



DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN COMMONWEALTH AFRICA

Scoping challenges, strengths and potentials of
doctoral education in Botswana

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Background and Context



- Botswana, a landlocked country in southern Africa with a population of about 2 million.
- Main sponsor of education – Government
- Free Public education– not compulsory
- Universal access – primary, junior secondary school
- A process of academic selectivity reduces entrance to senior secondary school and higher education institutions.
- This decreasing trend worsens in higher education

HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS & PARTICIPATION

Botswana

Aspires for tertiary education system that is relevant, dynamic, accessible, equitable and internationally competitive (Government of Botswana, Ministry of Education and Skills Development (2008)).

Role of tertiary education

The preparation of the country's high level human resource

The development of a research and innovation capacity responsive to every element of personal well-being, social progress and economic development of a globally connected and prosperous nation (Government of Botswana, Ministry of Education and Skills Development (2008)).

Doctoral Degree Provider

- UB –Started 1982. Sole provider of doctoral studies
- PhD commenced in 1995/96

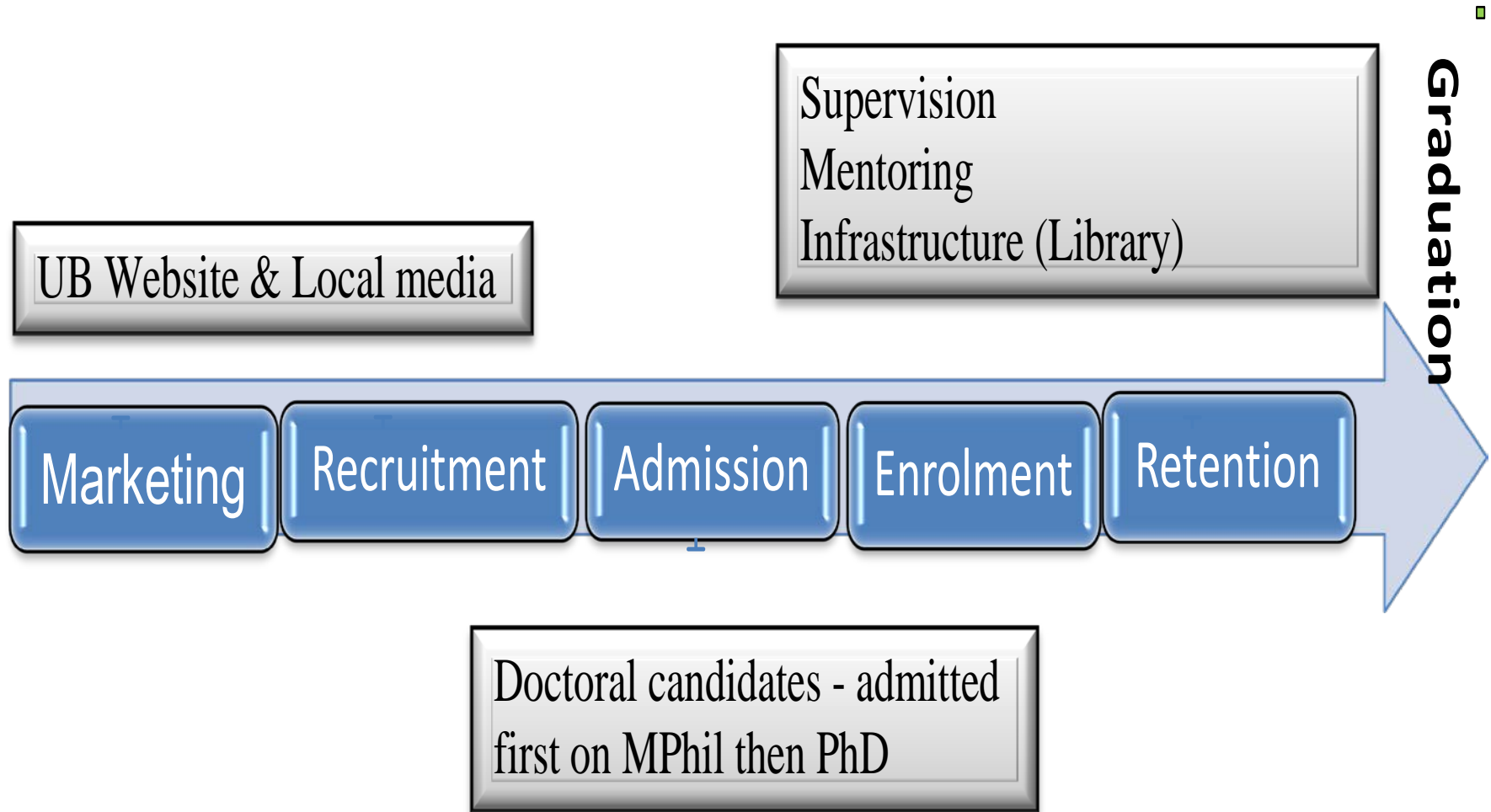
Rationale

Facilitating state-of-the-art research – Research is a hallmark of quality doctoral studies and producing an original research is an integral component of doctoral studies at UB.

