

IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology

Faculty of Science & Technology
School of Computer Science

3 Years Part-Time Distance Doctorate | NQF Level 10
360 Credits | SAQA ID: 125161 | DPIT1001

→ Online

Qualification Description

The IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology is designed to advance innovation, promote digital transformation, bridge the digital divide, and strengthen the nation's position in the global knowledge economy. Candidates have the choice to focus on any one of a wide variety of topics areas, including Digital Transformation, Human Computer Interaction, Data Science, Ubiquitous and Pervasive Computing, Intelligent and Autonomous Systems, and ICT for Development.

Rooted in both advanced theory and practical application, this qualification responds directly to national, continental, and global development priorities, and contribute to the realisation of the National Development Plan 2030, Agenda 2063, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This qualification equips graduates to conduct original research that tackles a defined problem for which a technology-related solution is required. These research problems could span from addressing complex socio-economic challenges such as skills shortages, inequality, and digital inequity, to the design and implementation of sustainable, contextually relevant systems solutions that promote economic growth and foster innovation.



This is an entirely research-based qualification where the completion of a thesis is the final outcome, along with the preparation of an article for publication in an appropriate peer-reviewed journal.

Who Is This Qualification Aimed At?

The IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology aims to empower students to contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge within their chosen field by conducting independent research at the highest academic level. This qualification requires students to produce a doctoral thesis that showcases specialised knowledge, advanced research capabilities, and original insights that meet international standards. This qualification aims to develop advanced research skills and expertise in the design, development, and application of innovative IT solutions and systems, enabling graduates to make significant contributions to the field and address complex socio-economic or technological challenges in academia, industry, and society.

In addition, this qualification aims to cultivate thought leaders and researchers with a deep understanding of theoretical foundations and practical applications of IT who can design, develop and apply IT solutions and systems that are tailored to, but not limited to, the needs and contexts of Africa and the global South, promoting positive change, digital equity and sustainable development.

Furthermore, the IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology develops independence in students, requiring them to defend their findings rigorously while demonstrating adherence to the highest ethical standards in their research practices. Ultimately, the IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology equips students with the capabilities to make original, impactful.

Admission Requirements

Minimum Admission Requirements	• A relevant Master's Degree at NQF Level 9 or equivalent in a cognate field. • Candidates must have obtained an overall average of at least 65% for their Master's Degree with evidence of research experience. • International students must provide SAQA evaluation certificates as proof of the equivalence of their prior qualifications to prove that their prior qualifications are equivalent to a relevant Master's Degree at NQF level 9 Candidates must further comply with the following rigorous selection criteria for entry into the IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology: • Interview with relevant IIE academics - The interview by a qualified IIE academic will focus on the candidate's academic qualifications, research potential, relevant experience, and alignment with the institution's research strengths and priorities • Development of a Concept Document - Following a successful interview, candidates must develop and submit a relevant concept document for review. • Once the Concept Document is approved, completion of the Proposal Development for Doctoral Studies Short Learning Programme (PWDS021) and defence of a research proposal will be required once the student may formally register for the IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology.
Additional Notes	• If a candidate meets the above minimum admission requirements, selection into the IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology is further subject to faculty supervisory capacity, as well as an individual interview, the completion of a preparatory short learning programme, and approval by The IIE's Higher Degrees Committee of a research proposal. • The applicant has the right to request a written reason for any refused admission and may appeal to the Research and Postgraduate Committee in writing. • If the Research and Postgraduate Committee upholds the refusal, the decision is final. The candidate may re-apply in the following academic year if they have been able to address the issues concerned and The IIE may invite the candidate to reapply if a suitable supervisor is available. Important to Note: An additional fee is payable for the Proposal Development for Doctoral Studies Short Learning Programme (PWDS021), please refer to the fee schedule applicable for further information.

Scan the QR Code to learn more about Alternate Admission requirements for:
RPL | Mature Age Exemptions | USAf International Students | One module
outstanding from a Higher Certificate *if applicable



Curriculum Outline

The structure of the IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology consists of only one compulsory NQF level 10 component (module), namely the Doctoral Thesis: Information Technology (DTIT1619). As it is a research-based doctoral degree with no coursework included, there are no other compulsory or elective modules included in this qualification, besides the compulsory short learning programme as per the admission requirements that is completed prior to attempting the Doctoral Thesis: Information Technology (DTIT1619) module. The thesis constitutes the full 360 credits for the qualification, in line with the requirements of the HEQSF.

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Curriculum Structure

Modules			
Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits
PWDS021	Proposal Development for Doctoral Studies		
DTIT1619	Doctoral Thesis: Information Technology	10	360

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology have a wide range of career opportunities available to them.

In academia, they can hold various positions such as lecturer, research fellow, postdoctoral researcher, academic writer, or postgraduate research supervisor. These positions allow them to share their knowledge and expertise with students and contribute to the advancement of research in their field.

In industry, a IIE Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology is highly desirable for senior management positions, and graduates can pursue careers as consultants, managers, or leaders in the field of Information technology, Digital Transformation, and Innovation.

Graduation and Completion Requirements for This Qualification

As a distance (online) student, this qualification is structured to be completed over 3 years. The maximum time to complete this qualification is 6 years.

What Are the Benefits of an IIE Distance (Online) Qualification?

The Emeris distance (online) delivery mode provides you with the agility of studying towards a tertiary qualification asynchronously, at different times from different locations. Distance students need to commit to approximately 20-25 hours a week to spend on their research.

Here are some of the benefits you can expect:

- The support of a supervisor to lead you through the research process.
- The Postgraduate Research Centre provides administrative and operational guidance and support throughout your academic journey.
- A professionally registered Student Wellness Manager/Counsellor is available for short-term, primary counselling services.
- Additionally, the Student Wellness Manager/Counsellor hosts various webinars and virtual talks on topics that promote a balanced lifestyle as you pursue your academic goals.

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Please note, details are correct at the time of publication.

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After your application is submitted, we will review your documentation and provide an outcome regarding your chosen study.



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