

# TSiBA education

## Introduction

The Tertiary School of Business Administration (TSiBA) is a private, not-for-profit institution founded in South Africa in 2004. Its vision is to 'ignite opportunity' for young people who would otherwise not have access to tertiary education. TSiBA does this by offering full tuition scholarships to students, enabling them to study high quality, accredited academic courses that are focused on developing entrepreneurship and leadership. The business school has two campuses – an urban campus in Pinelands in Cape Town and a rural campus in the village of Karatara in the Western Cape.

## The business model

The core of this new model in business education is a unique Profile of Graduateness, which places attitude at the heart of a student's development. Skills and knowledge are then developed around this central precept. To consolidate this approach, TSiBA integrates personal development with business learning by providing a variety of experiential learning opportunities through co-ordinated internships, mentorship, leadership, entrepreneurship and career management programmes. Students are also provided with practical opportunities to incubate and manage businesses while studying.

## The school's mission

The guiding philosophy of TSiBA is embodied in the concept of 'paying it forward', which is an important part of the TSiBA culture. Students are not expected to pay back their scholarships monetarily but rather to 'pay it forward' by transferring the knowledge, skills and resources they gain at TSiBA to their communities when they graduate. In this way, TSiBA's vision of 'igniting opportunity' is realised. While studying, students are given the opportunity to run a number of clubs and societies, such as Students in Free Enterprise and Peer Education, which ignite opportunity and learning.

## The programmes

Registered with the South African Department of Education as a private higher education institution, TSiBA Education collaborates with corporates, foundations and individual funders who sponsor the operation and management of the institution. TSiBA Education offers a minimum three-year business administration degree and two 1-year certificate programmes.

### Higher Certificate in Business Administration (HCBA)

To address the often-challenging transition between high school and tertiary level studies, students typically start their studies at



*Students at Karatara, South Africa*

TSiBA by registering for the NQF Level 5 Higher Certificate in Business Administration (HCBA). This qualification serves as a bridging year and prepares students for three potential paths:

- Entry into degree studies at TSiBA or elsewhere.
- Entry into the world of work.
- Entry into the entrepreneurial environment as a business owner.

In addition, the course integrates the development of the student's emotional quotient (EQ) through the practice of six fundamental skills relevant to the world of business – initiative, communication, responsibility, resilience, tenacity and integrity. The course is taught at the Cape Town campus.

### Bachelor of Business Administration

The Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree in Entrepreneurial Leadership has been developed to address the industry need for employable graduates and entrepreneurs who:

- Understand the components of business and can 'speak the language'
- Have practical business experience and acumen
- Have an entrepreneurial mindset
- Can think critically and systemically
- Have well-developed team and leadership skills
- Are emotionally intelligent
- Are inspired to have an impact in the workplace, to be life-long learners and to consider further postgraduate studies.

The BBA has a strong experiential learning component, with practical work and field experience forming an integral part of the curriculum. Systems thinking, problem-solving, creativity and ethics underpin all subjects and learning. Students are guided to develop their analytical and academic skills, while simultaneously giving attention to the development of their self in relation to the world. This is done by focusing on guiding questions and specific competencies in each year.

### Certificate in Practical Business Administration (CPBA)

This is a one-year Further Education and Training (FET) course, and is only taught at the Karatara campus. As the aim of this course is to prepare students for the formal workplace, it includes a significant practical component. Students spend half their time in the classroom and half their time working in a campus business department learning practical business skills. For this purpose, the campus is divided into five businesses: the Kitchen, the Garden, Reception, Cleaning and TSiBank, the campus bank. Students rotate through four of these businesses during the academic year. As with other TSiBA courses, the CPBA also integrates personal development with the acquisition of business skills and knowledge.

### Ignition Centre

As well as the three full-time business programmes run by TSiBA Education, both campuses are also home to an Ignition Centre. The is a hub dedicated to extending TSiBA's vision of 'igniting opportunity' to reach beyond its students into the communities that they come from by assisting new and existing businesses to develop and thrive. To date, 200 entrepreneurs have received financial, business, management and marketing assistance on a pro bono basis. Projects in Enterprise Development, Community Training and Leadership Development are also run from the Centres.

*For more information on TSiBA Education, go to: [www.tsiba.org.za](http://www.tsiba.org.za) or email [infor@tsiba.org.za](mailto:infor@tsiba.org.za)*

### Paying it forward

'A remarkable institution is making a difference in the lives of people who get "stuck",' writes Prega Govender.

With only SAR5,000 in his bank account, Irish Modisane gave up his job as an assistant floor manager at a supermarket chain in Cape Town in 2005 to go back to school. At the time, it seemed like a rash decision.

The odds were against him – he was 36, recently widowed and his matric pass did not qualify him for university admission. But Modisane, whose mother was a domestic worker, was determined to fulfil his dream of pursuing business studies at university at all costs. So when the Tertiary School in Business Administration (TSiBA) offered him a scholarship to study for the Higher Certificate in Business Administration, he didn't hesitate. He immediately began putting into practice lessons learned in class – one of his first business ventures was selling fruit to students. He also started operating a mobile tuck shop.

Eight years on, he owns a Pick and Pay franchise and a fish and chips franchise in Siyabuswa, Mpumalanga, which together provide jobs for 136 people and produce a monthly turnover of several million rands. Modisane believes that the seeds for his remarkable rags-to-riches story were sown at the little-known business school that has its headquarters in Pinelands, Cape Town.

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