The MI Students Bursary Fund

A new generation of ethical and competent leaders for South Africa

Partner with us to provide the gift that changes everything
Executive summary

- They say that education is the one thing that cannot be taken away from you. Think in your own life where would you be if you hadn’t received your education.
- By giving the gift of higher education, industry vocational skills, and a higher level job to an unemployed individual, you help her or him become a highly-functional competent & employed member of society - you give the gift of dignity, the gift of freedom – you help change everything.
- The Maharishi Institute (“MI”) offers students access to the most holistic degree bursary package available in South Africa today, by truly focusing on the whole person, using a system called CBE.
- Graduates from MI’s standard bursary have a 98% job placement rate.
- MI’s integrated package of support costs less than one third of equivalent programmes, including all tuition, books, materials, food, leadership, vocational and life skills.
- We take the effort away, managing selection, progression & administration in-house, free of charge.
- The student drop-out rate is exceptionally low as marginal students are supported before they fail.
- Companies get to maximise the Skills Development component of their BBBEE scorecard.
- Work with us to give economic freedom and a more fulfilled life to high potential unemployed youth.

The best bursary fund in South Africa...here’s why.

Does your bursary fund...

- Have a virtually 100% job placement rate?
- Have over 90% job retention rate beyond first-year of employment post-graduation?
- Recycle all your funds, i.e. each graduate funds another?
- Offer free bursary administration – no admin costs passed onto you the donor?
- Offer a full holistic set of ‘added value’ services for zero additional cost to you?
- Give all students valuable work experience?
- Cost less than a third of traditional public degrees offering you three for the price of one? In fact with “Pay it Forward”, six for the price of one.
- Offer over 10,000% social return on investment?
- Have a greater than 80% completion rate, because of continual nurturing support?
- Have a replacement policy, ensuring 100% completion rate in your bursary portfolio?
- Offer an Internationally recognised degree worth R1.875 million ($125,000)?
- Focus on leadership development, values and ethics, producing the values-based employees SA so desperately needs?
- Give you first option on a pipeline of skills that others want?
- Have a track record of graduates earning a billion Rand in combined annual earnings?
- Give you full Skills Development points on your BEE scorecard – 25 points, incl. bonus points?
- Configure itself as an ‘internship’ – offsite or onsite, and remove all the hassle for you?

Invest your precious education funds in an organisation with a proven track record of success.
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*Graduating class of 2015*
The need

- The experience of most South African youth (age 18 to 24) is one of poverty, and continuing vulnerability to being poor.

- South Africa has the 3rd highest level of youth unemployment in the world (World Economic Forum Index).

- 50.7% of youth are living in poverty, 73% of youth are unemployed and 80% of youth have never had a job.

- South Africa is characterised by high levels of racial inequality, and inequality in income distribution is especially large and persistent.

- South Africa has a Gini coefficient of 0.65, with the highest levels of inequality found within the black African population.

- 45.5% of all South Africans live below the upper bound poverty line, with more than half (54%) of black Africans living in poverty.

- The majority of poor people in South Africa are living in rural areas where levels of poverty are more than double that of urban areas.

There is a positive relationship between educational qualifications and employment (employment rate rises with level of education):

- Without a National Senior Certificate, employment levels are only 29%.
- With a three-year qualification, 94% have jobs.
- With a 4-year degree (such as those from MI), more than 96% have jobs.

In addition, there is a positive correlation between the number of tertiary graduates and the national GDP. Therefore producing more young graduates has a favourable influence on the South African GDP.
Co-Founded in 2007 by Dr Taddy Blecher, who serves as the CEO

The Maharishi Institute (“MI”) is a registered non-profit organisation: 061-617-NPO

MI’s flagship education hub is located in the CBD of Johannesburg in a beautiful and highly suitable building donated by Anglo American. A co-location of services is provided

MI partners with accredited higher education providers and does not provide its own higher education qualifications. Students study via distance education

In April 2016, MI opened its second campus in Durban

MI provides a breakthrough in the provision of access to affordable, high quality University education for marginalised young South Africans

70% of the youth assisted have school-leaving marks that would preclude them from joining a public University

MI’s unique approach of a bridging year, alongside its Consciousness-Based Education (CBE) approach, not only grants these youth access to tertiary education, but it has a 98% graduate job placement rate – probably the highest in South Africa

While studying students are given accredited vocational training as well as a job allowing them to earn money and enhance their post-graduation job skills.

