



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
JOHANNESBURG

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**Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies**  
**Short Learning Programme in Introduction to**  
**Economics of Higher Education**

**The Future**  
Reimagined

## The Programme

The Faculty of Education of the University of Johannesburg is offering a Short Learning Programme (SLP) in Introduction to Economics of Higher Education. Successful candidates qualify for a certificate from the University of Johannesburg or for a credit bearing online module that will articulate towards a Master's degree in Higher Education Studies subject to approval by the Council on Higher Education (CHE).

The general purpose of this SLP is to provide a critical overview of the complex relationship between education, knowledge production, economic growth, and development; in order to pose questions such as what is the relationship between education, knowledge, and the economics of human capital? How can we explain the rate of return in investment in education and knowledge economy? Is the knowledge economy related to the contemporary commercialisation of science and academic scholarship? How can we mitigate the dynamics between social responsibility and education as a commodity in knowledge economy? What is the role of knowledge economy in an emerging economy like South Africa? How can these issues inform current educational policy?

Moreover, the course covers the complexity within the fiscal dimensions of higher education discussing entrepreneurship in higher education, tuition policies, and cost-sharing schemes in public institutions. Thus, this SLP is intended to provide a systematic overview of theories, concepts, policy trends, and practices of economics and finance of higher education.

The course deepens students' understanding of the basics of the economics of higher education and enables them to conceptualise the theoretical aspects that are pertinent in discussing and analysing the nexus between higher education, economic growth, and development. The SLP equips students with the conceptual and analytical tools needed to engage in research, addressing complex issues of economics of higher education. Through a combination of conceptual and empirical readings, lectures, group discussions, presentations, and a written assignment, course participants will explore a range of topics relevant to the economics of higher education.

## Programme Content

The programme covers the following topics:

### 1. Human capital theory and the concept of knowledge economy

This section covers the concepts, theories, and meaning of human capital theory and knowledge economy, and the way they shape higher education policies.

### 2. The nexus and dynamics among higher education, economic growth and development

This thematic section discusses the debate over the relationship between higher education, development, and economic growth in emerging economies such as South Africa.

### 3. Theories, concepts and debates over private vs public rate of return in higher education

The discussion over higher education as either a private or public good sparks the debate over private vs public rate of return in higher education. This section covers the concepts and debates over the rate of return and how it informs higher education policy processes in emerging economies.

#### **4. Funding structures, tuition policies and cost-sharing schemes in higher education**

The costs of higher education in many nations, at least until recently, have been borne predominantly or even exclusively by governments, or taxpayers. There is, however, an emerging trend of cost-sharing throughout the world in the forms of tuition fees, income-contingent systems, or graduate tax. This thematic section discusses the various theoretical justifications for increasing cost-sharing schemes and policy debates in higher education.

#### **5. Policy dynamics and trends in higher education and public finance**

Higher education as a sector must compete with other sectors for public funding. As the higher education demand increases without substantial growth from public funding, the sector faces fiscal stress, which creates an impetus for both governments and higher education institutions to develop various strategies to meet the growing demand. This thematic section explores the diverse coping mechanisms among higher education systems to fiscal stress and the different higher education funding formula. It gives particular attention to the South African experience.

### **Programme Leader**

Dr Mukovhe Masutha

### **Who Should Attend**

The course will be valuable for students in their career as educator, researcher, policy advisor and advocator. They will add value to the education sector, contributing to crucial debates and initiatives that have a direct bearing on the developments and policy processes of the tertiary sector. Students will be professionally fit to critically engage in both theoretical and policy dialogues on higher education issues. Moreover, they will benefit the society at large by extending their critical thinking and problem-solving skills to their various workplaces, in building visionary educational communities.

### **When**

The first intake for this Programme is in **February 2023**.

### **Admission Requirements**

Prospective candidates will need to have obtained a previous qualification with honours or a postgraduate diploma in the field of Education, Social Science or related fields as per the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 8 qualification (or equivalent) to be admitted to the programme.

A minimum of 65% completion in the approved honours or a postgraduate diploma or the equivalent is also required.

Prior learning will be recognised as an integral part of education and academic practice if the candidate has a basic and general understanding and knowledge about the field of Education.

### **Mode of Delivery**

Online interactive platforms will be used. Course coordinators and presenters will engage students through utilising not only the UJ Learning Management System but also through other webinar platforms, including Zoom, social media chat rooms and online calls.

## Assessment and Outcome

Participation in online discussion forums and webinars, written assignment(s) and written examination.

**Outcome:** Successful students will receive a certificate from the University of Johannesburg or qualify for a credit bearing online module that will articulate towards a Master's degree in Higher Education Studies (as per university rules).

## Duration

6 months

## Cost

R3500.00

## Foreign Students

Foreign Students must have their School Leaving Certificate and Tertiary Qualification Certificates evaluated by the South African Matriculation Board and SAQA respectively. This could take a couple of months so please do this timeously.

## Applications

If you are interested, please contact **Ms Loria Mokoena, Tel: 011 559 3450, Email: [loriam@uj.ac.za](mailto:loriam@uj.ac.za)** who will then advise on the formal application process. Applications open from **1 May 2022** and close on **31 January 2023**.

## Enquiries

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University of Johannesburg Faculty of Education

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