Increase global outreach and UB reputation



UB DOCTORAL STUDIES PATH



UB DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

Okavango Research
Centre, 1

Social Sciences, 7

Science, 3

Medicine, 0

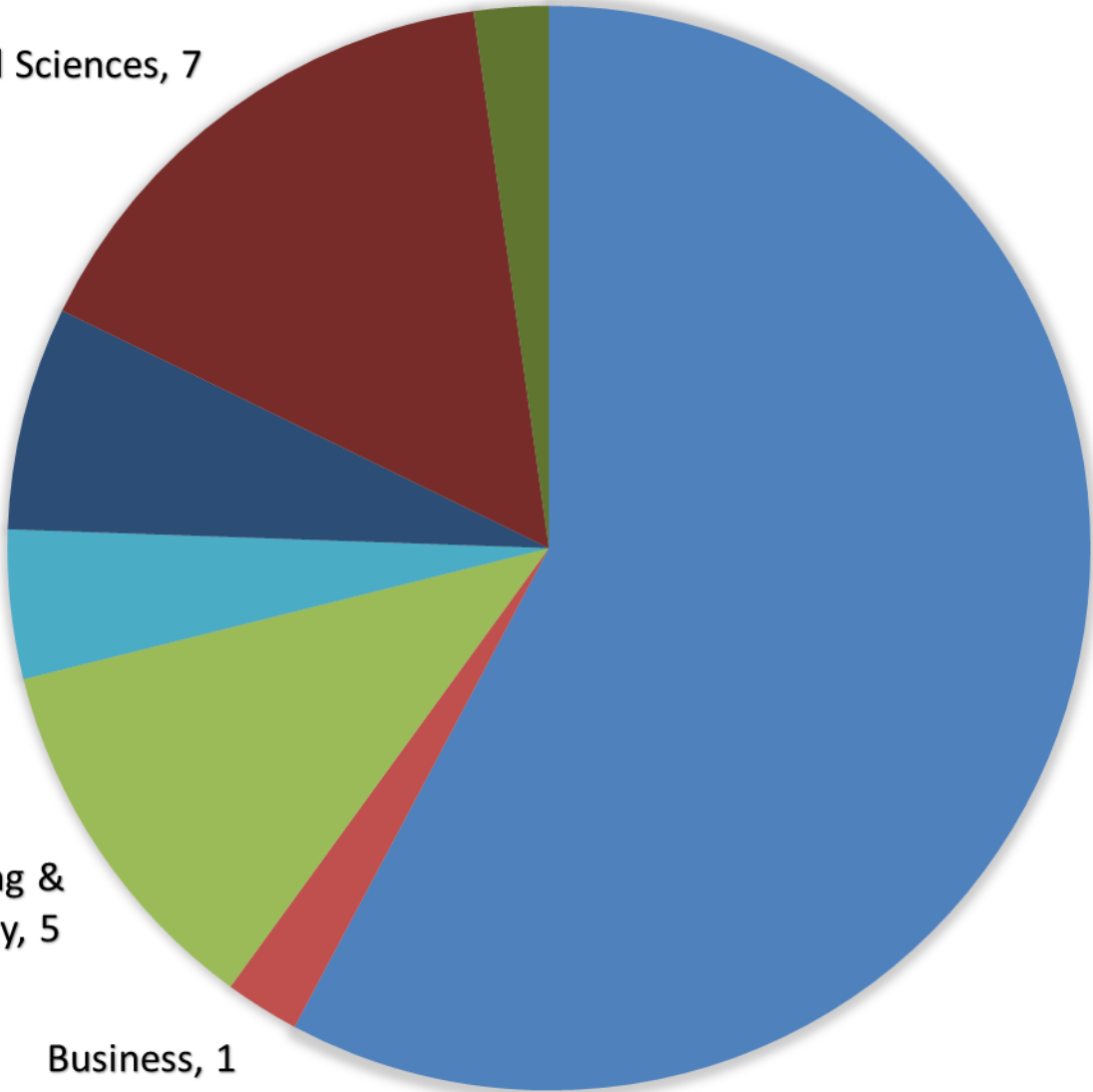
Humanities, 2















Health Sciences, 0

Engineering &
Technology, 5

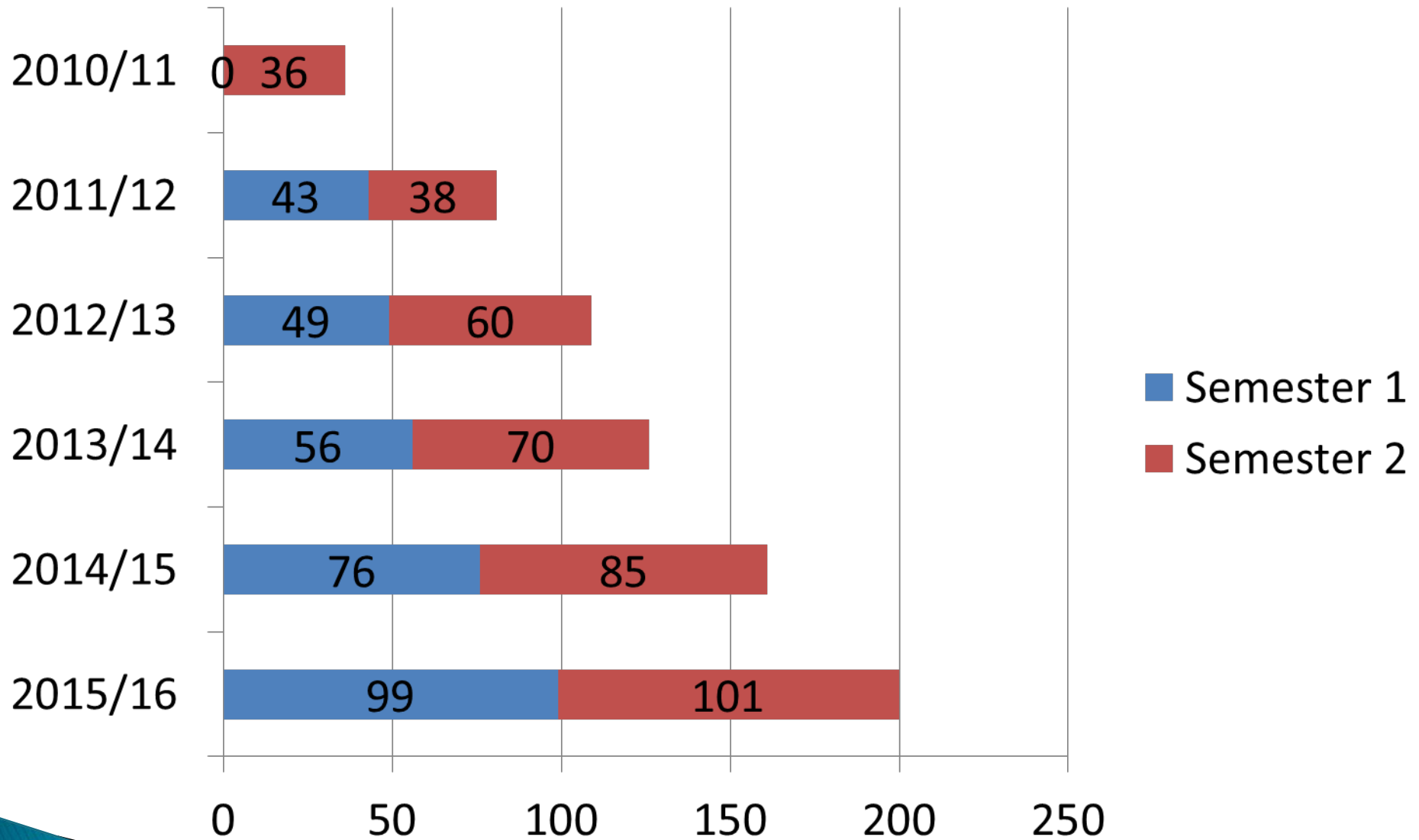
Business, 1

Education, 26



Faculties	M/Phil/PhD Programmes						
Business	Business						
Education	Adult Education	Counselling & Human Services	Educational Management	Gender Education	Research & Evaluation	Curriculum & Instruction	Mathematics Education
	Science Education	Language Education	Social Studies Education	History Education	Geography Education	Measurement & Evaluation	Infant Education
