

GIBS Executive Education | Again ranked number 1 in executive education in South Africa and Africa by *Financial Times*

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In line with its commitment to deliver powerful learning experiences for managers and leaders, University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) has again been ranked by the esteemed UK *Financial Times* as the top provider of executive education, not only in South Africa but also across the African continent. GIBS moved up six places to 36th in this ranking.

This ranking not only affirms the School's position as leading the way in delivering high-quality education on the continent, but unequivocally shows that GIBS is delivering learning experiences on par with other internationally acclaimed global providers. This year marks the 16th year in which GIBS is ranked among top providers of executive education.

The overall ranking evaluates customised programmes for corporate clients (custom) and public programmes (open-enrolment). The *FT* ranking is based on survey responses from clients and participants, as well as data provided by business schools. This year, 80 business schools offering customised programmes and 75 offering open-enrolment programmes worldwide were ranked.

"GIBS strives to add value to its clients by providing globally competitive business and leadership development, making them more competitive in a rapidly shifting context," says Professor Nicola Kleyn, Dean of GIBS. "Our climb in the *FT* ranking is a positive signal that GIBS is indeed delivering what clients expect and that we are meeting the needs of business both for today and for the future."

According to the ranking, GIBS stood out when it came to criterion such as:

- 'Growth' which looked at revenue growth for both custom and open programmes as well as repeat business, where the school ranked 5th and 13th respectively;
- With regards to the 'Future use' criterion, GIBS was ranked 26th in the world with clients saying they were highly likely to reuse the school for other customised programmes in the future;
- GIBS' commitment to diversity: The ranking highlights that 50% of open programme participants are women, and this has placed the school 19th in the world with regards to 'female representation';
- When it came to 'faculty' which looked at the quality of teaching, GIBS scored the near median of 37 out of 80 schools under open programmes; and
- In custom programmes, the school ranked 13th for 'partner schools' where some of components of the teachings were delivered in conjunction with other EQUIS and AACSB accredited business schools. The school has partnered with schools such as Harvard Business School, giving delegates a holistic perspective of the global landscape.

Executive Director: Custom Programmes at GIBS, Lerato Mahlasela, said, "Organisations across the globe are being challenged to remain relevant, innovative, agile and responsible. They are continually looking to skill and sometimes even reskill their employees. Our inclusive portfolio of learning solutions, from custom skills programmes to academic qualifications, continues to support organisations in this regard. We are delighted that our efforts are once again recognised."

Executive education gives executives an opportunity to hone their skill set and progress their careers to the next stage. The school aims to deliver learning that meets the challenges of the market and groom management talent to take on the challenges in the rapidly changing business environment. Through embracing innovation and digital transformation and keeping abreast of global trends, GIBS aims to continually enhance its offering.

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(GIBS) has been built around its intent to significantly improve responsible individual and organisational performance, through high-quality business and management education.

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