MBA
MASTERS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Prepare yourself for success in a world of new ideas. The GSB Master of Business Administration programme is structured to refine your professional knowledge, enhance your leadership ability and give you the skills and confidence you need to innovate in the business world. You’ll learn to see the world for what it is, what it could become and how you can transform simple inspirations into meaningful business solutions.
STAND APART,
SEE BEYOND
THE ORDINARY,
TRANSFORM
YOUR WORLD.
WHY THE GSB

The UCT Graduate School of Business (GSB) is home to high achievers and distinguished academics from around the world, who share a passion for learning, questioning and crafting innovative solutions to business challenges.

The MBA programme at the GSB provides a solid grounding in international business, with a strong focus on business in emerging markets, which are confronted with a high degree of uncertainty, complexity, and often excessive inequality. Such a world needs innovative solutions, and we develop teaching and research that responds to this. We are looking for new ways to use the tremendous power of business to solve real issues from housing and health to economic growth.

The programme has a strong practical emphasis – in addition to addressing the functional areas of business, new streams of learning around communication, leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship keep it at the cutting edge of professional development.

TOP CREDENTIALS

• The GSB MBA has consistently featured in the Financial Times Global Top 100 Full-time MBA ranking – the only MBA from Africa to make the list.

• The GSB is one of only three business schools in Africa that holds the Triple Crown of accreditation from:
  - EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System)
  - AMBA (Association of MBAs)
  - AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).
A COSMOPOLITAN VIBE

The GSB is situated in the heart of Cape Town, an African city renowned for its striking natural beauty, cosmopolitan community and sophisticated urban infrastructure. The school attracts highly motivated and talented students from diverse backgrounds and life experiences, as well as leading academics with international standing as both researchers and teachers. It all adds up to a richly stimulating experience.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES

The GSB has partnerships with some of the world’s leading business schools, including MBA exchange programmes with over 40 of the world’s top schools on all five continents. Our global exchange partnerships offer GSB students the incredible opportunity to spend at least one term studying abroad, without the burden of paying international student fees. GSB students also have the option of a one-week immersion programme abroad through the GNAM Association. Living and studying in a different environment gives you an intimate understanding of other cultures and a fresh perspective on personal development. The GSB, in turn, benefits from an influx of foreign exchange students who enrich our discussions with new insights and attitudes.
THE COURSE HAS IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL APPLICATION AND STUDENTS ARE EXPOSED TO REAL WORLD ISSUES, SYNTHESISING THE LEARNING CONTENT AND PROCESS.
**HOLISTIC CURRICULUM**

The MBA is offered as a one-year full-time course, or in a two-year modular format for delegates who are unable to study full time.

In addition to providing a solid grounding in a broad range of complex business issues, the GSB MBA is distinguished by a strong emphasis on values-based leadership and personal growth. The programme includes group work and guidance on developing leadership skills, building self-awareness and self-confidence, and discovering how to achieve work-life balance. The course has immediate practical application and students are exposed to real-world issues, synthesising the learning content and process. Students develop improved communication, analytical, strategic and communication skills.

The curriculum comprises core and elective courses that ensure a solid grasp of complex business and related issues. Two integrated laboratory courses – Business Model Innovation and Social Innovation – coupled with the dissertation allow students to synthesise what they have learned. Faculty are readily accessible and learning support is available. In addition, career services help students create connections and advance in their chosen careers after graduation.

**The MBA programme encompasses five overarching learning goals. On completion of the MBA programme, graduates will be able to:**

- Demonstrate the necessary managerial knowledge, tools and techniques to be efficient and effective managers.
- Exhibit personal leadership competencies that reflect values-based solutions and can be applied to the contexts in which students operate.
- Adapt management and leadership skills and apply these in diverse national and international contexts, with a sound understanding of sustainable development issues.
- Demonstrate entrepreneurial competencies based on innovation and creativity.
- Showcase the pedagogical skills of critical thinking, problem solving, collection and analysis of data and effective written communication.
CORE COURSES

There are 16 compulsory core courses and a dissertation. These are designed to give students a solid grounding in the fundamentals of management within a holistic framework that is sensitive to the key challenges facing business.

