



# Higher Certificate in Design Thinking (HCDT500\*)

**FACT  
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# Higher Certificate in Design Thinking

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The Higher Certificate in Design Thinking introduces learners to the core principles, practices, and processes of design thinking as a tool for creative problem-solving and innovation. This qualification empowers students to approach challenges using user-centred methods, iterative prototyping, and collaborative ideation, preparing them for roles in design, business, and innovation ecosystems.

## **Programme Purpose:**

This qualification equips learners with practical and strategic thinking skills essential for innovation in the modern workplace.

## **Graduates will be able to:**

- Apply design thinking frameworks to solve complex challenges
- Conduct empathy-driven research to understand user needs
- Ideate, prototype, and test innovative solutions
- Communicate visual and conceptual designs effectively
- Drive ethical and socially conscious innovation in teams and organizations



# Modules

\* Prescribed textbooks, must be obtained by students at their own cost prior to the commencement of classes

| Module Codes | Description                           | Credits | Semester |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| HCDT501      | Foundations of Design Thinking        | 3       | 1        |
| HCDT502      | Human-Centred Research and Empathy    | 3       | 1        |
| HCDT503      | Ideation and Creative Problem Solving | 3       | 1        |
| HCDT504      | Prototyping and User Testing          | 3       | 2        |
| HCDT505      | Design Thinking Project (Capstone)    | 3       | 2        |
| HCDT506      | Communication for Innovation          | 3       | 2        |



# Teaching & Learning and Assessment strategy

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## Teaching & Learning Approach:

- Flexible online learning with interactive content and self-paced modules
- Supportive academic facilitation through virtual tutorials and design forums
- Portfolio-based learning approach with real-world design projects
- Capstone project integrates the full design thinking cycle

## Assessment Strategy:

- Formative Assessments: Quizzes, discussion forums, ideation journals, peer critiques
- Summative Assessments: Design portfolio, project reports, presentations
- Capstone Integration: Final project combining research, design, testing, and reflection
- Pass Mark: 50% per module

# Admission Requirements

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- National Senior Certificate (NSC), Senior Certificate (SC), or National Certificate (Vocational) at NQF Level 4
- Minimum 40% in English (language of instruction)
  - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) may be applied for entry and/or module exemptions



# Progression Opportunities:

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Graduates may advance to:

- Higher Certificate in UX Design, Innovation Management, or Digital Strategy
- Advanced Certificate in Business Analysis or Diploma in Design
- Bachelor's Degrees in Business Innovation, Product Design, or Strategic Management

## Outcomes

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Upon successful completion, graduates will be able to:

1. Solve real-world problems using design thinking principles
2. Conduct user research and synthesize insights into actionable opportunities
3. Develop and test low- to high-fidelity prototypes
4. Generate and evaluate innovative ideas in multidisciplinary contexts
5. Present solutions visually, verbally, and in written formats
6. Practice responsible and ethical innovation thinking