

Expectations, Assessment and Certification

The expectation is for learners to devote approximately 4 hours per week to each micro-credential.

Each micro-credential will be assessed based on criteria that will be mainly focused on demonstrating competencies. For example, in the Youth Entrepreneurship \ micro-credential, learners will be expected to develop a business plan. In the Youth Rights, Civic Engagement and Political Participation micro-credential, learners will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the principles of youth rights in comparative perspective. The micro-credentials will be offered sequentially, starting with Youth Rights, Civic Engagement and Political Participation.

Upon satisfactory completion of assessments, learners will be awarded a badge of achievement for each micro-credential. The badge will identify the issuers, name of the credential, and other meta-data to demonstrate the value of the earned badge.

Partners

Botswana Open University (BOU) is one of six public universities in the country. Formerly the Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning, BOU was established in 2017 by an act of parliament. Its mission is "to provide quality education, research and community engagement through open and distance learning solutions."

Southern African Development Community Centre for Distance Education (SADC-CDE) is one of four regional centres supported by the Commonwealth of Learning. Since its inception in 2005, SADC-CDE has engaged in a range of capacity-building efforts for the 11 member states in Southern Africa. SADC-CDE is an Open and Distance Learning Centre of Excellence in the region.

Lakehead University is a comprehensive university with approximately 9,700 full-time equivalent students and over 2,000 faculty and staff at two locations in Orillia and Thunder Bay, Ontario. Lakehead is perennially ranked as one of Canada's top Undergraduate Research Universities. It offers a fully comprehensive curriculum with over 70 programmes on offer.

Commonwealth of Learning: Established in 1987, the Commonwealth of Learning is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to the promotion and development of distance education and open learning among its member states. In addition to SADC-CDE, COL supports three other regional centres in the Commonwealth.



**SOUTHERN AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
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COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING



Botswana Open
University



Activists from the Climate Reparations Bloc and Defund Climate Chaos prepare for a march. Image from Flickr (PDM 1.0 DEED).

Micro-Credential Courses

- ▶ Youth Rights, Civic Engagement and Political Participation
- ▶ Youth Entrepreneurship

ABOUT

The Micro-Credentials

Conventionally titled as courses, the content is being packaged as micro-credentials. Micro-credentials are growing in popularity as a means to widen learning access to individuals. Micro-credentials have been conceptualised as competency-based short learning programs mainly but not exclusively aimed at the ongoing development of knowledge and skills for the workforce. Another concept is for micro-credentials to integrate with similar or longer types of certifications.

UNESCO has provided the following working definition of micro-credentials as:

- a record of focused learning achievement verifying what the learner knows, understands or can do
- includes assessment based on clearly defined standards and is awarded by a trusted provider
- has stand-alone value and may also contribute to or complement other micro-credentials or macro-credentials, including through recognition of prior learning meets the standards required by relevant quality assurance

Oliver, B. (2022, p.20). Towards a common definition of micro-credentials. Paris, France

BOU will endeavour to build these two micro-credentials against the UNESCO working definition.

Micro-Credential Descriptions

Youth Rights, Civic Engagement and Political Participation

This micro-credential introduces learners to core concepts about youth rights, civic engagement, and political participation. Learners will develop a deeper understanding of how to engage youth in civic, and political life in their roles as youth workers in Botswana. The micro-credential will provide learners with skills and strategies that they can use to help empower youth in their current or future roles as Youth Workers.

Youth Entrepreneurship

This micro-credential will provide learners (i.e., existing, or future Youth Workers) with knowledge and skills that they can use to assist youth in starting their own businesses. Entrepreneurship can create jobs, provide reliable streams of income, build community and enable fuller youth participation in society.



Young entrepreneur in the Green Growth Africa project: <https://greengrowthafrica.org/gallery/> (CCO 1.0 universal)

Youth Rights, Civic Engagement and Political Participation

Module 1 – Youth Rights

Define what is meant by the term, “rights” and:

- Describe the rights guaranteed to youth in Botswana
- Compare and contrast rights guaranteed to youth in other SADC member states

Module 2 – Labour Rights and Youth

Explore why youth employment is vital to economic and social development in the SADC region and:

- Learn about the labour rights guaranteed to workers in Botswana
- Describe why it is important for youth to be able to find safe and decent work

Module 3 – Civic Engagement

Delve into civic engagement by exploring the different forms it can take and:

- Identify different ways that youth can engage in civic life, based on different contexts;
- Describe strategies that can be used to encourage youth civic engagement

Module 4 – Youth, Civic, and Political Participation – Challenges and Barriers

Learn about political participation and:

- Explain the different forms that political participation for youth can take
- Describe the barriers and challenges that can prevent Botswana youth from participating in political processes

Module 5 – Youth, Civic, and Political Participation – Towards Empowerment

Consider empowerment strategies and:

- Describe how youth workers can use these strategies to encourage youth to participate in civic and political life
- Explore examples of empowered youth in Botswana/SADC

Youth Entrepreneurship

Module 1 – Introduction to Youth Entrepreneurship

Investigate what entrepreneurship can look like in Botswana and:

- Define what it means to participate in entrepreneurship
- Describe the importance of innovation to successful entrepreneurial endeavour

Module 2 – Starting a Small Business

Learn about the processes involved in starting a small business:

- Explain the difference between for-profit businesses and non-profit businesses
- Describe the steps that are required to start a small business in Botswana

Module 3 – Creating a Business Plan

Develop an understanding of why business plans are necessary for entrepreneurs and:

- Learn about the basics of business plans and why they are important
- Learn about performing a SWOT analysis
- Understand how to write business plans and learn to explain their importance to youth entrepreneurs

Module 4 – Financial Literacy and Marketing

Explore basic literacy concepts and:

- Describe the different ways that financing can be obtained for a new business
- Create a marketing plan by combining effective marketing strategies

Module 5 – Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs

Understand the barriers that youth entrepreneurs in Botswana may face and:

- Explain why an “entrepreneurial mindset” is important and describe how you can help foster this mindset in youth
- Develop a strategy you can use to help them overcome these barriers