



IIE Master of Design Leadership

Vega School

2 Years Distance Master's | NQF Level 9
180 Credits | SAQA ID: 124832 | MDEL0901

→ Online

Qualification Description

The IIE Master of Design Leadership is a coursework Masters directed at people who wish to deepen and enhance their strategic thinking and leadership capabilities by integrating design, innovation and entrepreneurship, business, and research.

The purpose of this programme is to equip designers and design thinkers with an understanding of the innovative and integrative potential of design and business planning skills, making it the ideal platform to become a strategic design lead in a design or other enterprise or launch one's own business in the design and creative industries. The qualification allows flexible development of individual design fields while also providing a cross-disciplinary vision for areas of forward-thinking design. Graduates will develop skills to work independently and collaboratively, propose and develop strategic and innovative design-led solutions based on analysis and research evidence, communicate these to different audiences and provide guidance and leadership to project teams, design teams, juniors, and non-designers.

Who Is This Qualification Aimed At?

This qualification is aimed at individuals who are ready to take on leadership roles in design-driven environments, and who seek to apply strategic, research-informed thinking to real-world challenges in the creative and business sectors.



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)

Admission Requirements

Minimum Admission Requirements	An appropriate HEQSF Level 8 Honours degree; OR		Notes Alternatively, a minimum of three years relevant work experience. All candidates to be interviewed by Programme Manager to ensure alignment between candidate and programme.
	A relevant Postgraduate Diploma or appropriate equivalent; OR		
	An appropriate Level 8 Bachelor's Degree (480 credits) may also be recognised as meeting the minimum entry requirements to a cognate Master's Degree programme.		
	International	A SAQA Evaluation Certificate with NQF L7 equivalence.	
	Students needs to have completed an NQF level 8 qualification in a design related field e.g. Design Leadership, Communication Design, Digital/Multimedia Design, Experience Design, Interaction Design, Fashion Design and related design fields such as Design Thinking, Future Studies and Social Innovation Design.		

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 IIE Master of Design Leadership consists of five modules:

Year 1 Modules:

- Design, Innovation and Leadership Discourse
- Design Research Practice
- Design Management and Leadership Practice

Year 2 Modules:

- Design Leadership Challenge
- Minor Dissertation

- The two theory modules **Design, Innovation and Leadership Discourse** and **Design Management and Leadership Practice**, further students' specialist knowledge in design, with a focus on leadership and management skills and insights that should enable students to become thought leaders and develop design-led solutions.
- The **Design Research Practice** module provides theoretical and practical exposure to the latest processes of enquiry used in design and design research.
- The **Design Leadership Challenge** provides a practical opportunity for students to advance their design thinking skills when planning and developing solutions and insights that address complex and challenging problems in business and society. Students work in their own design areas at the appropriate levels within a system and need to demonstrate the ability to address the intended and unintended consequences of interventions and solutions. This module allows for experimentation and innovative development.
- In the **Minor Dissertation**, students use academic and professional discourses to investigate, communicate and defend research ideas and findings that contribute to their own research skills and their area of specialisation. Both research modules contribute to equip students with the ability to research and communicate evidence-based design decisions and solutions to different audiences.

All the modules develop independent and critical thinking, accountability for self and teams and the level of ethical professional practice required at managerial levels.

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Curriculum Structure

Year 1							
Semester 1				Semester 2			
Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits	Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits
DILP9511	Design, Innovation and Leadership Discourse	9	25	DMLP9512	Design Management and Leadership Practice	9	25
				DERP9511	Design Research Practice	9	25
Year 2							
Semester 3				Semester 4			
Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits				
DELC9512	Design Leadership Challenge	9	25				
Year Long							
DEMD9519	Minor Dissertation					9	80

Further Study Pathways

The successful completion of the Emeris IIE Master of Design Leadership (MDEL0901) enables you to progress into the Emeris IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Brand Leadership (DPBL1001), subject to meeting the admission requirements.

Career Opportunities

- Design Leads and managers in design businesses and advertising agencies
- Design Leads, project lead or senior in-house designers in "non-design" sectors such as finance engineering, NGOs, education, government
- Owners of Design Enterprises
- Design and Creative Entrepreneurs
- Freelancers
- Design-based Entrepreneurs
- Design Lecturers and Supervisors
- Design Researchers
- Social Innovators
- Managers applying design thinking
- Developers of design-led solutions

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 IIE students), and Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge Chromium or Firefox
- A working webcam and microphone
- An uninterrupted power supply is also highly recommended.

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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 5 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.

What Are the Benefits of an IIE Distance (Online) Qualification?

The IIE's 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 Navigators 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.



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