FACT SHEET

Incoming exchange students

2017
The Wits Business School (WBS) is one of the leading business schools in Africa. It is the only business school in Africa which is a member of PIM (Partnership in International Management), an association of over 60 international business schools which promotes student and faculty exchange programmes. Each year we have a number of students from business schools around the world attending our MBA programme for their electives. Equally, a number of our own students choose to study at partner business schools overseas. The WBS is AMBA-accredited and a member of the African Association of Business Schools (AABS). WBS is situated in the historical precinct of Parktown, Johannesburg, close to the commercial, cultural and financial hubs of Johannesburg.

**MBA STRUCTURE**

There are three programme formats:

1. **Full-time (FT):** Commences in January. The compulsory course work is completed in the first nine months and thereafter students have to complete their electives and either a leadership quest or an applied research project. The official duration is one year.

2. **Part-time (PT) weekday or Saturday:** Commences in January. Students attend evening lectures twice a week, or for a full day on Saturday. Classes commence in January. The official duration is 18 months.

3. **MBA PT Long Block Release format:** Classes commence in June. The programme is offered on a long block study format with each block being 10-12 days long. The official duration of the programme is 18 months.

All courses comprise 22.5 hours’ contact time.

In addition, students are expected to spend two hours in preparation for every contact hour in the classroom, i.e. an additional 12.5 hours per week per course. Preparation time would typically include: general background reading; prescribed readings; case study preparation; completing individual assignments; syndicate (group) meetings, and assignments and studying for examination purposes.
2017 TERM DATES: WBS ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

JANUARY INTAKES

Online registration 08 - 10 January 2017

LECTURES AND EXAMINATIONS

First quarter 21 January - 31 March 2017
- Full Time Exam Week 20 - 31 March 2017
- Part Time Exam Week 27 - 31 March 2017

Second quarter 08 April - 24 June 2017
- Full Time Exam Week 20 - 31 March 2017
- Part Time Exam Week 27 - 31 March 2017

Third quarter 01 July - 09 September 2017
- Part Time Exam Week 04 - 09 September 2017

Fourth quarter 16 September - 18 November 2017
- Full Time Exam Week 06 - 18 November 2017
- Part Time Exam Week 13 - 18 November 2017

MBA ELECTIVES running in 2017 – dates still to be finalized.

1. BUSA 7421 Business Analytics
2. BUSA 7422 Business in Africa
3. BUSA 7423 Business Innovation as a Response to Global Sustainability Challenges
4. BUSA 7429 Industry Foresight and Business Future Strategy
5. BUSA 7431 Negotiating Deep-Rooted Conflict
6. BUSA 7435 Social Entrepreneurship Initiatives
7. BUSA 7437 Storytelling in Organisations
8. BUSA 7172 International Business
9. BUSA 7237 Investment Analytics
10. BUSA 7232 Business Start-Ups
11. BUSA 7410 Management and Financial Accounting and Finance
12. BUSA 7407 Economics for Business
13. BUSA 7406 Critical Enquiry Skills
14. BUSA 7405 Case Competition

*Please note, electives will run only on condition that class cohorts are satisfactorily subscribed.

JUNE INTAKES

Online registration 01 - 15 June 2017

GROUP DYNAMICS (compulsory)
- MBA Block Release 19 + 20 June 2017
- PDBA Block Release 03 + 04 July 2017

LECTURES AND EXAMINATIONS

First quarter MBA - 19 - 30 June 2017
- PDBA - 03 - 14 July 2017

Second quarter MBA - 28 August - 06 September 2017
- PDBA - 18 - 27 September 2017

Third quarter MBA - 06 - 15 November 2017
- PDBA - 20 - 29 November 2017

Fourth quarter 2018

OPTIONAL MBA COURSES:

Doing Business in Africa – March 2017

SADC tour ($1500) – Tours to three South African cities: Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and one African city. This includes company and site visits, flights, accommodation, cultural activities and themed dinners and lunches – March 2017
APPLICATIONS

Registration Process
Exchange students are selected by their home institutions. Once WBS receives confirmation of their selection the student will be sent a WBS information pack. Registration for courses takes place on arrival at WBS.

Application Deadline
The deadline for applications is three months prior to the commencement of classes for each quarter. Students may enrol for any of the four quarters.

Study Permits/Visas
Exchange students are required to apply for a study permit/visa at the South African High Commission, Embassy, Consulate or Trade Mission in their country of residence or country of origin for stays of longer than 90 days. For stays less than 90 days exchange students are required to apply for a visitor's permit.

In addition to financial and medical reports, students will need to submit a letter of acceptance to study at WBS and proof of accommodation. The latter two documents are sent to students by the Co-ordinator of International Programmes, Karen Trent. See back of brochure for contact details.


Health Insurance
It is compulsory for all international students to have full medical insurance cover from a South African medical insurer if their stay is longer than 90 days. Wits University has negotiated a favourable deal with a few medical insurance companies. Insurance is obtainable on arrival at the University. The Campus Health & Wellness Centre also offers comprehensive medical services.

Wits is home to four Nobel Prize winners

Wits was the first university that Mandela addressed after his release from prison
Academic and Research Excellence

- The academic faculty members at WBS bring together years of corporate knowledge, research experience and extensive academic achievement from around the continent and world.
- WBS has a very strong research base; 95% of our academic staff have PhDs.
- In 2015 WBS staff published 49 academic articles, two books, eight book chapters and presented at 14 international conferences.
- In 2016 WBS established two new endowed Chairs: The WBS Telkom Chair in Digital Business and the WBS Chair in African Philanthropy. These are ‘firsts’ for Africa and will place WBS at the forefront of research and course development in these fields.