The holistic, low-cost approach has been proven to decrease inequality and propel graduates into far-higher salary brackets than those achieved by their families before them.

MI is working to become first 100% ‘self-funding’ University-access programme in the world

MI is a global award winner for innovation in education

The Maharishi Institute and its associated programmes have assisted over 15,250 young people and successfully placed them in gainful employment. Combined these graduates currently earn close to R1 billion in annual salaries combined, and are likely to achieve over R23bn in lifetime earnings.

Our target over the next few decades is to assist 100,000 excluded youth to become educated and successful professionals who can contribute significantly to the South African economy. Ultimately we aim to put R1 trillion into the hands of the poor in lifetime earnings, providing them with the 21’st century skills to give them economic relevance, and building a model that can be fully replicated.

“My experience has been very grounding. I have learned more about life here, than I ever could’ve outside of MI. Regardless of how painful and frustrating it was out there.”
– Machabe Rathokoane, MI 9
Timelines & awards

1st class of students

2007

Maharishi Institute founded by Dr Taddy Blecher and Dr Richard Peycke

2008

Anglo American donates a 9-storey building. Partnerships established with Maharishi University of Management, USA as well as Microsoft, Cisco, and a network of other providers

2nd intake of students

2009

Imvula Educational Trust is founded to help MI become the world’s first self-sustainable institution through BBBEE investments

3rd intake of students

2010

Maharishi Institute wins “Global Education Seedlings of Success” award

4th intake of students

2012

Dr Taddy Blecher selected as an Ashoka fellow* *a leading social entrepreneur chosen to be part of the Ashoka Foundation network internationally

5th intake of students

2013

First MUM Degree graduation ceremony held in December

6th intake of students

2014

Second MUM Degree graduation ceremony held in December

7th intake of students

2015

At Genpact (a GE offshoot) during eight out of 12 months in 2015, an MI graduate was ranked #1 out of 250 staff or #1 in their team

8th intake of students

2016

All 35/35 graduate interns hired from Universities into Accenture in 2016 came through Maharishi Institute.
MI Durban opens in April with 36 students
Third MUM Degree graduation ceremony held in June

2026

Target: 3,000 students on full MI Bursary package
Our academic programme

- A 4-year internationally recognised BA in Business Administration degree through Maharishi University of Management (MUM) USA, taught via distance education.

- The degree is recognised by SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority) and all universities in South Africa for post-graduate study (treated by SAQA as Bachelor in Business Administration)

- The tuition programme:
  - 12 months: Foundation Phase and short courses
  - 12 months: Level I – Learnership or Higher Certificate in Business Management
  - 18 months: Level II Second Learnership or Diploma phase
  - 18 months – Level III Degree phase

- MI students benefit from the following:
  - All textbooks, materials and all course notes
  - The ability to choose industry professional courses in the following areas of specialisation: Information Technology (IT), Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), Financial Markets and Investments, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Living, Entrepreneurship, Advertising and Communication
  - Additional "hard" skills certificates including: project management, IT, digital skills
  - Leadership courses combined with the degree courses, self-development and “soft skills” training and personal development courses to the value of R20,000
  - Nutritional food-support programme (lunch daily)
  - Career guidance support and counselling
  - Job-placement service for all graduates

Retail value per student of the entire programme is approximately R1.875 million ($125,000)
Our facilities

- **Johannesburg CBD**
  - This is a R47 million building donated by Anglo American in Marshalltown, Johannesburg

- **MI Durban**
  - Launched in April 2016
  - Launch intake: 36 students; up to 90 students within the first six months
  - Funding partner: Saville Foundation; students doing learnerships through Accenture and Stratostaff
  - Other partners: RL Daly, Metrofile, Superior Vision, with support from the KZN Premier’s office