	Food & Nutrition	Textile & Clothing	Home Economics	Physical Education & Coaching	Exercise Science	Sports & Recreational Management	Sports Psychology
	Special Education	Educational Technology	Early Childhood Education	Environmental Education			
Engineering & Technology	Engineering	Design	Technology	Built Environment		Project Management	
Health Sciences							
Humanities	African Languages & Literature			Theology & Religious Studies			
Medicine							
Science	Chemistry	Computer Science		Physics			
Social Sciences	Economics	Public Administration	Political Science	Political Studies	Social Work	Sociology	Statistics
Okavango Research Centre	Natural Resources & Management						

ENROLMENT NUMBERS: YEAR 2010-2016



Graduate Students Graduation Statistics

	YEAR				
Programme	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Masters	213	185	181	197	261
MPhil	4	0	4	5	5
PhD	10	4	13	16	19
Total	227	189	198	218	285

School of Graduate
Studies & Other
Structures (ORD &
International Office

Infrastructure

UB
STRENGTHS

Political Will + Positive
Image (Community)

Qualified Academic
Staff

CHALLENGES

Sponsorship No direct commitment from (Government)

- closed/restricted access
- lack of support services as well as
- students opting for – part-time study/full-time employment
- inadequate time to study

No Scholarship

Students self-sponsored

progression and completion slow or impossible

Those who are sponsored by their institutions study abroad rather than locally

Weak implementations of some Graduate Regulations

Board of Examiners

Selection of supervisors

Monitoring and evaluation

CHALLENGES

Lack of preparatory/
recognition or incentives for
doctoral supervisors)