“The opportunities are endless”

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

Language of Instruction

All courses are taught in English.

Areas of Concentration


Class Format

Lectures, case studies, discussions, team projects and industry expert presentations, on-field learning and simulations. The high level of classroom participation, group work and interaction among students and faculty mean that exchange students must be proficient in English (speaking, reading and writing).

Class Attendance

Mandatory.

Class Size

10 – 65 (smaller classes for elective courses).

Course Load

Three courses per quarter are recommended for students whose home language is not English. There is no prescribed minimum or maximum number of courses, however – students must satisfy the requirements of their home institution. The number of lecture hours per course is 22.5.

Grading

Grading is based on class participation, individual and team assignments (projects) and presentations, case analyses and a final examination written at the end of the quarter. A percentage grading system is used with the final course grade based on a five symbol scale (A - D, F). A conversion of grades table will be supplied with the student’s academic transcript.
STUDENT LIFE

General Environment

WBS is situated approximately 1.5 km from the main Wits University campus in the leafy, historic Johannesburg suburb of Parktown. Facilities at the attractive WBS campus include modern lecture and syndicate rooms, auditoriums, computer labs, a cafeteria and one of the leading management libraries in South Africa.

Students also enjoy access to the many facilities on the main university campus.

Accommodation

Secure accommodation is provided for exchange students at The Wits Junction, the perfect atmosphere for international students to experience, to immerse themselves in South African culture and to make a few friends. Each self contained, furnished compact apartment has a bathroom, kitchenette, cooker and fridge and is also equipped with a telephone, Internet connectivity and heater. Parking is available and there is a 24-hour security service on campus.

Housing is arranged through Karen Trent (see contact details).

Application deadline: Three months before arrival.

Cost Estimates (in US$ - approx.)

- Food: $250 per month
- Car hire: $550 per month
- Books: $70 - $100 per book
- Health insurance: $100 per month
- MBA SADC Study Tour: $1500
- Materials: Course materials are free of charge for exchange students (as are E-mail and Internet access)
- Miscellaneous: Any additional costs

Sports Facilities

There are two tennis courts, a swimming pool and a squash court on the WBS campus. There are also numerous sports clubs, societies and recreational facilities within walking distance on the main Wits campus. Exchange students pay on a pro-rata basis for club membership and the use of sports facilities. There are additional sports facilities at the Wits Education Campus, within walking distance of WBS.

General

International students are housed together and often socialise and travel or sight-see in groups. South Africans are hospitable, and fellow classmates frequently invite exchange students on outings over and above those organised by the class.

There are restaurants and banks in the vicinity of the WBS, and large shopping malls are situated in nearby suburbs. Public transport in South Africa is generally poor, but there are bus routes to the malls. Uber provides a safe, quick alternative that is competitively priced. For tips and information on living in South Africa, visit www.infoafrica.co.za.

Other Advice

The Rand/Dollar and Rand/Euro exchange rates are very favourable for students coming to South Africa – therefore, accommodation, eating out, clothes, travelling and entertainment will cost less than in the US or Europe. The exception is the purchase of new or used cars, and exchange students often opt to hire a car (and share expenses) for the duration of their stay.

It is best to organise an international driver’s license applicable to South Africa in your home country. Please bear in mind that in South Africa we drive on the left-hand side of the road.

With regards to crime: as in any large city, students need to take ‘common-sense’ precautions for their personal safety.

Additional benefits

- WBS employs a ‘buddy system’ for all incoming exchange students, whereby a local student is ‘paired’ with an international student to ensure their stay here is stress free!
- International students will also be given the option to experience the real African bush, with a trip to a game reserve.
- Numerous other optional activities will also be planned, including cultural activities and a trip to Cape Town and surrounding wine farms.
Johannesburg - aka Jo’burg, eGoli or Jozi - is a rapidly changing city and the vibrant heart of South Africa. The city is one of the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the world and has a population of over 4.5 million.

Johannesburg was established in 1886 following the discovery of gold on what had been a farm along a ridge called the Witwatersrand (“ridge of white waters”). With gold mining at its historical heart, the city is now the commercial and financial hub of South Africa and the geographic ‘gateway’ to the rest of the continent.

With ‘vibey’ urban nodes, such as Sandton, Rosebank and Newtown, and great shopping and nightlife, Johannesburg is also known as the world’s biggest man-made forest, with more than 10 million trees populating its hilly suburbs.

Jozi is also known for its great climate. The summer months (October-April) are sunny and warm (an average maximum temperature of 25.6˚C) with frequent afternoon thunderstorms. Evenings are pleasantly cool. Winters are also sunny, but dry, and while the average maximum temperature is around 16˚C in June, temperatures can plummet overnight to around 1˚C.

Johannesburg is a treasure trove of cultural and historical tourist attractions, including:

- Maboneng Precinct
- Apartheid Museum
- Hector Pieterson Museum
- The SAB World of Beer
- Cradle of Humankind
- Constitution Hill
- Vilakazi Street in Soweto
- Newtown Cultural Precinct
- Rosebank Shopping District
- Sandton City
- Emmarentia Dam
- Origins Centre
- Walter Sisulu Botanical Garden
- The Rosebank and Parkwood Gallery Precinct
- Wits Art Museum
- Neighbourhood Goods Market and Braamfontein
- Hop on Hop off City Tour Bus
- Township Bicycle Tours and City Walking Tours
- Sports Events
- Pilanesberg Game Reserve (2h30min outside of Joburg)
CONTACT INFORMATION

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