

**Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Economics**  
**The Independent Institute of Education (The IIE)**

The IIE Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Economics degree offered at IIE MSA is aligned to industry, with well-defined priorities to guarantee relevance while addressing the needs of African economies. There is a growing need for multi-dimensional graduates with the ability to participate in an increasingly complex and dynamic local and global economy. The Honours programme provides students with an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of economics and to develop the necessary skills to tackle the economic issues and challenges that they will encounter throughout their careers. Emphasis is placed on attaining competence in economic analysis and its application to real-world issues. The programme also recognises the importance of research skills to economists and introduces the student to the major issues and practices in undertaking a research project. As such the research module offered in the programme develops students’ essential research skills for both professional and academic contexts alongside the ability to present and defend research to an expert audience. Placing emphasis on independent and critical thinking, analysis, research design and methods, as well as academic discourse.

**What is this Honours Degree’s accreditation status?**

The IIE Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Economics (BCom Hons in Economics) is accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and is registered by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) as a 120-credit qualification on level 8 (SAQA ID: 99595).

**Who is the Honours Degree aimed at?**

Graduate students who wish to study within the contact part-time division with an interest in furthering their knowledge in the Economics field.

**What entry requirements will I need to study this Honours Degree?**

To be registered as a candidate you must have satisfied the admission requirements as set out below:

<b>Minimum Admission Requirements</b>	
<p>An appropriate Bachelor’s Degree with an average of 60% in the final year;</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>An appropriate Advanced Diploma, provided that a 360 credit Diploma or</p>	<p>Candidates must have modules in the economics disciplines at NQF Level 7 specifically a full year of Econometrics at NQF Level 7, Micro and Macro Economics at NQF Level 7 and must have completed at least one year of mathematics or equivalent at NQF Level 5. Undergraduate degree should also include at least one statistics or equivalent module. In addition, candidates must have completed a foundation research module at the undergraduate level, preferably at NQF Level 7. Those who have not completed a foundation research module at undergraduate level will be required to do The IIE Introduction to Research SLP and need to be able to demonstrate an understanding of basic research</p>

appropriate equivalent has been completed, with an average of 60% in the final year.	before they can commence with their research report. Candidates are required to have achieved a minimum final year average of 60% in their third year (NQF L7) modules. Those with a final year average of 55 - 59% will be admitted if they attained an average of 60% or higher for the designated cognate/core discipline module at final-year (NQF L7) level.
<b>International</b>	A SAQA NQF L7 Evaluation Certificate in an appropriate field and meeting the additional admission requirements.

Students who do not meet the admission requirements may be eligible for admission via alternate means such as RPL. Please enquire at the campus for assistance.

*Please note, requirements for entry to this qualification are correct at the time of printing, however, these may change.*

### How is this Bachelor's degree structured?

The Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Economics degree comprises 6 units; 3 compulsory modules, two electives and a Research Project. The following modules constitute the programme:

<b>YEAR 1:</b>	<b>NQF Level</b>	<b>Credit value</b>
<b>Year Module Core (compulsory courses)</b>	<b>8</b>	40
Research		
<b>Semester 1</b>		
Microeconomics	8	20
Practical Econometrics	8	20
<b>Semester 2 Core (compulsory courses)</b>		
Macroeconomics	8	20
Two elective modules must be taken. Not all these modules are necessarily available every year		
International Trade Theory and Development	8	10
Health Economics	8	10
Empirical Finance	8	10

Please note that in line with academic practice, The IIE's curriculum is reviewed annually 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 an updated programme curriculum on an annual basis.

### What about timetables?

The IIE Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Economics can be completed in 1-year full-time or 2-years part-time. The academic year runs from February to November.

As far as possible timetabling is designed to accommodate student needs, but timetables remain subject to change throughout the year. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that timetable structures will remain the same during the course of your studies. Class attendance is compulsory. **What must I pass in order to graduate with this Honours 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. However, if you intend to enrol for a Master's qualification at the end of your studies, an average of 65% should be obtained for the honours qualification.

### **How long do I have to complete this qualification?**

Students have a maximum of 3 years to complete this qualification.

### **With what qualification will I graduate?**

You will graduate with The IIE Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Economics (SAQA ID: 99595).

### **Career opportunities: what career areas can I pursue once I have completed this Honours Degree?**

The careers open to economists are challenging and dynamic, more so in the present environment of globalization. Therefore, the Bachelor of Commerce Honours degree is highly desirable for students seeking employment as professional economists (employers may value a level of specialisation that is not provided by a three-year Bachelor's degree); for students who want to do postgraduate work in economics or for students who simply want to signal relatively high academic achievement. This programme will prepare graduates to take jobs and internships in the Banking and Financial Markets, the Public Sector, and International Economic Affairs, such as the World Trade Organization, United Nations, the World Bank and the Regional Development Banks.

### **What are the future study opportunities once I have completed The IIE Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Economics?**

This qualification may enable graduates to articulate to a Master's Degree in mainstream Economics or any branch of economics.

It is important to remember that your academic results remain a key factor when applying for further studies.

**Call the IIE MSA campus to discuss your career options with one of our Student Advisors.**

**Tel: +27 11 950 4009 or email [enquiries@iiems.co.za](mailto:enquiries@iiems.co.za)**

*Disclaimer: Please note that this fact sheet is accurate at the time of publication. The Independent Institute of Education (The IIE) reserves the right to alter any of the content prior to commencement of registration due to changes in regulation, policy, market requirements or any other valid reason.*



### **British Accreditation Council**

The IIE is not only accredited in South Africa but its dedication to providing quality education also led to it being accredited by the British Accreditation Council (BAC) in 2014. The British Accreditation Council is an independent authority in the United Kingdom that accredits private providers globally, including Greece, Switzerland, Singapore, India, Mauritius and the United Arab Emirates. In 2017 The IIE had its accreditation status confirmed by the BAC as an Independent Higher Education Institution confirming our confidence in the international comparability of our standards.

“South African students need to know, when they select a private higher education institution, that the standards offered are equivalent to those of a public University. Our students get this from our extensive local accreditation and registration. The students also benefit from knowing that we meet international standards too. The IIE is accredited as an Independent Higher Education Institution by the British Accreditation Council. Locally and internationally we have demonstrated the quality of what we offer,” said Dr Coughlan, Director, The Independent Institute of Education.

IIE MSA students can be confident that their IIE learning experience meets international best practice standards.