MILPARK EDUCATION Business School

immersive online



QUALIFICATION

Doctor Of Business Administration (SAQA ID: 104778; NQF Level 10)

Doctor of Business Administration

Mode of Learning:
Immersive Online Learning

Become More.

1 Description and **Programme Purpose**

The **purpose of the programme** is to enable students to **develop in-depth**, advanced **discipline-specific** skills such as leadership in business strategy, innovation management, financial decision-making and ethical governance in business administration. This will provide opportunities for **continued personal intellectual** growth, productive economic activity, and for making a **rewarding contribution** to society.



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In addition, the programme aims to **empower students** to solve complex business-related problems in a **focused way and to effectively** manage and allocate resources, to communicate effectively, and to **contribute to knowledge** and socio-economic transformation in a **responsible and ethical manner.**

Furthermore, the **programme endeavours** to provide South Africa with highly skilled individuals who have knowledge and skills in the field of **business administration**, in order to ensure that the leadership base of **innovative and knowledge-based** economic and scholarly activity is strengthened and diversified.



Research focus: In line with the mission of **Milpark Business School**, the current research focus is to **contribute to the body of knowledge** in relation to equipping current and **future business leaders** to pursue ethical and sustainable **business practice**. This includes research in areas such as sustainable finance, corporate **social responsibility** and ethical **decision-making** frameworks for leadership in global business.

2 Programme **Outcomes**

Successful completion of this qualification should enable the student to:

01 Independently design a **research project** and execute such a project.

02 Apply **advanced scientific** methods responsibly.

03 **Efficiently manage the collection** of qualitative and quantitative data from both internal **company reports** and public databases, and apply advanced scientific **methods such as statistical** modelling, econometric analysis or **case study** research methodologies.

04 Analyse theory and **practical problems** to contribute to the existing **body of knowledge related** to a specific aspect of business administration.

05 Contribute to the **development of new theories**, models and/or practices.

06 Conduct further **academic research independently** in order to contribute to local research output.

07 Author and **present technical reports to professional** audiences, including business and government.

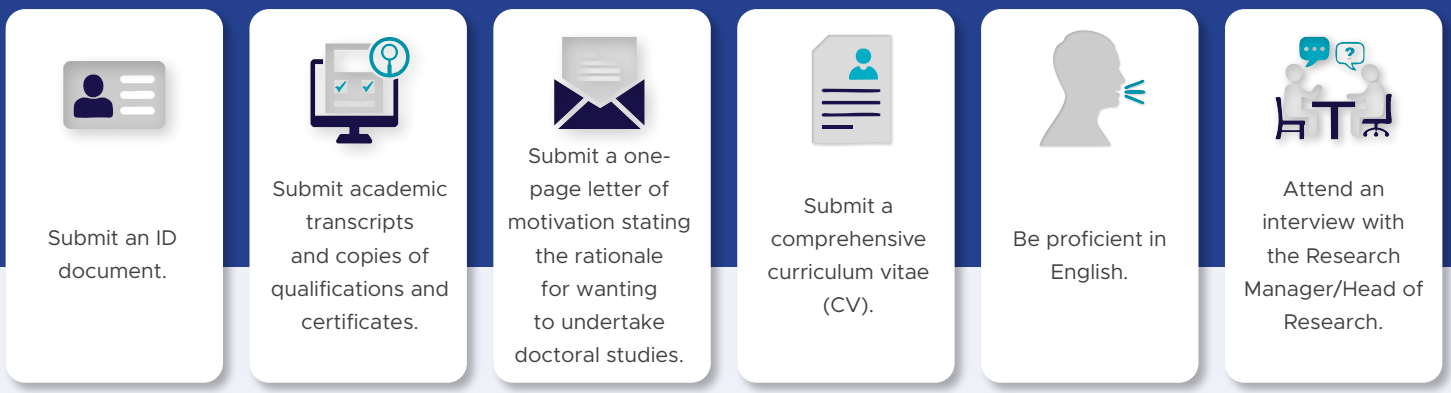
3 Programme **Structure**

The Milpark DBA is a **three-year programme consisting of two distinct phases** (1) Proposal and (2) Candidacy. **The first year comprises the Initial Proposal stage** in Semester 1 and the Final Proposal stage in Semester 2. Successful completion of the Initial Proposal stage is a prerequisite for registration for the Final Proposal stage. Students then register for Candidacy **Year 1 and Candidacy Year 2**, which constitute the second and third years of the programme, respectively. **Each phase is described in detail in this document.**

DBA Year 1 (DBA001-10)

The **proposal phase is split into two parts**, namely Module 1: initial proposal (concept) and Module 2: final proposal with defence. The duration of **each module** within the proposal phase is six months.

