Emeris

Bachelor of Arts Honours in Design Leadership

Vega School

2 Years Distance Honours | NQF Level 8
120 Credits | SAQA ID: 118641 | HDEL0801

→ Online

Qualification Description

The Bachelor of Arts Honours in Design Leadership qualification is where design, creativity and innovation meet. Equipping graduates with the theory and practical knowledge to make a real impact as Creative Directors, Senior Designers, Design Entrepreneurs and Design Leads.

The magic of design lies in collaboration where students engage in a number of creative projects, individually as well as part of interdisciplinary teams. With sound research and high-level conceptual problem solving, graduates develop a portfolio which illustrates solutions which add true economic, environmental and social value. Skills which are essential in this world where design, brand, business and technology collide in the most exciting way. Design Leadership graduates learn to sharpen and expand their thinking to be wholly human-centered. With a deeper knowledge of design research and ability to plan and execute complex design solutions, the degree lays a strong foundation for further Master's studies.

Who Is This Qualification Aimed At?

This Honours programme is designed for graduates from diverse design fields including Graphic Design, Game Design and Development, Digital Design, Interaction Design, Multimedia Design, UX/UI, and Fashion Design. It is ideal for those who aspire to advance into senior leadership roles, lead creative teams, establish their own consultancies, or pursue careers as design entrepreneurs

How Will Emeris Support Your Online Learning as a Distance (Online) Student, and How Will It Help Prepare You for the Working World?

Our distance teaching and learning approach is designed to allow you the freedom to self-govern your learning experiences according to your individual needs. You are at the centre of your own learning journey, and by offering curated engagement opportunities, we partner with you to:

- Engage with subject material
- Build understanding
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Manage your work, life and studies
- Succeed in your personal, professional, and academic goals.

DISTANCE (ONLINE)

CONTACT FULL-TIME

Admission Requirements

Minimum Admission Requirements	An appropriate Bachelor's Degree **OR** An appropriate Advanced Diploma provided that a 360 credit Diploma or appropriate equivalent has been completed.	All candidates are required to submit a Design portfolio. Candidates are normally required to have a minimum final year average of 60% in the qualifications final-year (NQF L7) modules. Those with a final year average of 55 - 59% will be admitted if they attained an average of 60% or higher for the designated cognate/core discipline module at final-year (NQF L7) level.
	International	A SAQA NQF L7 Evaluation Certificate in an appropriate field and meeting the additional admission requirements.

Additional Notes	Applicants who do not meet the admissions requirements for admission to Honours can enrol for and repeat all or some of their NQF Level 7 modules as NQP modules in order to improve their marks so that they may meet the average required for Honours. The modules to be taken as NQP for the purpose of admission to the respective qualification must be approved by the relevant faculty member.

Scan the QR Code to learn more about Alternate Admission requirements for:
RPL | Mature Age Exemptions | USAf International Students | One module outstanding from a Higher Certificate *If applicable.

Curriculum Outline

The curriculum is designed to provide students with a structured progression through core disciplines, fostering both theoretical understanding and applied competence across key areas of study.

The core disciplines included in this programme are:

Modules	Module Purpose
Design Leadership	This module critically examines a range of key design leadership theories that frame the complex interrelationships between design, brand and business. The module engages with debates that are not bound by traditional disciplinary concerns in order to develop critical and creative engagement with complex societal and sustainable challenges. The future role of the designer and the development of design leaders are critically explored.
Design Strategy and Management	This module analyses the processes of strategic evidence-based design, decision-making and the alignment of creative teams with these strategies and decisions. Students will consider the ethical and entrepreneurial role of design. Principles regarding the planning and management of own enterprises and design projects are applied.
Solution Design (Individual Work)	This module develops students' ability to solve complex design problems using appropriate design approaches. Students are required to demonstrate their strategic thinking and independent conceptual skills as designers. Students independently refine their skills and reflective awareness in a selected focus area of design and develops design outcomes within sustainable and social contexts, supported by research and documentation.
Collaborative Design (Team Work)	This module focuses on collaboration, where ideas are generated and communicated in areas such as brand design, design systems, services, communication design, environments and objects. Solutions are grounded on contextual research and project outcomes contribute to a portfolio that shows creative, conceptual and strategic skills. Furthermore, the module deepens multidisciplinary professional learning and builds broader skills in complex project planning, leadership and adaptability.
Design Research (Methodology and Project)	The purpose of these modules is to develop students' knowledge of design research concepts, principles and practices and foster their ability to perform both academic research and research aimed at informing design solutions. The modules expose students to various design research methods and techniques and introduces students to the development of an academic proposal and research report. The module guides them through the process of argument development, academic writing and reporting on research, whilst integrating design theory and contemporary discourse. Emphasis is placed on independent and critical thinking, analysis, research design and methods, written and visual communication of findings