1. Organisational Leadership and Values
2. Evidence-Based Practice
3. Markets in Emerging Countries
4. Business, Government and Society
5. Leadership and Personal Development
6. Economics for Business
7. Accounting
8. Organisational Behaviour and People Management
9. Operations Management
10. Finance
11. Marketing
12. Social Innovation Entrepreneuring
13. Strategy
14. Social Innovation Lab
15. Business Model Innovation Lab
16. Research Methods
**ELECTIVES**

Students must earn a minimum of 20 credits from electives, with each elective carrying five to ten credits. Elective offerings may change depending on student selection. Popular electives from previous years include the following:

- Advanced Finance
- Advanced Leadership
- Applied Sustainable Responsible Investment
- Capital Flows and Emerging Markets
- Change Management
- Coaching
- Company Valuations
- Derivatives and Risk Management
- Doing Business in Africa
- Doing Business in China and Asia
- Financial Modelling
- Integrated Reporting
- Lean Thinking and Operational Excellence
- Leveraging Disruptive Innovation
- Management Control Systems
- Negotiation
- New Ventures & Business Planning
- Strategic Marketing
Dissertation

An important function of graduate professional education is to acquaint future practitioners with current academic research in their field and equip them to apply that knowledge. Although the MBA is a generalist degree that provides a comprehensive survey of management theory and practice, candidates must also acquire depth of knowledge in an area of specialisation.

The dissertation assists in acquiring applied competencies, such as the ability to interact with and critique scholarly literature, acquire information, apply appropriate research methods and techniques, and draw implications for management strategy and practice within a field. It also assists in acquiring competencies that help graduates learn autonomously in complex information environments and thereby manage organisations and their own professional development more effectively.

Entrance Requirements

The GSB MBA programme is geared towards talented and mature adults who have proven academic ability and business experience, and who are highly motivated to succeed in their studies and careers. Students are selected in part based on their capacity for personal and professional development. The GSB uses a number of criteria in selecting candidates, and it is important to note that these are considered holistically.

Candidates must meet the following criteria:
- Minimum 25 years of age
- Minimum three years' work experience
- Fluent in English. (Applicants whose mother tongue is not English may be required to produce a TOEFL certificate to verify fluency.)
• Have completed either a Bachelor Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma or a cognate Bachelor’s Degree equivalent at NQF Level 8 through relevant work experience. Candidates who do not meet the academic requirement can apply through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) route and submit the Portfolio of Learning (POL) assessment form.
• Write the GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test.) GSB is one of the few South African schools that require this test, which provides both the school and our MBA students with international comparability and recognition. It is also a requirement for our participation in certain international exchange programmes. We offer a five-day course to help students prepare for the GMAT.

In addition to the above criteria, the UCT GSB relies on several other indicators of ability and motivation that are provided by the candidate in the MBA application form. These include essays about life experience, goals, attitudes and values; evaluations from two referees; and details of professional, educational and extramural activities. Additionally, all applicants are interviewed by the MBA director, members of the faculty or alumni.

Admission to the programme is guided by indications that the applicant will not only benefit from the programme, but will also make a meaningful contribution to discussions and outcomes.

**DATES & FEES**

Fees comprise tuition costs and most learning materials. Where applicable, students incur further costs for campus accommodation, on-site parking and/or social or sports club membership. For more information on fees and term dates, please visit [www.gsb.uct.ac.za](http://www.gsb.uct.ac.za).
The Blue Crane – called ‘indwe’ in isiXhosa – holds special significance in amaXhosa culture. Individuals who distinguished themselves through acts of valour or merit were presented with indwe feathers by the chief. Champions were honoured in this way in a ceremony called ‘ukundzabela’ and wore the feathers in their hair.

BECAUSE A NEW WORLD NEEDS NEW IDEAS

To find out more about our world-class academic programmes, executive education short courses and how we can customise this programme to suit your organisation’s training needs, contact:

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