Applications for the initial proposal will be considered annually at the **end of October for the January intake** of the following year. The admission **requirements** for this qualification are as follows:



Once the **student has been admitted and registered** for the initial proposal phase, they will work independently and submit their proposal (pre-course submission), before the short course begins (duration of the short course: three months), For the duration of the short course, students would be **required to submit two formative submissions** and two summative submission. The initial proposal serves to **demonstrate research ability** at the doctoral level, and to evaluate early on whether the intended research is viable and justifies doctoral research. It **also serves to determine whether the research** concept has been well thought through and whether it **demonstrates commitment and suitability** to the programme. The initial proposal should not exceed **4 500 words**, excluding the reference list, and the **prescribed template must be used.**

This proposal will be assessed and evaluated by the **Doctoral Research Committee (DRC)** which will decide on whether the student may proceed to the final proposal. The initial proposal **phase forms part of the admission process**. If a student does not submit the initial proposal by the due date, they will be required to wait until the next intake to submit, which will be their final attempt. **All prospective students** have only one attempt to apply for the **DBA at Milpark Education.**

Successful applicants will be eligible for registration onto the final proposal phase (DBA001-10: Module 2) within the same year or January the following year. **The duration of the final proposal is six months**. Students now need to work towards preparation and submission of a full research proposal in the prescribed template, culminating in the defence of the final proposal with the Proposal Assessment Panel. This phase will also include the student's participation in a mock defence prior to the final proposal defence. **A supervisor/co-supervisor** is allocated to the student to provide guidance in the crafting of the proposal, and defence of the proposal must take place no later than one year after registration. **During this phase, students must attend a compulsory Final Proposal workshop.**

DBA Year 2 – DBA Year 4: DBA002-10 - DBA004-10

Students who have successfully defended their final proposals will be **eligible to progress to and register for DBA002-10 (Year 2)**. Under the guidance of a supervisor, the student will work towards the writing up and submission of a doctoral thesis. **The minimum registration period is two years**, and the maximum time **allowed for completion is four years**. During this phase, colloquia sessions **will be held throughout the year**, and students need to present their progress at **two of these colloquia at a minimum.**

The candidacy phase culminates in the submission of a thesis, which is assessed by **three examiners, followed** by an oral defense of the thesis *(viva voce)* before final endorsement. Colloquia provides students with an **opportunity to present their research progress** and receive feedback from peers and faculty, fostering a collaborative learning environment and enabling **students to refine** their methodologies or theoretical approaches.

As a **graduation requirement for the DBA qualification**, students must submit at least one research **article arising from their doctoral study to an accredited**, peer-reviewed journal for consideration for publication. The article must be co-authored with the **student's supervisor** and, where applicable, the co-supervisor. Submission of the article must be completed before graduation.

The module codes are indicated below.

Phase 1	Code
DBA (Year 1)	DBA001-10
Module 1: Initial Proposal	DBAIPR-10
Module 2: Final Proposal	DBAFPR-10
Phase 2:	
DBA Year 2	DBA001-10
DBA Year 3	DBA002-10
DBA Year 4 (if applicable)	DBA004-10
DBA Thesis for Examination	DBATEX-10
DBA Thesis (Graduation Ratification)	DBASUB

4 Mode of **Learning**

The programme will be offered via **Immersive Online Learning** (IO). IO is our fully digital, guided and flexible study experience designed to support independent **learning with structured engagement.**

Through our online platform, students access all learning materials, including textbooks, and participate in live online classes, discussion forums and collaborative projects. Immersive Online learning was **launched by Milpark Education in 2026**. IO provides a guided, flexible, and human-centred experience.

