

# Faculty of Law

## Board Governance

Centre for Continuing Education Programmes



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
JOHANNESBURG

FACULTY OF LAW



**The Future  
Reimagined**

## Corporate Governance

Good corporate governance is a key value for the modern corporate community. In South Africa, this is illustrated by the practical importance of compliance with key principles set out in the King IV (2016) Reports on Corporate Governance. Board governance is a core aspect of corporate governance and pivotal to corporate law. It is vital that all compliance officers, senior employees, managers, directors and executive officers of corporations have a thorough understanding of their duties and of different ways in which the quality and effectiveness of the board can be improved. The importance of such knowledge has been highlighted by the spate of corporate collapses internationally and in South Africa.

## The 2021 Programme

In 1997, RAU, now the University of Johannesburg, was one of the first universities in the world to offer a complete university programme in corporate governance. This programme on board governance is an extension of that programme, with a particular focus on recent local and international developments in the area of corporate governance and board governance. The pioneer of this programme, Professor Jean du Plessis, formed part of the international reference group that advised the Department of Trade and Industry on international best practices in the area of corporate governance.

Prof Esser has been presenting this course since 2009.

The programme in Board Governance will be presented from **May - November**. Tuition will be compressed into a series

of lectures that will be offered in **May** at the University of Johannesburg, Auckland Park Kingsway Campus.

**NB:** Attendance of the 3 day workshop is compulsory.

This programme is also registered as one of the modules in the Postgraduate Diploma in Compliance. Students with a tertiary degree who are awarded the Certificate, earn a core credit towards the Diploma. They will need to complete only three further modules in compliance management, money laundering control and interpretation of statutes to be awarded the University of Johannesburg's Postgraduate Diploma in Compliance.

## Who Should Attend?

The programme is of particular benefit to compliance officers, company secretaries, senior employees, managers, directors and executive officers. Lawyers specialising in corporate law and auditors will also find this programme of great importance as it deals, among other things, with the legal duties of directors and board structures. This programme will also enable lawyers to get a thorough update of the many local and international developments in the area of corporate governance and board governance.

## Entry Requirements

- A knowledge and understanding of the Companies Act 71 of 2008 is recommended when registering for this short course.
- A bachelors degree in Law or Commerce pitched at NQF Level 7 or appropriate equivalent qualification.

**NB:** Foreign applicants should contact the Faculty for relevant legislative requirements.

### Assessment and Outcome

An **examination** will be written in **November**. Students may sit for the examination in designated locations in South Africa.

### Fees

**NB: Please contact our offices to confirm the course fees.**

Non-South African students pay an additional international levy. Please contact our office for confirmation.

Tuition fees include access to the University's library, study material and the technology assisted learning system and Blackboard.

Students who fail to pay all fees will not be permitted to attend lectures.

### Programme Presenter

Prof Irene-marié Esser is a Professor of Corporate Law and Governance at the University of Glasgow and a Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa (UNISA). She is also an expert panel member of the EU/Africa Chamber of Commerce. In South Africa she was Professor and Co-Subject Head of Corporate Law at UNISA until March 2013, when she relocated, with her family, to Edinburgh, Scotland. Irene-marié obtained her LLB at Stellenbosch University (2001), her LLM at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland (2003) and her LLD at UNISA (2008). She is also an admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa.

She was a contributor of the first edition of the leading textbook Henochsberg on the Companies Act 71 of 2008 and contributes to the company law chapter in the Annual Survey of South African Law. She is also the co-editor of the Corporate Governance Annual Review publication. During 2009 Irene-marié received the 'Women in Research: Youngest staff member with a doctorate degree' award at UNISA, as well as the Principal's Prize for Excellence in Research. During 2016 Irene-marié was awarded, as co-winner, the prize for the best article published in the Journal of Contemporary Roman Dutch Law for the co-authored work: Esser and Delport "Shareholder protection in terms of the Companies Act 71 of 2008". Irene-marié has also been presenting workshops and seminars for professionals working in the field of corporate governance and a 4-day workshop, for eight years, at the University of Johannesburg on board governance. She redeveloped this course extensively during 2015. Irene-marié acted as an external advisor to the South African King IV Report on Corporate Governance. She currently teaches Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility and Company Law and supervises postgraduate research students in South Africa and the United Kingdom.

See: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/law/staff/irene-marieesser/>

### Programme Content

Topics include the following:

1. Corporate governance – an overview
2. The stakeholder debate
3. The role, function and liability of directors, other officers and employees

4. Corporate Governance Models:
  - 4.1 The two-tier board system
  - 4.2 The unitary board system
5. The King IV Report and corporate governance in South Africa:
  - 5.1 Background, overview and importance
  - 5.2 The Report and the Code of Ethics
6. New Companies Act 2008
7. Corporate governance in selected other jurisdictions
8. Effective board meetings and processes
9. Practical tips to limit the risk of liability
10. Practical cases studies are provided to test corporate governance principles and effectiveness.

## Application

The closing date for applications is **30 April** unless the date is extended.

## Administrative Enquiries

More details on the programme are available from the Faculty of Law. Please contact the Course Coordinator. Ms Busi Mpofu: Tel: 011 559 3982, Email: busim@uj.ac.za

## Documents Required

Please attach **certified** copies of your ID document/passport, matric certificate and degree certificate to your application form.

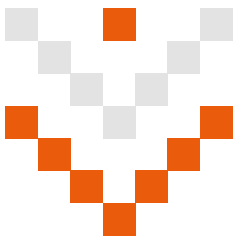
**NB:** Non-South African applicants should contact the Faculty for relevant legislative requirements.

## Online Application

TO MAKE AN ONLINE APPLICATION  
(No Application Fee is payable)

- The Course Code is: **S4BGCQ**
- The Mode of Study is DB – “APK Continuing Education Programmes Part-Time”.
- For a quicker and easier application process for first-time (new) applicants use the link below:  
Short Web Application  
[https://registration.uj.ac.za/pls/prodi41/wuj012pkg.wuj012\\_startup](https://registration.uj.ac.za/pls/prodi41/wuj012pkg.wuj012_startup)
- And the RETURNING student web link is:  
[https://registration.uj.ac.za/pls/prodi41/w99pkg.mi\\_login](https://registration.uj.ac.za/pls/prodi41/w99pkg.mi_login)
- For both processes above the “token” that must be used applicants is **LAWSLP**.

For assistance regarding Applications please contact the University call centre on (+27) 11 559 4555 or at [mylife@uj.ac.za](mailto:mylife@uj.ac.za)



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**Faculty of Law**

[www.uj.ac.za/law](http://www.uj.ac.za/law)