- **The Maharishi Ezemvelo Rural Campus (MERU)**
  - Situated close to Groblersdal, in Mpumalanga
  - The nature reserve was donated to MI by the Oppenheimer family
  - MERU is a youth managed eco-tourism and educational initiative in a non-profit structure where 100% of all proceeds go towards the education and empowerment of youth
  - On graduation youth are either placed into their own businesses in the rural livelihood areas or they are trained to provide products and services to the Nature Reserve.
  - All students complete the degree programme via distance education, with additional electives on the green economy. Students can major in eco-tourism, green energy, organic agriculture, eco-construction or heritage.
  - MERU also provides short courses in conservation, bio-diversity, green economy, eco-tourism and waste management to schools groups
The costs

- The cost of a 'named' bursary for one student per annum:

  R29,675

  The retail price of the degree is $112,000 in the USA. The full retail value is $125,000

- This cost covers all of the following:
  
  - A R425 monthly stipend for students’ transport or food
  - All books, materials and notes for every course
  - Industry professional courses in several areas of specialisation
  - Leadership courses combined with the degree courses
  - Self development and “soft skills” training, including daily yoga and Transcendental Meditation
  - Food (lunch daily)
  - Access to a professional clothing library to use for job interviews
  - Counselling and advice
  - Part-time employment, which allows students to contribute directly to their own education
  - Free graduate job placement service

  This amounts to over R1.875 million Rands retail value of education per individual

- The company funding a student’s bursary, will have primary access to that student for internships and job placement upon graduation

- Please work with us to structure internships and to help optimise your BBBEE scorecard

“My experience at MI has been nothing but awesome. I have gained a better understanding of myself and the career I want to take on. Working while studying is great, it gives me the opportunity to put my theoretical knowledge into practical and because of that I can say I have gained holistic knowledge.”

– Sheron Mayisa, MI8
Benefits of sponsoring an MI student

**MI makes it easy for you, the sponsor**

- We have a dedicated person who manages MI bursary students taking the hassle away from the sponsor.

  We offer the following services: student selection (final approval still sits with you), payment of monthly stipends, administration, extensive support provided to each student, regular bursar updates, and replacement of any students who drop out.

- You are welcome to come to MI anytime to meet the staff and board, and bi-annual or quarterly reports are provided per student, as well as a quarterly newsletter.

- Our bursaries are tax exempt.

- Our cost is far lower making it possible to sponsor more young people.

- You have access to test any student for potential work positions without risk to you.

- The programme includes community outreach meaning that you benefit more people.

**MI works for students**

- MI provides a supportive family environment.

- Students are not at risk of getting “lost” as is the case in many mainstream institutions.

- Our holistic approach is known as Consciousness-Based Education and includes meditation to assist with stress-reduction, mental wellness, creativity and health.

- Students learn hard and soft skills while studying, thereby increasing their EQ too.

- We provide a foundation year to bridge the gap between school and university.

- Students graduate with a degree, skills and work experience (looks great on their CV).

- The work experience gives students an opportunity to earn a small salary, which further assists them to stay in school.

- If for some reason a student can’t complete the entire degree, there are multiple exit levels available.

- Employers love our students, so they will most likely get a job on graduation.

- The degree is internationally recognised.

- Students can choose an industry specialisation that suits them.

- Leadership skills are developed on campus and at leadership camps held at our own nature reserve.

- Counselling and support is available for students who need it.

- Students get lunch every day, which may be their only meal.

- Senior students are available to assist junior students.

- Classes are smaller than the norm.
The Return on Investment

- The estimated earning capability of a graduate is approximately R10 million over the course of their working careers.

The social ROI is therefore 10,000% for donors and 100,000% for students for each Rand invested

- With these earnings, graduates will be able to ensure proper housing, healthcare and education for themselves and their families.

- MI is developing the workforce in order to produce young leaders for the future of South Africa. We are creating a new generation of South African leaders with the values, competence, hard-work ethic, and inner resilience to improve their own lives and the lives of others.

- Through our “Learn and Earn” model, which also allows students to earn a small income whilst they study, we are developing employable candidates

- Via career guidance and in-house recruitment services, we facilitate access to employment and the economy for the students.

- MI is contributing to transformation (the eradication of inequality) and thereby the economic sustainability of South Africa.

