

MILPARK EDUCATION
Business School

QUALIFICATION

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

Doctor of Business Administration

Mode of Delivery:
Distance Learning Online

We've got you.
You've got this.

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.

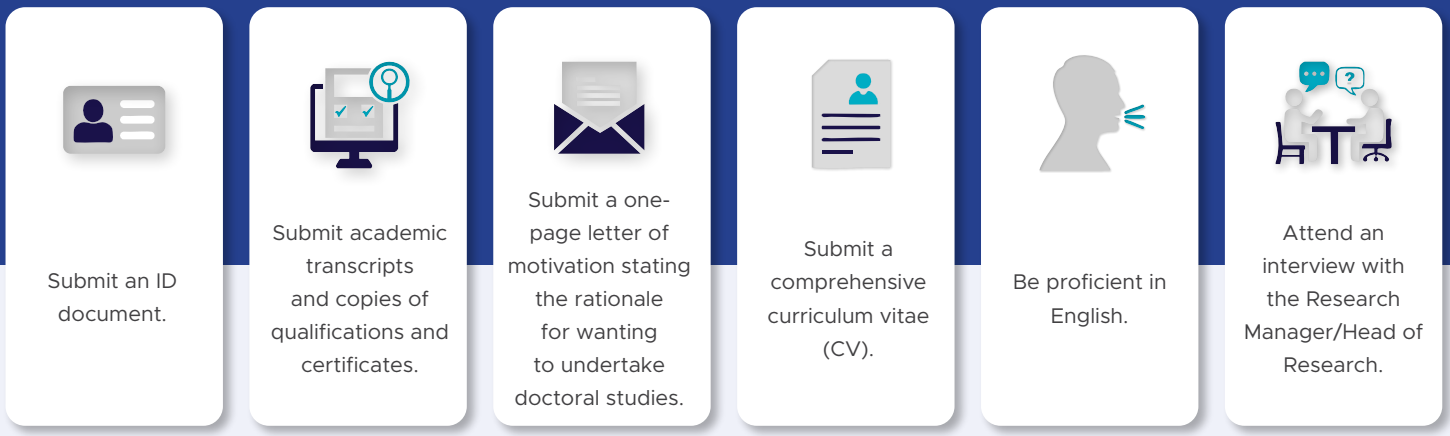
3 Programme **Structure**

The **Milpark DBA** consists of two distinct phases, namely (1) **Proposal** (initial and final), and (2) Candidacy. **Each of these phases is described in detail in this document.**

Proposal phase

The **proposal phase is split into two parts**, namely initial proposal (concept) and final proposal with defence.

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 be required to submit their initial proposal. The **initial proposal of the intended research** needs to be written in **academic language and forms** a very important part of the application documentation to be submitted. 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.**

We're online.
We've got space.

Successful applicants will be eligible for registration onto the final proposal phase. 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 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.**

Candidacy phase

Students who have **successfully defended** their **final proposals will be eligible** to progress to and register onto the candidacy phase. It is only from this point that a student is registered as a doctoral candidate. 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, four colloquia **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 defence of the thesis *(viva voce)* before final endorsement. Colloquia provide 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. Students are required to **submit at least one article** to a peer-reviewed journal before graduation.



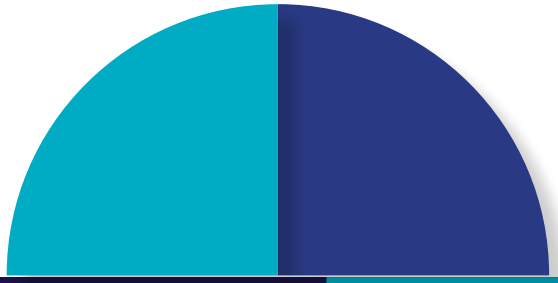
The module codes are indicated below.

Phase	Code
Phase 1:	
DBA Initial Proposal	DBAIPR-10
DBA Final Proposal	DBAFPR-10
Phase 2:	
DBA Year One	DBA001-10
DBA Year Two	DBA002-10
DBA Year Three (if applicable)	DBA003-10
DBA Year Four (if applicable)	DBA004-10
DBA Thesis for Examination	DBATEX-10

4 Mode of **Learning**

The programme will be offered via **Immersive Online (IO) Learning**. IO Learning is our guided, dynamic and flexible digital study experience designed to foster deeper learning and meaningful connection.

Through **scheduled online sessions**, interactive content, and collaborative activities, students engage in a **human-centred environment** that blends structure with flexibility. **IO Learning** uses advanced online systems and **multimedia resources** to support clear pathways, small-group collaboration, and personalised feedback, creating a rich, connected, and **engaging learning journey**.



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.

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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.

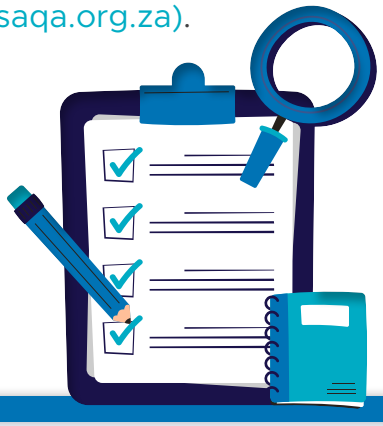
As part of the portfolio, the **student will have to demonstrate research experience** with outputs like the research output requirements of the MBA. The portfolio will be assessed by an external examiner. **If the portfolio is successful**, admission will be granted. **However, the institution does 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**.

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The following mode is available for this specific programme:

Distance learning (DL)

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 once the final proposal phase commences. Supervisors will assist students on a **one-to-one basis** for the duration of the research and writing up of the thesis. They typically meet with students on a bi-monthly basis, **either 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 **DBA Initial Proposal (DBAIPR-10)** in order to **enrol for the Final Proposal (DBAFPR-10)**. The proposal phase must be completed successfully to be admitted onto the **Candidacy phase (DBA001-10).**

(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.**



10 Assessment

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

Proposal phase

This assessment **consists of two parts**, namely the submission of the final proposal and defence of the proposal with the **Proposal Assessment Panel.**

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 to 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.**

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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).

13 Further Studies

Students in this field may consider **post-doctoral research fellowships** with higher education institutions and universities.

14 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.

15 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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www.milpark.ac.za

Apply Now

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