No induction
workshops on
supervisory skills

Heavy workload for
Doctoral supervisors

Insufficient time for
mentoring of doctoral
students

Prolonged progression &
completion

Doctoral students are usually
on part-time study and full
time employment

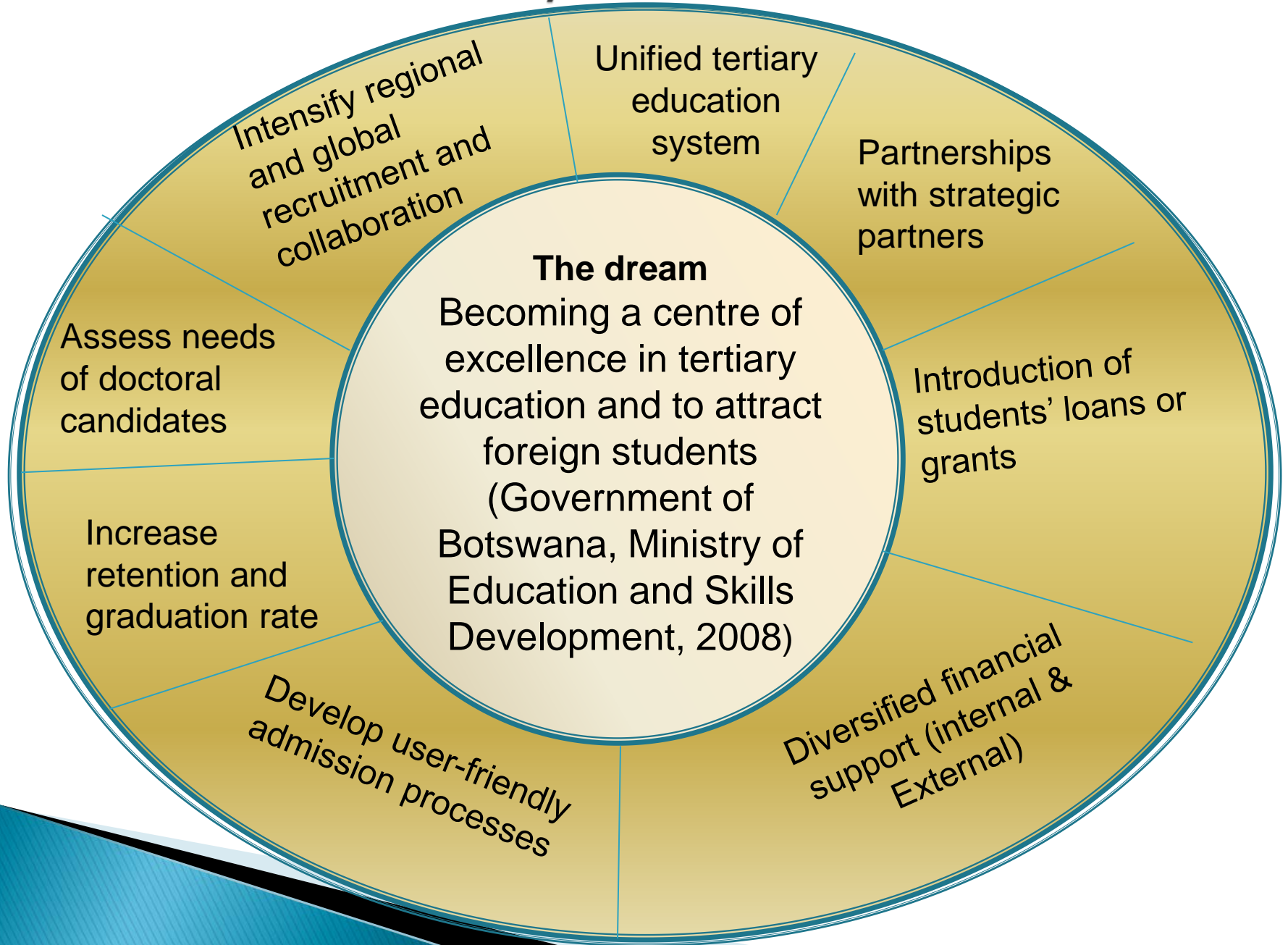
Permission to withdraw
for up to two years

The absence of doctoral
forum or Pitso (in Setswana)

Meagre or no research
funds

Poor quality student research

Way forward





Thank
you!!