

Bachelor of Commerce

The Independent Institute of Education (The IIE)

The IIE Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree provides graduates with a broad-based business qualification that is invaluable in forging a career within the world of business. The BCom degree offers students a quality learning experience in the contemporary, dynamic and interesting field of Business with the opportunity to choose a core discipline in Strategic Management, Marketing Management, Financial Management and Finance and Accounting. This Bachelor's degree is designed to prepare students for the increasingly complex demands that they will face in the professional business environment. Graduates will enter the business world with solid theoretical knowledge; supported by strong problem solving, critical thinking, decision-making and strategic skills. This degree gives students a highly marketable balance of knowledge, practical application and skills.

What is this Degree's accreditation status?

The IIE's Bachelor of Commerce degree is accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and is registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) as a 366-credit qualification on level 7 (SAQA ID: 84706).

Who is the Bachelor's degree aimed at?

This BCom degree is aimed at students who are keen to study a broad-based commerce degree along with the opportunity to choose one of the following core disciplines: Strategic Management, Marketing Management, Financial Management or Finance and Accounting. This choice is made after having received a solid foundation in the theoretical knowledge associated with key management and business disciplines in the first year.



Who is our partner on this qualification?

Marketing Management core discipline

If Marketing Management is selected as the core discipline in your degree, your qualification is endorsed by the Marketing Association of South Africa (MASA), which is the only SAQA registered and recognised professional body for Marketing. Their endorsement of this qualification is a stamp of approval of the curriculum and the teaching and assessment strategy and an indicator that the qualification provides the skills and knowledge marketing professionals will need to succeed in their field. Student membership of MASA while you are registered will give you unique exposure to the industry and other professionals and set you up for a solid start to your career. The IIE's marketing related qualifications are the first full qualifications endorsed by MASA. For more information please visit <http://marketingsa.co.za/about/approved-partners/>



What entry requirements will I need to study this Bachelor's degree?

- A **National Senior Certificate (NSC)** with Degree admission- A minimum of 30 % for English coupled with a minimum of 50% for four x DESIGNATED NSC subjects (This excludes Life Orientation which is a 10 credit subject); **OR**
- A **National Certificate (Vocational) NC(V)** with Degree admission – A minimum of 60 % in English on either First Additional Language or Home Language level AND Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy AND Life Orientation , with a minimum of 70% in the four vocational subjects is required; **OR**
- A **Senior Certificate (SC)** (with endorsement) or equivalent; **OR**
- Alternatively a Higher Certificate, an Advanced Certificate or 240 or 360 credit Diploma in a cognate field may satisfy the minimum admission requirements to degree studies.

If you are an international student, you must ensure that:

- you have an equivalent qualification to the aforementioned;
- your equivalent qualification is evaluated by Universities South Africa;
- you have a valid study visa issued in the name of The IIE that covers the duration of your studies.

If you have not met these minimum entry requirements but have an NSC with higher certificate or diploma entry into higher education, you may wish to consider registering for The IIE's Higher Certificate in Business Principles and Practice (HBPP) first as a pathway to this degree. Further information on this qualification is available from our student advisor team.

Other considerations

Mature Age Exemption:

- Candidates having attained the age of 23 before or during the first year of registration with a senior certificate or equivalent with a minimum of 40% in at least four higher or standard grade subjects, at least three of which shall have been passed simultaneously and one of which shall be a recognised higher grade subject and passed on higher grade; **OR**
- Candidates must have attained the age of 45 before or during the first year of registration.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL)

Candidates can demonstrate suitability for admission in terms of Senate's resolution 6.6 of 20 October 2005 which allows for Senate's discretionary conditional admission (if applicable).

Please note, requirements for entry to this qualification are correct at the time of printing, however, these may change. At the time of registration, please check that the entry requirements have not changed.

National Benchmarking Tests

All applicants wishing to study an IIE undergraduate degree on a full-time basis including international students, are required to write the National Benchmark Test (NBT) Academic and Quantitative Literacy (AQL). Applicants wishing to enrol for The IIE Bachelor of Arts degree need to complete the NBT in English.

The applicant is exempt from writing the NBT AQL test if he/she:

- is 23 years old or turns 23 during the first year of registration.
- has successfully completed a higher certificate (or equivalent), an advanced certificate or diploma.
- has previously been admitted to degree studies elsewhere (proof must be supplied).
- is admitted on the basis of mature age.

For applicants wishing to enrol on a distance programme, the writing of the NBT AQL test is recommended but not compulsory.

Please note an applicant's Academic Literacy (AL) score of the NBT AQL test is used for placement in student support programmes and does not replace the admission requirements for a specific degree programme. Applicants may, on provision of an AL score of the NBT AQL test of 64 or above, be exempted from one or both Academic Literacy modules, namely Introduction to Scholarship A (ITSA010) and Introduction to Scholarship B (ITSB010), if and only if these are non-credit bearing modules in the qualification. Applicants who achieve an AL score of the NBT AQL test lower than 64 are required to register for and successfully complete ITSA010 and ITSB010.

Applicants who do not write the NBT AQL test prior to registration, will automatically be registered for ITSA010 and ITSB010 whether or not they are credit bearing modules in the qualification.

Furthermore, students who are completing ITSA010 and ITSB010 as a result of the lower than 64 AL score or who did not provide an AL score, will be required to successfully complete these modules before their third year as they are a pre-requisite for entrance onto third year studies. Students

enrolled on a distance programme will have access to ITSA010 and ITSB010, but it would not be a pre-requisite for registering for any third year modules.

Where ITSA (ITSA5111) is credit bearing in the qualification concerned, successful completion of this module (depending on the curriculum structure) is also a graduation requirement.

What must I pass in order to graduate with this Bachelor's degree?

In order to be awarded this qualification, you must have achieved a minimum final year mark of fifty percent (50%) for each module of the programme; and have met all the Work Integrated Learning requirements, where applicable.

With what qualification will I graduate?

You will graduate with The IIE Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Career opportunities: what career areas can I pursue once I have completed this Bachelor's degree?

This degree will open up an attractive range of career options; this degree is a perfect stepping stone to a diverse and exciting range of business related career opportunities, depending on which core discipline you choose.

Marketing Management core discipline

- General Management
- Marketing Management
- Market Research
- Consulting

Would it be possible to study further to obtain a postgraduate qualification once I have completed The IIE BCom degree?

The IIE's Bachelor of Commerce degree is accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and is registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) at level 7 - the same level as other equivalent undergraduate degrees at South African universities. The opportunity to apply for a postgraduate certificate/diploma or honours degree at Varsity College or any South African university exists subject to meeting specific programme entrance requirements.

Students who choose the Finance and Accounting core discipline will have a broader scope of access into postgraduate qualifications.

How do I find out more about these further study opportunities?

As a registered student at Varsity College, we will support you to explore the possible postgraduate options that align to your chosen career area. Each year we also provide our students with a postgraduate information pack. It is important to remember that your academic results remain a key factor when applying for further studies. The option exists to study the Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Management degree with the IIE. For further details regarding entrance criteria and course content, please speak to your Student Advisor.

How is this Bachelor's degree structured at Varsity College?

The IIE BCom degree is a three year degree. The academic year runs from February to November. The modules are delivered on a full-time basis with lectures and tutorials being scheduled during the day from Monday to Friday.

In addition to attending lectures, you will be expected to spend time conducting your own study plan as well as research and work on assignments. Learning material is of the highest quality and offers students a blended learning experience where the face-to-face teaching sessions are supplemented with specific online learning activities, digital content/study material, relevant current textbooks and assessments.

To gain the most from the blended learning experience and VC's Wireless classrooms and campuses, students are required to BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) mobile device – netbook, laptop or tablet – to develop the necessary academic and digital literacies over the three years of this degree.

The curriculum below is correct at the time of print. Please note that in line with academic practice, The IIE's curriculum is annually reviewed thus changes may occur in module structure and sequence in order to ensure that the qualification remains relevant. The exit level outcomes of the programme do not change. Registered students receive updated programme curriculum on an annual basis.

Documents detailing specific module outcomes per core discipline are available from the campus should you require these details.

Bachelor of Commerce: Core discipline Table¹

1ST YEAR	SEMESTER	MARKETING MANAGEMENT CORE DISCIPLINE
ACCOUNTING 1A	1	Y
ACCOUNTING 1B	2	Y
APPLIED COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES	1	Y
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT 1A	1	Y
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT 1B	2	Y
MARKETING 1A	1	Y
MARKETING 1B	2	Y
ECONOMICS 1A	1	Y
ECONOMICS 1B	2	Y
QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES A	2	Y

2ND YEAR	SEMESTER	MARKETING MANAGEMENT CORE DISCIPLINE
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT 2A	1	Y
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT 2B	2	Y
BUSINESS LAW	2	Y
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 2A	1	Y
MARKETING 2A	1	Y
MARKETING 2B	2	Y
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	2	Y
QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES B	1	Y

3RD YEAR	SEMESTER	MARKETING MANAGEMENT CORE DISCIPLINE
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT 3A	1	Y
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT 3B	2	Y
INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	2	Y
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH	1	Y
MARKETING 3A	1	Y
MARKETING 3B	2	Y
RESEARCH PRACTICE	2	Y
WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING BUSINESS PROJECT (YEAR MODULE)	1 & 2	Y

What about timetables?

Our full-time programmes are aimed at students wishing to dedicate themselves to full-time face-to-face studies for the duration of their qualification. This means that students are expected to be available for classes during the morning and/or afternoon throughout the academic year depending on how the timetable is structured. Unfortunately, students are not necessarily able to select a morning or afternoon format to suit their personal circumstances.

¹ Please note that the organisation of modules and the semester in which they are offered may change.

We absolutely encourage students to take up part-time employment outside of class time, weekends and in the evenings, but full-time students must prioritise their studies and avoid committing to work schedules until after they have received their timetables and academic calendar from the institution. Students must understand that timetables remain subject to change throughout the year.

While we strive to offer time efficient timetables (where classes are grouped together into the morning or the afternoon), we cannot guarantee that either format will necessarily be available for all programmes every semester. Where students are repeating modules, these modules may be offered in the evenings or weekends. Students are required to attend classes or, should the module be offered online or via distance, workshops may be provided. Students may also be required to write assessments or submit coursework or assignments outside of normal class-time.

Call your nearest Varsity College campus to discuss your career options with one of our Student Advisors.

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Disclaimer: This factsheet is valid for the 2017 intake of students only. All programme information is correct at the time of printing and is subject to change.



The IIE - accredited by The British Accreditation Council

The IIE has been internationally recognised and accredited by The British Accreditation Council (BAC). The BAC has been responsible for setting standards within the independent further and higher education sector for 25 years. Their accreditation is held by hundreds of colleges in the UK and overseas. They provide the leading mark of educational quality for the sector, which is used by students, parents, agencies and beyond as a guarantee of standards.

For more information please visit <http://www.the-bac.org/>