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Expected graduate lifetime earnings (Over 40 years)</td>
<td>R10,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full retail value of a bursary package (the full actual retail value of the degree package)</td>
<td>R 1,850,000</td>
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<td>Cost of a degree at a South African public university</td>
<td>R 400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>The cost to MI for one student for full bursary package</td>
<td>R 117,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Full degree + extensive vocational qualifications, food, counselling, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The cash cost to students while studying</td>
<td>R 10,000</td>
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Student selection

- MI searches for high potential unemployed youth
- Generally Black youth from underprivileged socio-economic backgrounds
- Aged 18 – 34 (although some exceptions are made)
- From South Africa and 11 other African countries, including students studying under refugee status
- Completed matric, with passes in Maths and English
- Completed written entrance acceptance assessment
- Completed interview process
- MI chooses authentic individuals in need, who must fail a ‘means test’ to be eligible for a bursary

Unique features

- Learn & Earn - students get part-time work-experience making them more employable and allowing them to earn money while in school to keep them in school
- Pay it forward - every graduate in turn funds another family member for a bursary
- Throughput rates - over 80% of students who continue post foundation phase, will complete the degree programme
- Lowest cost - ¼ of the cost of a similar package at a public South African university
- Over 95% Job placement rate - we literally don’t stop until every graduate is employed
- Exceptional responses from employers

Students are encouraged to run their own small businesses on campus
Meet Clerence Mkansi  
(Class of 2014)

Clerence grew up in Bushbuck Ridge, Mpumalanga and is the first person in his family to ever achieve a tertiary education. After matric he spent the first half of the year working in community and outreach programs in his area while contemplating his options for further development. There was no money to further his studies until he heard about The Maharishi Institute in September 2008.

He graduated in December 2013 from the Institute and has since been working in the world of digital media at one of the leading advertising agencies in South Africa, Mortimer Harvey. Within the first six months that he was able to buy his dad a car. He is now the breadwinner in his family.

“The Maharishi Institute gave me and my fellow graduates true and real opportunities for success in all areas of life.”

“My dream is to one day start my own business and provide work opportunities for other South Africans and to help bring them and their families out of the cycle of poverty.”

Meet Nontokozo Ndlovu  
(Current 3rd year student)

Nontokozo Ndlovu is 23 years old and grew up in Soweto. Raised by her grandparents, she was taught from an early age the value of hard work and to believe in herself. Having completed her schooling she enrolled at IMM business school to study a degree in marketing. She passed her 1st year modules, but in her second year things fell apart and she had to stop studying. Working in a boutique clothing store, she learnt a lot about customer experience and product knowledge. However her grandmother told her that her future couldn’t be in retail as she was born for greater things.

One day while walking around town, a building surrounded by young people like herself caught her eye. She discovered that this was the Maharishi Institute, and decided that her future was there. She attended the next open day and enrolled as part of the MI11 group, which will graduate at the end of 2017. Initially the practice of transcendental meditation was scary but once she understood the technique, it became the best stress reliever. Nontokozo has completed a call centre training programme and is also part of the MI marketing team, which has boosted her levels of confidence. She has been elected to the SGB (Student Governing Body).

She sees a really bright future ahead and believes that her studies at MI will help her to achieve her dream, which is to be the next marketing guru. With that success she plans on giving back to the country in multiple ways.
Employers of our graduates

And many more...
More information

For more information please contact:

- **Tiffiny Humphries (Durban)**
  - MI Durban and Specialist in learnerships, internships and skills development
  - tphumphries@maharishinstitute.org
  - 072 158 3508

- **Yaron Gutkin (Johannesburg)**
  - MI Specialist in learnerships, internships and skills development
  - yarong@maharishinstitute.org
  - 084 879 4605

- **Tracey Peppler (Johannesburg)**
  - Operations Director: Imvula Educational Trust*
  - tracey@imvula.com
  - 082 856 9650

* Imvula Educational Trust is the funding arm of the Maharishi Institute and the best equity partner to optimize the BBBEE score of your business and assure the future of South Africa

www.imvula.org
IT 4262/04

Maharishi Institute
www.maharishinstitute.org
061-617-NPO