and Distance Learning (ODL) methodologies**

Subsidiary Functions

- **National Provision of In-service Education and/or Continuing Professional Development Programmes using ODL mode;**
- **Provision of Open Schooling Programmes to Out-of-School Youth and Adults;**
- **Promotion of lifelong learning; and**
- **Promotion of equitable access to quality education and training**

Profile of BOU

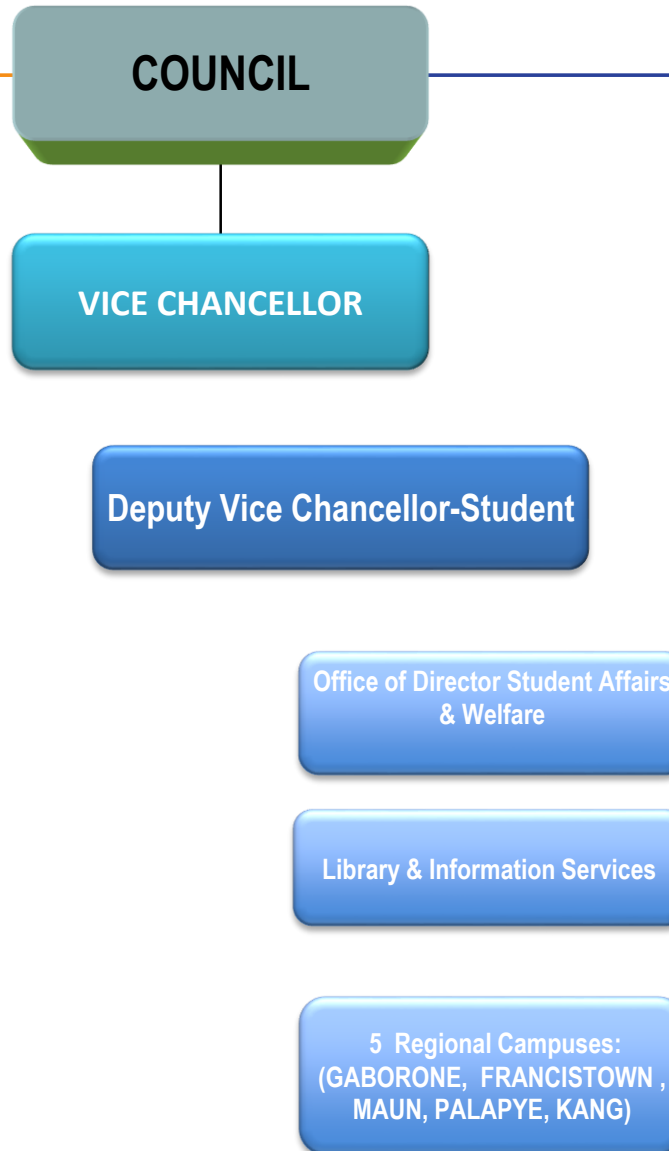
- **Programme levels are inclusive of Open Schooling, Certificate, Diploma, Undergraduate, Graduate and Post-Graduate (28 programmes)**
- **Programmes are offered through 4 Schools**
- **Students are supported through 5 Regional Campuses (Gaborone, Palapye, Francistown, Maun, Kang)**
- **Programmes are delivered through blended learning approaches**
- **On-line Services have been institutionalised for tertiary education applications, registration, payment as well as teaching and learning**

BOU Structure

**THE UNIVERSITY IS CURRENTLY OPERATING WITH
THREE DIVISIONS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
ACTING VICE CHANCELLOR:**

- 1. ACADEMIC SERVICES**
- 2. STUDENT SERVICES**
- 3. CORPORATE SERVICES**

STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION



COMMUNICATION CHANNELS & INDUCTION PACKAGE

1. All interactions and Communication will be through the different student Platforms such as;

- **BOU website**
- **Student Centre**
- **Student Portal**
- **BOU Facebook Page**
- **BOU Twitter**
- **Student email**
- **Whatsapp groups**
- **SMS**

2. You will receive a student Induction Package which can be accessed at the student Centre with the following;

- **Induction slides**
- **Student Induction Guide**
- **Programme Overview Slides**
- **Delivery Schedules**
- **Academic Calendar**

3. You will receive Your Programme Semester Modules on the Student Portal with the Following;

- **Assignments for Semester 1**
- **Discussion and Chat Forums Schedule**
- **Project/Research Supervisor & related Information**
- **Contacts for your Tutors and Coordinators**

4. Important Policies and Procedure about your Conduct and Integrity during your stay at BOU are available on the Student Centre.

5. Note that there will not be any Face to Face Tutorials this Academic Year.

Services to facilitate learning, retention, progression to ensure a superior student learning experience

- Students are offered a variety of robust learner support interventions to facilitate their learning, retention and progression, so as to enhance their success rate as well as to go through an enjoyable learning experience. **Some of the services offered to the student are:**
- **Administrative support** where students are assisted with applications, registration, assessment administration and graduation
- **Tuition Support** related to diverse interaction with study materials & academic staff, assignment cycle management, examination administration, Induction packages and academic support.
- **Guidance and Counselling** support including Psychosocial support services, Student Welfare Initiatives and Student Development Initiatives. E-counselling services are available.
- **Communication**- liaison between the student and the rest of the university organs using various communication modes such as telephone, letter, various IT media, information brochures, flyers and meetings.
- **Learning Materials** - interactive and up-to-date learning materials and media shared with students per Course.

BOU STUDENT PROFILE

Botswana Open University (BOU) Student diversity includes among others:

- Vast geographical distribution
- Age variance
- Diverse Educational backgrounds
- Gender,
- Motivation to learn
- Ability to access available resources.
- International students
- School leavers
- Learners with disability
- Employment status
- Marital Status
- Parental status
- Funding status
- Disadvantaged Students
- Inmates
- Limited access to Technology
- Different Learning Experiences
- Remoteness

STUDENT SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

Administrative Support

- Application Process
- Selection Process
- Admission Process
- Fee Payment Process
- Registration/Enrolment Process
- Materials Distribution Process
- Records management Process
- Information and Communication Process

STUDENT SUPPORT FUNCTIONS CONT

Guidance & Counselling

- Pre-enrolment Guidance
- Timetabling/Scheduling
- Individual Consultations
- Inductions/Training
- Examination preparations
- Online interactions support
- Assignment management
- Student Performance
- Study skills Interventions
- Assessment and Profiling
- Psychosocial support-counselling including referrals and e-counselling services

STUDENT SUPPORT FUNCTIONS CONT

Tuition/Academic Support

- Tutor Management,
- Teaching & Learning Interactions on Moodle
- Assignment Management,
- Examination Administration
- Peer Interactions
- How to access Resources
- Academic Referrals
- Library and Information Services
- Graduation support

Student Support Policies available for you at the student centre:

1. Student Representative Council Policy
2. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Policy
3. Protection of Enrolled Learners Policy
4. Tertiary Enrollment Policy
5. Open Schooling Enrollment Policy
6. BOU Student Integrity Policy
7. BOU Student Assessment Handbook

Communication Contacts at Your Campus

Send your Question or enquiry about your course or programme and support issues to the following address at your Campus:

Campus	Contact details
Gaborone	tertiary-gaborone@staff.bou.ac.bw
Francistown	tertiary-francistown@staff.bou.ac.bw
Palapye	tertiary-palapye@staff.bou.ac.bw
Maun	tertiary-maun@staff.bou.ac.bw
Kang	tertiary-kang@staff.bou.ac.bw

THANK YOU

HAVE AN ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE
LEARNING EXPERIENCE WITH BOU.
REMEMBER- WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU.