

# WITS GRADUATE ONLINE, LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

(GOLD) Programme  
2025 Courses

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## PART THREE

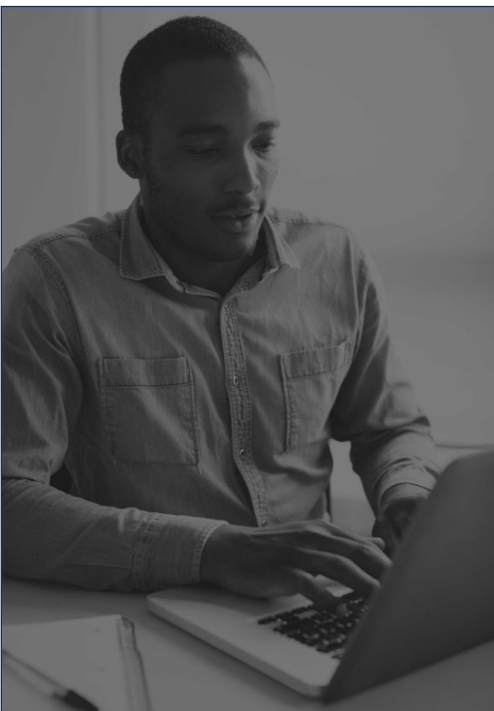
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## Introduction to the Wits Graduate Online Learning and Development (GOLD) Programme

The Wits Graduate Online Learning and Development (GOLD) Programme is a transformative initiative designed to provide postgraduate students at Wits University with a flexible and comprehensive framework for academic and professional growth. Open to all postgraduate students across disciplines, this program combines advanced academic training with essential professional development opportunities, equipping students to thrive in research, academia, and beyond.

This fully online program is structured into three distinct parts, offering a progressive learning journey tailored to students' evolving academic and career needs. It integrates cutting-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), to personalize the learning experience, optimize resources, and provide tailored support for each student.



### Programme Structure and Content

The GOLD Programme is structured into **three interconnected parts**, featuring over 80 modules, and continually expanding to include more discipline-specific offerings. This expansion is strategically designed to leverage the integrated capabilities of the Ulwazi Plus system, which enhances learning through personalized course recommendations, milestone tracking, and advanced collaboration tools, creating a seamless and tailored educational experience for postgraduate students.

## Part 1: Research Foundations and Proposal Development



**Objective:** Lay a strong foundation in research methodologies, academic writing, and ethical practices to support students in conceptualizing and initiating their research projects.



### Key Modules:

- **Research Preparation and Writing:** Covers research methodologies, theoretical frameworks, and academic writing essentials.
- **Library Resources and Tools:** Teaches advanced literature search techniques and reference management.
- **Research Ethics and Integrity:** Explores ethical principles in research through case studies and online discussions.
- **Technical Writing:** Focuses on effective communication for academic and professional audiences.
- **Interdisciplinary Perspectives:** Encourages exploration of cross-disciplinary approaches and collaborative thinking.

## Part 2: Advanced Research Skills and Professional Development



**Objective:** Equip students with advanced skills in research communication, publication, and professional practices to advance their academic and career objectives.



### Key Modules:

- **Scientific Communication and Presentation Skills:** Develops effective strategies for writing and presenting research findings.
- **Writing and Publication:** Provides guidance on manuscript preparation, journal selection, and submission processes.
- **Grant Writing and Fundraising:** Introduces the fundamentals of identifying funding opportunities and developing compelling grant proposals.
- **Leadership and Teamwork:** Focuses on building and managing research teams and resolving conflicts.
- **Effective University Teaching Strategies:** Prepares students for diverse career pathways, both within and outside academia.



## Part 3: Dissertation/Thesis Completion and Knowledge Dissemination



**Objective:** Support students in finalizing their research outputs and disseminating their findings effectively to academic and non-academic audiences.



### Key Modules:

- **Dissertation/Thesis Writing Intensive:** Provides structured writing support through retreats, workshops, and consultations.
- **Thesis Defense Preparation:** Includes mock defenses and feedback sessions to prepare students for successful thesis presentations.
- **Knowledge Transfer and Public Engagement:** Teaches strategies for research dissemination, public engagement, and measuring research impact.
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Explores pathways to translate research into real-world applications.

# GOLD PROGRAM

## Key Features



### **Inclusive Access:**

Open to all postgraduate students, irrespective of their discipline or level of study.



### **Online and Flexible Delivery:**

Designed to accommodate the diverse needs of students, allowing them to learn at their own pace from anywhere in the world.



### **AI-Driven Personalization:**

Utilizes AI tools to recommend courses, monitor progress, and provide real-time feedback, ensuring a tailored learning experience.



### **Interactive Learning Environment:**

Includes moderated discussion forums, webinars, and virtual office hours for enhanced engagement.



### **Holistic Development:**

Emphasizes academic excellence, professional preparedness, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

## Assessment and Progress Monitoring



### Diverse Assessment Methods

Combine quizzes, peer reviews, group projects, and real-world application-based assessments to evaluate learning outcomes effectively

### Milestone Tracking

Employees AI-driven tools to monitor progress against key academic and professional milestones

### Regular Feedback

Provides continuous feedback through interactive platforms and supervisor engagements to ensure students remain on track



## Conclusion

The Wits GOLD Programme represents a bold step forward in reimagining postgraduate education. By integrating academic rigor with professional development and leveraging advanced technologies, the program ensures students are not only equipped to excel in their studies but are also prepared to address complex challenges in their fields. This inclusive and adaptable model reinforces Wits University's commitment to excellence and innovation in postgraduate education.

Course	Modules	Description of Value
Fundamentals of research preparation and academic writing	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Introduction to research in academia</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Research methodologies and design</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Conducting a literature review</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> structuring a research paper</p> <p><b>Module 5:</b> Academic writing style and conventions</p> <p><b>Module 6:</b> Critical analysis and argumentation</p>	<p>This module provides a comprehensive introduction to research preparation and academic writing. Students will learn about different research methodologies, how to formulate research questions, and the basics of structuring a research paper. Emphasis will be placed on conducting literature reviews, understanding ethical considerations in research, and mastering academic writing conventions. Practical writing workshops will allow students to apply these concepts through hands-on activities.</p>
Advanced library resources and research tools	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Exploring databases like Scopus, web of science, and specialized subject databases</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Using reference management tools</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Tools for data collection and analysis</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> Accessing e-books, journals, and grey literature</p> <p><b>Module 5:</b> Ethical use of digital research tools</p>	<p>This module introduces students to advanced library resources and research tools that are essential for conducting high-quality academic research. Students will learn how to navigate academic databases like Scopus, Web of Science, and specialized subject databases, as well as how to manage references using tools like EndNote, Mendeley, and Zotero. The module will also explore tools for data collection and analysis, including NVivo and SPSS, and strategies for accessing e-books, journals, and grey literature. Additionally, students will gain skills in organizing and categorizing research materials, responsibly using digital tools, and understanding the challenges and benefits of open-access resources.</p>



Course	Modules	Description of Value
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Research Ethics and Integrity</p>	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Core Principles of Research Ethics</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Ethical Research Design and Data Collection</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Managing Conflicts of Interest and Maintaining Objectivity</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> Ethical Publication Practices and Plagiarism Prevention</p>	<p>This module provides an in-depth overview of ethical conduct and research integrity. Students will learn about key ethical issues that arise during research, from design to data management and dissemination. Through case studies, workshops, and practical applications, students will explore real-world ethical dilemmas and best practices for responsible research conduct. Topics include informed consent, data integrity, managing conflicts of interest, plagiarism, and transparency in research publication.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Advanced technical writing and communication</p>	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Principles of technical writing</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Organizing complex information</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Peer review, editing, and visual communication</p>	<p>This module equips students with the essential tools for writing and communicating complex ideas in an academic or technical context. Students will learn to write for different audiences, using clear and concise language. The module covers how to structure and organize documents, how to write effective abstracts and summaries, and how to integrate visual elements like charts and graphs to improve understanding. Students will also gain skills in the peer review process and self-editing techniques..</p>

Course	Modules	Description of Value
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Interdisciplinary research and broader perspectives</p>	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Introduction to interdisciplinary research</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Reflective practice and communicating interdisciplinary research</p>	<p>This module explores the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in research. Students will learn about the challenges and benefits of integrating knowledge from multiple fields and will study real-world examples of successful interdisciplinary projects. Topics will cover collaborative research methods, reflective practices, and strategies for communicating findings to diverse audiences. By understanding how to merge methodologies and perspectives from different disciplines, students will be better prepared to tackle complex research problems in their academic and professional careers.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Navigating your relationship with your supervisor</p>	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Understanding the supervisee role</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Effective communication with your supervisor</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Goal setting and personal development</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> Receiving and applying feedback</p> <p><b>Module 5:</b> Managing challenges and conflict in supervision</p>	<p>This course provides supervisees with the tools and techniques to make the most of their supervision experience. Topics covered include effective communication with supervisors, setting clear goals, understanding feedback, and navigating the challenges that can arise in the supervisory relationship. Through practical activities, role-playing, and self-reflection, supervisees will gain insights into how they can contribute to a productive and growth-oriented relationship with their supervisor..</p>

Course	Modules	Description of Value
Scientific Communication and Presentation Skills	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Introduction to scientific communication</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Effective scientific writing</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Preparing oral presentations</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> Designing scientific posters</p> <p><b>Module 5:</b> Presentation delivery and handling questions</p>	<p>This course covers the fundamental principles and practical techniques for effective scientific communication and presentation. It emphasizes the importance of structure, clarity, and audience engagement in both written and oral formats. Students will learn how to present research findings through various mediums, including academic papers, posters, and oral presentations. Practical workshops and peer reviews will provide hands-on experience in refining communication skills.</p>
Writing and Publication	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Introduction to scientific writing</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Structuring a research paper</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Selecting the right journal</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> Navigating the peer review process</p> <p><b>Module 5:</b> Ethical considerations in publishing</p>	<p>This course introduces participants to the essentials of academic writing and the publication process. It emphasizes the importance of clear, concise, and impactful scientific communication. Participants will learn how to structure a research paper, adhere to journal guidelines, and address reviewers' feedback. The module also explores ethical considerations, open-access publishing, and strategies for increasing the visibility and impact of published work.</p>

