The Independent Institute of Education
(The IIE)
BACHELOR OF COMMERCE
(Distance Education)
(SAQA ID: 84706)

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 Bachelor’s degree offers students a quality learning experience in the contemporary, dynamic and interesting field of business and strategic management. The degree is designed to prepare students for the increasingly complex demands they will face in the professional business environment. Graduates will enter the business world with solid theoretical knowledge supported by vital problem solving, critical thinking, decision-making and strategic skills. This Bachelor’s degree provides graduates with a highly marketable balance of knowledge, practical application and skills.

What is this Degree's accreditation status?
The IIE BCom distance 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 IIE BCom distance degree aimed at?
This distance degree is aimed at working adults who prefer to engage in self-study and/or who are unable to attend full-time lectures and are keen to study towards a broad-based commerce degree with a focus on business and strategic management.

Taking the distance out of distance education
The distance delivery mode provides the student with the opportunity to study in the comfort of their home and to plan the study workload according to their individual pace. The support offered online and through other means ensures that the student is not left feeling alone in this process and can still enjoy high quality support throughout the process.
Our distance delivery has been designed with distance students’ needs in mind, and includes the following:

- A structured learning environment online that will take you through the learning process making use of the best of instructional design thinking that will enable you to understand and apply as you progress through the studies. The online design will ensure that you do not get lost.
- A learner guide designed to lead the student through the textbook. It includes questions and answers for practice and revision.
- Online Tutors who are subject experts and maintain the human experience of the learning process in each module with you.
- A Programme Success Tutor who supports your learning journey across all your modules.

Students will be provided with the added value of face-to-face sessions. These sessions are highly recommended, as they provide the opportunity for rich discussion and conceptual explanation and to meet fellow students with whom to network. Students who attend face-to-face sessions are more likely to be motivated and to remain committed to their studies. However, should students not be able to attend any face-to-face sessions, the learner guide, textbook and online facilitation will provide the necessary support for student success throughout the four years of study.

**NOTE:**

- While you can generally structure your study time as you need to, there are scheduled sessions online through which you can get mediated support and assignment and examination deadlines and timetables to keep you moving forward.

A reliable internet connection, own device with (at least) Windows 8 and Google Chrome, are all essential for any student enrolling for this programme.

**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 DESIGNATED NSC subjects (This excludes Life Orientation which is a 10 credit subject but includes English); 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.

International students 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; OR
- Candidates must have attained the age of 45 before or during the first year of registration.

RPL – 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.

What must a student pass in order to graduate with this Bachelor’s degree?
Students need to pass all the compulsory and elective modules which comprise this degree. The pass mark is 50%.

With what qualification will the student graduate?
With The IIE Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Career opportunities: what career areas can a graduate pursue?
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

Strategic Management core discipline
- General Management
- Entrepreneurship
- Strategic Management
- Consulting

Would it be possible to study further to obtain a postgraduate qualification once a student has 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 does a student 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 distance degree is offered over a period of four years, part-time on a distance mode of delivery. The academic year runs from February to December and there are 7 modules years 1 to 3 and 5 in year 4. The detailed layout of these modules are shown in the curriculum plan below, which was correct at the time of print. Please note that students can choose to do the Marketing Management Core Discipline from 2018. Year 1 for both the Strategic and Marketing core disciplines are the same.

Please note that, in line with academic practice, The IIE’s curriculum is, to ensure that the qualification remains relevant, annually reviewed, which may result in changes in the module structure and sequence. The exit level outcomes of the programme do not change. Registered students receive updated programme curriculum on an annual basis.

The IIE Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) Curriculum Plan: Strategic Management Core Discipline

**Year 1: 2018**

**Semester 1**
- Accounting 1A
- Applied Communication Techniques
- Business Management 1A
- Marketing 1A

**Semester 2**
- Accounting 1B
- Business Management 1B
- Marketing 1B

**Year 2: 2019**

**Semester 1**
- Financial Management 2a
- Industrial Relations
- Economics 1A

**Semester 2**
- Project Management
- Retail Management
- Quantitative Techniques A
- Economics 1B

**Year 3: 2020**

**Semester 1**
- Business Management 2A
- Quantitative Techniques B
- Supply Chain Management

**Semester 2**
- Business Law
- Enterprise Risk Management
- Information & Knowledge Management
- Business Management 2B

**Year 4: 2021**

**Semester 1**
- Business Management 3A
- Introduction to Research

**Semester 2**
- Business Management 3B
- Research Practice
- Work Integrated Learning
## The IIE Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) Curriculum Plan: Marketing Management Core Discipline

### Year 1: 2018

**Semester 1**
- Accounting 1A
- Applied Communication Techniques
- Business Management 1A
- Marketing 1A

**Semester 2**
- Accounting 1B
- Business Management 1B
- Marketing 1B

### Year 2: 2019

**Semester 1**
- Financial Management 2a
- Marketing 2a
- Economics 1A

**Semester 2**
- Project Management
- Marketing 2B
- Quantitative Techniques A
- Economics 1B

### Year 3: 2020

**Semester 1**
- Business Management 2A
- Quantitative Techniques B
- Marketing 3A

**Semester 2**
- Business Law
- Marketing 3B
- Information & Knowledge Management
- Business Management 2B

### Year 4: 2021

**Semester 1**
- Business Management 3A
- Introduction to Research

**Semester 2**
- Business Management 3B
- Research Practice
- Work Integrated Learning

### NOTE:
- Curriculum and content is subject to change.
- Students will be required to register per academic year.
- Fees stated are per academic year and not for the full qualification.
- Students who are unsuccessful in a module/modules will need to reregister.

“Academic year” means the annual period of instruction normally running from 1 January until 31 December, or from 1 July until 30 June the following year or any other period as stipulated.

**Who are our partners on this qualification?**

![BAC Logo]

**The Independent Institute of Education (The IIE) – accredited by The British Accreditation Council (BAC)**

The IIE is internationally recognised and accredited by the 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 globally. They provide the leading mark of educational quality for this 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