

# **Bridging the Gap: Aligning University Geomatics Programs with Industry Needs and Enhancing Graduates' Employability in Botswana**

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## **SUMMARY**

Universities and other tertiary institutions exist primarily to train and produce graduates with requisite skills for various types and places of work. Technologies associated with programs of study have continued to boom unbounded, making it necessary for continued checks and bridging of gaps between tertiary institutions and industry. Considering the forgoing point in the field of Geomatics, a number of technological advances emerges, for instance; Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Geographical Information Systems, Digital Photogrammetry, Satellite Imagery (Remote Sensing), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Lidar Points Cloud Technologies. Therefore, it is prudent to study practical applicability of the geomatics knowledge and skills acquired during time of learning at tertiary institution within a geomatics industry. Geomatics education plays a pivotal role in preparing graduates for careers in fields such as surveying, mapping, remote sensing, engineering, mining and geospatial analysis. A study was conducted to help evaluate the practical applicability of geomatics education among alumni who have obtained geomatics certificates from universities and/or tertiary institutions in Botswana. This study is a pilot approach premised on a hybrid questionnaire consisting of quantitative and qualitative questions. The questionnaire was designed to obtain alumni feedback on their education, workplace utilization of geomatics knowledge and tools, and suggestions for curriculum improvements. Based on the survey findings and the insights gained, a number of recommendations are advanced to help universities in Botswana to enhance their geomatics programs and better align them with industry.

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