Course	Modules	Description of Value
Grant Writing and Fundraising	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Introduction to grant writing and fundraising</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Researching funding opportunities</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Writing the grant proposal</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> Fundraising campaigns and strategies</p> <p><b>Module 5:</b> Managing and reporting on grants</p> <p><b>Module 6:</b> Practical session and proposal review</p>	<p>This course provides a comprehensive guide to grant writing and fundraising techniques for nonprofit organizations, research projects, startups, and other ventures. Through practical examples, hands-on activities, and case studies, students will learn how to identify funding opportunities, create compelling proposals, and develop successful fundraising campaigns. By the end of the module, students will be able to apply professional grant writing strategies and use tools to enhance their fundraising efforts.</p>
Leadership and Teamwork in Research	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Introduction to leadership in research</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Teams' dynamics in research</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Effective communication and collaboration</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> Project management in research teams</p> <p><b>Module 5:</b> Conflict resolution in research teams</p> <p><b>Module 6:</b> Leadership styles and their impact on research outcomes</p> <p><b>Module 7:</b> Diversity, equity, and inclusion in research teams</p> <p><b>Module 8:</b> Ethical leadership and teamwork in research</p> <p><b>Module 9:</b> Capstone project: Leadership in research simulation</p>	<p>This course will explore key concepts of leadership and teamwork within the context of academic and professional research environments. It emphasizes the importance of leadership styles, team-building strategies, and collaborative practices in achieving research goals. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical application, students will learn how to lead, manage, and work effectively in research teams.</p>

Course	Modules	Description of Value
<p>Effective University Teaching Strategies</p>	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Foundations of University-Level Teaching</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Course Design and Lesson Planning</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Active Learning and Student Engagement</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> Assessment and Feedback in Higher Education</p> <p><b>Module 5:</b> Adapting Teaching for Diverse Learning Needs</p>	<p>This course covers best practices in university teaching, including course design, student-centered teaching methods, and assessment techniques that support diverse learning styles. Participants will explore ways to develop higher-order thinking, encourage active participation, and adapt their approaches to meet varying student needs. Through case studies, discussions, and self-reflection, instructors will enhance their ability to support students' academic and personal development.</p>

Course	Modules	Description of Value
Dissertation Writing Intensive	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Structuring your dissertation</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Developing a strong argument and thesis</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Refining writing style and academic tone</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> Self-editing and revision techniques</p> <p><b>Module 5:</b> Managing the dissertation process</p>	<p>This course offers an intensive approach to dissertation writing, designed to help students build on their research and writing skills as they progress through their dissertation projects. Students will learn how to structure each section of the dissertation, develop strong arguments supported by evidence, and refine their writing for clarity and coherence. The module also includes sessions on time management, overcoming writer's block, and revising work based on feedback. Through guided workshops, peer review, and one-on-one consultations, students will gain the tools and confidence needed to complete a high-quality dissertation.</p>
Thesis Viva Preparation	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Structuring an effective thesis Viva presentation</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Using visual aids and enhancing clarity</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Handling questions and engaging with the committee</p>	<p>This course focuses on preparing students for their thesis Viva by teaching techniques for structuring presentations, using visual aids effectively, and engaging with an academic audience. Students will practice summarizing their research, responding to feedback, and addressing questions with confidence and clarity. Key activities include mock Viva sessions, personalized feedback, and interactive workshops on presentation skills.</p>

Course	Modules	Description of Value
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Knowledge Transfer and Public Engagement</p>	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Strategies for research dissemination</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Public engagement techniques</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Evaluating research impact and engagement success</p>	<p>This course focuses on the principles and practices of knowledge transfer and public engagement, helping students bridge the gap between academic research and public understanding. Topics include strategies for communicating research to non-specialist audiences, planning and executing public engagement initiatives, and evaluating the impact of knowledge transfer activities. Through workshops and practical exercises, students will develop skills for tailoring their messages to various audiences, creating engaging presentations, and leveraging different media channels to disseminate their research.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Innovation and Entrepreneurship</p>	<p><b>Module 1:</b> Foundations of Innovation and Entrepreneurship</p> <p><b>Module 2:</b> Entrepreneurial Mindset and Opportunity Recognition</p> <p><b>Module 3:</b> Business Models and Strategic Innovation</p> <p><b>Module 4:</b> Financing and Managing Innovation</p> <p><b>Module 5:</b> Social Innovation and Sustainability</p>	<p>This course explores the principles of innovation and entrepreneurship through theoretical insights and practical applications. It covers concepts such as opportunity recognition, business model design, strategic innovation management, and sustainable practices. Emphasis is placed on research-driven approaches, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset, and addressing societal challenges through innovative solutions.</p>