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Emeris is registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997 (reg. No. 2007/HE07/002).

Please note, details are correct at the time of publication.

Curriculum Structure

Year 1							
Semester 1				Semester 2			
Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits	Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits
DESL8411	Design Leadership	8	20	SDES8411	Solution Design	8	20
DRME8411	Design Research Methodology	8	20	DESM8412	Design Strategy and Management	8	20
Year 2							
Semester 3				Semester 4			
Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits	Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits
CLDE8412	Collaborative Design	8	20				
Year Long							
DRPR8419	Design Research Project					8	20

Further Study Pathways

The successful completion of the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Design Leadership qualification (HDEL0801) enables you to progress into the Master of Design Leadership (MDEL0901), subject to meeting the admission requirements.

Career Opportunities

- Senior Designers
- Creative Directors
- Art Directors
- Senior Digital Designers
- Design Entrepreneurs
- Design Strategists
- Design Consultants
- Design Managers

System and Software Requirements

- Reliable internet connection (we recommend 5-10 GB of data per month and an internet speed of at least 0.15 Mbps)
- Desktop PC or laptop with at least an i3 processor and 4GB RAM memory
- Windows 11 or macOS 10.15 (Microsoft Office 365 is available as a free download for students), and Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge Chromium or Firefox
- A working webcam and microphone
- An uninterrupted power supply is also highly recommended.

Exams are written at an exam centre and in some instances online. These details will be specified in your Programme Assessment Schedule (PAS).

Graduation and Completion Requirements for This Qualification

In order to be awarded this qualification, you must have achieved a minimum final year mark of fifty percent (50%) for all 6 modules in the curriculum.

As a distance (online) student, this qualification is structured to be completed over 2 years. The maximum time for completing a qualification full-time is double the minimum time associated with the qualification, and for part-time an additional year is allowed.

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Where Assessments Are Written in Person

- For students based in South Africa, online students may select any Emeris campus as their Examination Centre.
- An alternative examination centre is only permissible for students studying abroad and those located in a province of South Africa where there is no campus. If there is no campus within reach, an alternative venue will need to be sourced by you. For non-Emeris venues, there is an alternative venue levy per module.

What Are the Benefits of a Distance (Online) Qualification?

The distance (online) delivery mode provides you with the agility of studying towards a tertiary qualification asynchronously, at different times from different locations. Distance students need to commit to approximately 20-25 hours a week for distance engagement (most of which is after hours) with material and assessments to succeed.

Here are some of the benefits you can expect:

- A sequenced online learning environment that allows you the ability to manage your learning experiences flexibly and autonomously.
- A learner guide designed to lead you through the module material and learning outcomes, empowering you to effectively pace your learning in preparation for assessments.
- Our Learning Management System is designed to break up your learning units into manageable sections which include various activities to support learning.
- Module expert online lecturers that facilitate module teaching and learning support through various technology enhanced mediums.
- Student Relations Specialists provide administrative and operational guidance and support throughout your academic journey.
- A professionally registered Student Wellness Manager/Counsellor available for short-term, primary counselling services. Additionally, the Student Wellness Manager/Counsellor hosts various webinars and virtual talks on topics that promote a balanced lifestyle as you pursue your academic goals.

Apply Online

After your application is submitted, we will review your documentation and provide an outcome regarding your chosen study.

Follow us on social

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