

# Faculty of Law

## Board Governance

Non-subsidised Programmes (NSP)



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
JOHANNESBURG

FACULTY OF LAW



**Our Future  
Reimagined**

## 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.

## Programme Overview

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 focus on recent local and international developments in the area of corporate governance and board governance.

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

## Programme Objectives

This course offers a comprehensive understanding of board governance, a fundamental element of corporate governance and a key aspect of corporate law. It is designed to equip compliance officers, prescribed officers, directors, and board committee members with in-depth knowledge of their legal responsibilities in organisational governance. Additionally, the course provides a global perspective on these critical issues.

## Target Audience

- Compliance Officers, Company Secretaries, Senior Employees.
- Managers, Directors, Board Committee Members and Executive Officers.
- Lawyers specialising in Corporate Law and Auditors.

## 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. 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 case studies are provided to test corporate governance principles and effectiveness

## Workshop Dates

Online workshops will be conducted from the 3, 4 and 5 March 2025. Further communication on the times will be communicated.

## Assessments

There is one online assignment and a final online open book examination which will be written in **May/June**.

Upon completion of the Board Governance programme 400 CPD points are awarded by Institute of Directors South Africa (IoDSA).

## Programme Presenter

**Prof Irene-Marié Esser** is a professor of corporate law and governance at the University of Glasgow and a professor extraordinaire at the University of Stellenbosch. She is also the Dean of the Graduate School at the College of Social Sciences, University of Glasgow. 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/>

## Admission Requirements

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

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

## Applications

Applications open from **31 August 2024** and close **20 February 2025**, unless the date is extended.

## Documents Required

- Certified copy of ID;
- Certified copy of matric certificate. Any other school leaving certificate must be evaluated by SAQA: Tel No. 012 431 5000;

- Certified copy of tertiary qualification certificate/s (if applicable);
- Certified copy of the academic record of your qualification/s (if applicable);
- Certified copy of marriage/deed of divorce certificate (if applicable)

## Online Application

TO MAKE AN ONLINE APPLICATION

(No application fee is payable)

- The Course Code is: **S4BCGQ**
- 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**.
- Password/Pin reset: If you have previously created a password/pin, you will be prompted to login with that password/pin. You can click on the “Forgot Password/Pin” button if you cannot remember your password/pin and follow the instructions to reset your password/pin.

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)

## Programme Fees

<b>Fees for 2025</b>	R19 950.00
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A full upfront payment of the course fees is required upon registration. It is advised that students start making payments towards their fees by depositing money into their student account on a monthly basis upon being admitted for the programme. The course fee includes the cost of the textbook.

The UJ registration levy and ICT levy is not refundable if registration is canceled: R1 150.00

Non-refundable International Levy - SADC students: R1 000.00

Contact your course coordinator for the final course fees.

Please be aware that SADC students also pay an international levy. SADC/International students must also contact the International Office of UJ on 011 559 4399 or **Email:** [international1@uj.ac.za](mailto:international1@uj.ac.za) prior to registration.

Students whose fees are paid by a bursary sponsor or employer must request for a tax invoice from the NSP financial officer, Mr Isaac Moagi - [imoagi@uj.ac.za](mailto:imoagi@uj.ac.za)

Students who do not pay the full fees will not be permitted to register and thus will not be able to attend classes.

## Administrative Enquiries

More details on the programme are available from the Faculty of Law: NSP. Please contact the Course Coordinator, Ms Busi Mpofu: **Tel:** 011 559 3982 or **Email:** [busim@uj.ac.za](mailto:busim@uj.ac.za)



**2025**

Approved  
CPD  
Provider