Students engage through interactive **content scheduled sessions**, and collaborative projects, focusing on connection and support. This model aims to prepare students for the modern workplace by fostering deeper understanding and career readiness through real-world applications and community engagement. **IO fosters meaningful interaction while allowing students** to study at their own pace. With downloadable resources and flexible access, it accommodates varying connectivity needs and offers a rich, **inclusive learning journey tailored to diverse student contexts.**

5 Minimum **Admission Requirements**

The **minimum admission requirement** is an appropriate master's degree with a mark of **65% or higher** for the **research component** of the qualification.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Milpark admits a **small number of students** onto its programme via **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**. The student must make an initial application to the **Doctoral Research Committee (DRC)** regarding RPL admission. RPL allows **experienced professionals** without a formal **MBA to demonstrate** that they possess the equivalent knowledge and skills.

Applicants may **provide evidence**, such as **managing business research projects** or publications in peer-reviewed journals. The **DRC** will then respond based on what the motivation is and what evidence of prior learning was listed. The DRC will ask for further evidence that **may be needed to meet the programme** outcomes of the MBA. The submission of a comprehensive portfolio of evidence that demonstrates that the student has met the programme outcomes of the **MBA in prior learning**, will be required.

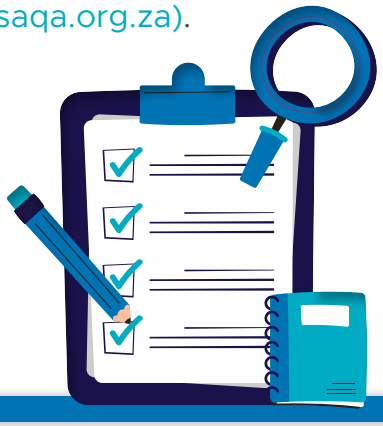
As part of the portfolio, the **student will have to demonstrate research experience** with outputs like the research output requirements of the MBA. The portfolio will be assessed by an external examiner. **If the portfolio is successful**, admission will be granted. **However, the institution does not award an MBA.**

Learn More About The RPL Requirements

Other / International certificates

Further to the **requirements for admission** provided above, **foreign nationals or South African nationals** seeking to apply for admission onto the **qualification based** on a non-South African/ foreign master's degree, must obtain, and submit to Milpark, a **Certificate of Equivalence** from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) (www.saqa.org.za).

Foreign nationals residing in South Africa on a **temporary** visa must provide proof from the South African Home Affairs offices that they are **permitted to study** and enrol for studies at the tertiary level.



6 Access to **Technology**

Through the *myMilpark* **and** *myCourses* **online tuition** and support environments, students have **access to all course materials** (including formative and summative assessments), discussion opportunities, administrative **services and a wealth of external resources.**

Minimum requirements to study online and complete assessments and online proctored assessments

A **laptop or personal computer** (PC) with one of the **following operating systems**:

- Windows 10+
- macOS 10.11+
- Ubuntu 18.04+
- Chrome 58+

Continuous (daily) access to a **stable internet connection** with an upload and download speed of at least 5 Mbps.

A **camera/webcam** (720p resolution)

Speakers and a microphone **OR** headphones

2GB free **RAM** (memory)

250MB **free disk space.**

View Technical Requirements

How To Check Your RAM

7 Mode of **Delivery**

The Department of Higher Education and Training has registered the programme, and the Council on Higher Education has **accredited the programme, for delivery via distance learning.**



8 **Student** Support

Library access

The Milpark Library provides access to e-books in a **virtual library called Cyberlibris (Scholartext)**. Students can also create their own personal smart bookshelves containing resources for their studies. **Having access to a digital library** means that students can access books and resources from anywhere at the same time online. **There is no need to do reservations and requests**, and no limit on the time a student has to access a book. With the implementation of Cyberlibris, **students also have access to full-text resources via ProQuest** (global), Ebsco (global), Emerald (global) and Sabinet (South African publications) to assist with research and to enrich their learning experience. Access to the Library is included in the module fee.

Supervision

Students **receive guidance from a supervisor** and, where applicable, a co-supervisor from the commencement of the final proposal phase. **Milpark is responsible for allocating supervisors**; students are not required to secure their own. Students may recommend a prospective supervisor for consideration, subject to the individual meeting Milpark's supervisory appointment criteria. **Milpark draws on national and international supervisors**, including multidisciplinary specialists where appropriate, to ensure that the supervisory expertise aligns with the research topic, scope and requirements of the study.

