MASTER OF BUSINESS LEADERSHIP (MBL)

Managers at senior and top level will enhance their global and professional perspective as well as their strategic leadership skills in order to lead and change their organisations.

Introduction

The **Master of Business Leadership (MBL)** provides highly professional management development at postgraduate level with particular emphasis on the theory as well as the practice of management. It also offers an opportunity for the development of leadership qualities.

What is the MBL?

The MBL is a highly professional, three-year, postgraduate management development programme, which is offered on a largely distance learning platform. This distributed learning model offers a special learning opportunity and a unique self-development programme to graduates who want to follow management careers in the private and public sectors. Its unique structure incorporates contact with academics, group and individual work, and multimedia interaction through the distance learning system enhancing the learning experience. The economic environment of the organisation, the functions of the organisation and the integrated concepts of strategy and leadership are the main fields of study which are integrated into the MBL. The first two years of study deliver a broad spectrum of both theory and practice which covers aspects of management from the operational level through general management and culminates in strategic management and leadership.

During the final year, the student will have the opportunity to integrate the learning experience through a compulsory year module: Executive Project Management that includes a field study project and a research report. In addition, during the final year, advanced studies in certain modules are presented as an elective.

During the period of enrolment, students will have had the opportunity to apply learning experiences both personally and within their work environment.

The resulting Master’s degree equips the student with the skills to make a meaningful contribution in the management of both public and private sector organisations.

*My desire to embark on the MBL journey was premised on my desire to challenge myself in a Masters arena and having a natural affinity towards business.*

Dalen Lance
Entrepreneur / Model / TV Personality

MBL

Master of Business Leadership
In order to be considered for admission to the programme, students must:

- Hold a three-year recognised Bachelor’s degree, with 360 SAQA credits or Higher National Diploma or Advanced Diploma from an accredited institution
- Have had at least three years’ managerial experience, to ensure that they can contribute meaningfully to group discussions, assignments and the study schools
- Have access to a computer and the Internet
- Submit a personal letter providing reasons for wishing to enrol for the MBL

The study period is three years and the programme is based on a combination of theoretical and applied content. The first two years consist of compulsory core modules. The final year offers the opportunity to integrate all learning experiences through a research project, an executive project management module and one elective module.

The distributed distance learning element comprises self-tuition and group work in which the student must do both prescribed and recommended reading, complete assignments, and contribute to group activities. Attendance of the compulsory study schools and group meetings give students an opportunity to network with fellow students and to interact with academics. Four-hour open book exams will be written during October/November.

First year (all modules are compulsory)

- Human Resource Management and Employment Relations (MBL911-K)
- Operations Management (MBL912-L)
- Marketing Management (MBL913-M)
- Financial and Management Accounting (MBL914-N)
- Strategic Management (MBL915-P)
- Economics and the Global Business Environment (MBL916-Q)
Second year (all modules are compulsory)
• Leadership and Organisational Dynamics (MBL921-M)
• Strategic Financial Management (MBL922-N)
• Strategy Dynamics and International Business (MBL923-P)
• Information Resource Management (MBL924-Q)
• Business Research (MBL925-R)
• Business Ethics (MBL926-S)

Third year
• A compulsory year module: Executive Project Management and a field study (MBLEPM-Y)
• A research report (MBLREP-P)
• An elective module

The elective module must be chosen from the following list:
• Change Management (MBL93A-R)
• Managing and Resolving Employment Relations Issues (MBL93B-S)
• Corporate Governance (MBL93C-T)
• Corporate Strategic Management (MBL93D-U)
• Advanced Financial Management (MBL93E-V)
• Advanced Financial Systems (MBL93F-W)
• E-Business and Technology Management (MBL93G-X)
• Supply Chain Management (MBL93H-Y)
• Advanced Marketing (MBL93J-4)

NB: All the elective modules will not necessarily be offered each year.

Study Schools

All study schools are held in Midrand. Attendance is compulsory.

