

Master of Management in Digital Business (MMDB) Partial and Fully Funded PhD Bursaries Available for Research in AI, Business and Digital Transformation

WITS MIND INVESTEC CHAIR IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

WITS BUSINESS SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

JOIN A GROWING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM ADVANCING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, DIGITAL BUSINESS, AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA.

The Wits MIND Investec Chair in Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Business Transformation invites applications from outstanding candidates who are applying to, or are currently enrolled in, the Master of Management in Digital Business (MMDB) at Wits Business School. Partial bursaries and a limited number of full bursaries are available for high-potential students whose academic and professional interests align with artificial intelligence, digital transformation, business innovation, and sustainable development. Successful bursary recipients will join a vibrant interdisciplinary community of students, researchers, academics, and industry partners working to shape the future of artificial intelligence and digital business in Africa.

ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY

practitioners capable of leading responsible AI adoption, digital innovation, and sustainable business transformation in Africa and emerging markets.

Successful bursary recipients will have opportunities to engage with:

- AI applications in business and organisations.
- Digital transformation in African and emerging-market contexts.
- Data, digital platforms, and emerging technologies.
- Responsible AI and AI governance.
- Industry engagement, applied research, innovation, and executive education.

Recipients will also be integrated into the Chair's interdisciplinary research and innovation ecosystem through seminars, research discussions, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

WHAT THE BURSARY COVERS

- Full or partial tuition support (depending on the bursary awarded).
- Academic mentorship from the Chair's academic team and affiliated researchers.
- Membership of the Chair's interdisciplinary research and innovation community.
- Participation in seminars, workshops, and the AI Dialogue Series.
- Opportunities to engage with industry, government, and policy partners.
- Opportunities to contribute to research, case studies, and applied projects (where appropriate).

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Strong academic performance.
- Demonstrated interest in, and potential to contribute to, artificial intelligence, digital business, digital transformation, or sustainable business innovation.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants should hold an Honours degree (NQF Level 8) or equivalent qualification in Digital Business, Information Systems, Informatics, Information Technology, Computer Science, Management, Economics, Finance, Public Policy, Development Studies, or a related discipline, and must satisfy the admission requirements for the Master of Management in Digital Business at Wits Business School.
- Strong analytical, conceptual, and communication skills appropriate for postgraduate study.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Successful bursary recipients will be expected to:

- Successfully complete the MMDB programme.
- Participate actively in the Chair's seminars and research activities.
- Contribute to collaborative projects and industry engagement where appropriate.
- Act as ambassadors for responsible AI and digital transformation.
- Contribute to the Chair's thought leadership and public engagement activities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

In line with the University's transformation objectives, applications from suitably qualified candidates from underrepresented designated groups are particularly encouraged. Applicants with a demonstrated interest in AI and sustainable development in African contexts are especially welcome. International applicants who meet the University's admission requirements are also encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Curriculum vitae.
- Certified copies of academic qualifications and official academic transcripts.
- Motivation letter (maximum two pages).
- Preliminary research concept note (1–2 pages)
- Certified copy of South African ID or passport.
- Proof of application to, or admission into, the Master of Management in Digital Business.
- Contact details of two academic or professional referees.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Please submit your application electronically to:

Prof Rennie Naidoo

Email: rennie.naidoo@wits.ac.za

CLOSING DATE: 31 DECEMBER 2026

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The University reserves the right not to award all advertised bursaries.