Supervisors assist students on a one-to-one basis throughout the research and thesis-writing process. They typically meet with students on a **bi-monthly basis**, through virtual meetings or face-to-face sessions, and provide written feedback on research drafts via email or the institution's online platform.

9 **Rules** Of Progression

Students must be successful in the DBA001-10 (Year 1) Module 1 (Initial Proposal DBAIPR-10) in order to enrol for the Module 2 (Final Proposal DBAFPR-10). The proposal phase (DBA001-10/ Year 1) must be completed **successfully to be admitted** for DBA002-10/Year 2.

(See Programme Structure above for detail.) Should a **student fail to successfully** defend their proposal, they may request an additional **review meeting or be provided** with guidance for resubmission during the **next academic cycle.**

Progression and Funding Rules

Phase 1 duration

- Module 1 and Module 2 are each six months in duration.

Progressing pathway

- Students complete Module 1 (Initial Proposal)
- Students may register for Module 2 (Final Proposal) within the same year.
- Students may alternatively register for the subsequent Module 2 Cohort in January of the following year.
- Students who successfully complete both modules in Phase 1 may progress to DBA002-10 (Year 2).
- Students who do not complete their research during DBA001-10 (Year 2) may continue in DBA003-10 (Year 3).

DBA programme duration: four years

- DBA001-10: Year 1: Module 1 (initial proposal) and Module 2 (final proposal)
- DBA002-10: Year 2
- DBA003: Year 3
- DBA004: Year 4

10 Assessment

Each phase following initial admission must be successfully passed as follows:

DBA001-10 Proposal phase:

The Initial proposal (Module 1) assessment consists of a **pre-course submission**, two formatives: submission 1 and 2 and two summative submissions: (Upload of the final proposal and a 5-minute PowerPoint presentation).

The Final proposal (Module 2) assessment consists of a formative (Mock defence of their proposal in preparation for the summative exam), summative exam and defence of the proposal with the **Proposal Assessment Panel.**

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DBA001-10 (Year 1)	CODE	DURATION
Module 1 (Initial Proposal)	DBAIPR-10	**Duration: Six months** Formatives • Pre-course upload • Submission 1 • Submission 2 Summative • Exam upload • 5-minute Presentation
Module 2 (Final Proposal: Cohort 1)	DBAFPR-10	**Duration: Six months** Formative • Mock defence Summative • Exam upload • Final oral defence
Module 2 (Final Proposal: Cohort 2)	DBAFPR-10	**Duration: Six months** Formative • Mock defence Summative • Exam upload • Final oral defence
DBA002-10 Year 2	DBA002-10	Summative exam
DBA003-10 Year 3	DBA003-10	Summative exam
DBA003-10 Year 4	DBA004-10	Summative exam
DBA Thesis for Examination	DBATEX-10	Examination and corrections process
DBA Graduation Ratification	DBASUB	Graduation ratification

Candidacy phase:

Assessment consists of two parts, namely submission of the thesis for marking, and defence of the thesis with the **DBA Thesis Assessment Panel** (viva voce). During the viva voce, students will present their thesis findings to a panel of three examiners, who will ask questions related to the methodology, theoretical framework and contribution to the field.

The defence typically lasts between one and two hours.

11 Duration

The **proposal phase generally takes** one year to complete. Only after s**uccessfully completing the proposal phase** does a student become eligible for registration as a DBA candidate, from which time registration of a **minimum of two years** and a **maximum of four years takes effect.**

12 Certification

On successful completion of the qualification, the student will receive a **Doctor of Business Administration** (DBA) degree, **NQF Level 10** (Credits: 360). The **Doctor of Business Administration** degree is accredited by the **Higher Education Quality Committee of the Council on Higher Education** (CHE).

Students who successfully complete the **DBA Proposal Development Support Course**, offered as part of the Initial Proposal phase, will also receive a certificate of **completion for this course.**



13 Pricing

The annual registration fee includes the **Final Proposal** workshop, supervision, colloquia, and the assessment of the proposal and thesis. **Library services are also included in the annual registration fee.**

Additional services such as statistical services and unique software, as well as editing, will be for the account of the student.

14 Disclaimer

The content of this **brochure is accurate at the time of going to print**. Milpark Education reserves the right to change the programme content due to changes in legislation, market requirements and other reasons. **Notice of such changes will be published on our website.**

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Website:

www.milpark.ac.za

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