Students are responsible for their own accommodation, travel arrangements and expenses incurred while attending the study schools.

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**Assessment**

**Formative Assessment (assignments)**
Assignments contribute 24% towards the final mark per module. A written test will constitute 16% towards the final mark. In all the modules, the weight of the year mark is 40% and that of the written examination 60%. In order to continue with the next year of studies, a student needs to pass three modules.

**Summative Assessment (examinations)**
Examinations consist of one four-hour open-book examination per module. Each module contributes 60% per module towards the final mark. Examinations will be written during October and November at centres designated by Unisa. Examination eligibility will be according to the rules and procedures applicable to the MBL.

Students will be required to adhere to the Unisa examination timetable as well as the designated Unisa examination centres.

Students may be required to write more than one module per day during the exam period.

**Distance Learning System**
Study material, contact with the SBL, academics and fellow students are provided through this system, 24 hours a day. Assignments are submitted electronically. Students will work on common projects, share ideas, information and understanding, and create new ideas or solutions. Using the system means that distance between students, members of their group and the SBL becomes irrelevant.

Advantages of the distance learning system over conventional printed materials:
- It improves access to the programme.
- It teaches students more about business in conjunction with the latest computer technology.
- Students acquire knowledge about technology and how to utilise it in the different business environments.
- It allows for efficient communication.
- It is an environmentally friendly system.
Application for admission must be made from September each year. The closing date for applications is 31 October. No late applications will be considered. Successful students will be notified by e-mail not later than end of January of the following year.

The application form is included in this brochure or visit the SBL website: [www.unisa.ac.za/sbl](http://www.unisa.ac.za/sbl), a clear photocopy of the form can be used. The application form must be completed, signed and accompanied by the required documents as set out in Section 31 A-I of the application form. All correspondence will be done via e-mail. Please ensure that all details are correctly recorded on the application form. Once admission is approved, student registration will take place from December to mid-January.

**Study material and required textbooks**

A student’s registration must be finalised by the administration of the business school before any textbooks can be issued. Study information is only available on the distance learning system and can be accessed after registration is finalised. Instructions on how to use the system will be sent to you after registration. Textbooks will be couriered to students.

**Requirements: Distance Learning System**

Students are required to have access to a computer and the Internet with Microsoft Office, Adobe Reader, Internet Explorer, Internet Explorer 7 or higher, Firefox or Safari.

In the interest of speed of contact, quality of delivery, and of developing a truly computer literate manager, all students are strongly encouraged to make use of the SBL distance learning system.

**Language Medium**

Prescribed material is available in English. Students should submit assignments and do examination in English. The language medium of study schools is English.
Adequate progress and re-registration

For the duration of the student’s study he/she must re-register annually before the stipulated date. Re-registration at the SBL may be refused in any year on the grounds of inadequate progress and poor performance.

- A student must register for all the prescribed modules of the year of study concerned.
- Students failing one module during the first year will carry that module during the second year.
- Students failing two modules during the first year can either repeat the two modules before commencing with the second year or repeat the two modules whilst busy with the second year.
- Students failing three modules or more in the first academic year will not be allowed to continue with the MBL degree.
- An electronic registration form for MBL2 and MBL3 will be emailed to students on request.
- Students failing three or more modules during their second year must register for the outstanding modules and cannot proceed to the third year unless they comply with the rules as stipulated in the Unisa calendar.
- Students are allowed to register for the prescribed modules of the third year if they do not have more than two modules outstanding from previous years.
- A student repeating any module will be required to follow the current year’s curriculum.

Concurrent registration

Concurrent registration at two or more universities is not permitted without the permission of all universities.

Programme Starting Dates

This programme will commence in January each year.

Completion of Qualification

Students will have a maximum of six years to complete the MBL degree curriculum successfully. No credits will be carried forward after this period.

Upon completion of the programme, a student will receive the Master of Business Leadership degree, conferred by the University of South Africa.