



BCONSULT

Occupational Certificate

DESIGN THINKING INNOVATION LEAD

NQF Level 4 | SAQA ID 118788 | 160 Points | 12 Months

Occupational Certificate:

Design Thinking Innovation Lead – NQF Level 4

SAQA ID: 118788 | Credits: 160 | Duration: 12-month | QCTO Learnership

1. Course Overview

The Occupational Certificate: Design Thinking Innovation Lead is designed to prepare learners to lead innovation processes using human-centred design thinking methodologies. The programme equips learners with the knowledge, practical skills, and workplace experience required to guide teams in solving complex problems through creativity, collaboration, research, and innovation.

This qualification focuses on applying design thinking principles to understand user needs, analyse challenges from multiple perspectives, and develop innovative solutions for products, services, systems, and processes. Learners will gain exposure to ethnographic research, innovation leadership, collaborative problem-solving, workshop facilitation, and creative solution design.

The qualification is highly relevant in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), where organisations increasingly require agile, digitally minded professionals capable of driving innovation and transformation across industries.

This programme is suitable for school leavers, working professionals seeking to upskill, entrepreneurs, innovation practitioners, and individuals pursuing careers in digital transformation, innovation, design thinking, and human-centred solution development.

2. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this programme, learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of design thinking principles, methodologies, and innovation processes.
- Conduct applied ethnographic and user-centred research to understand stakeholder needs and organisational challenges.
- Facilitate collaboration and lead teams in generating innovative solutions.
- Apply design thinking tools and techniques to prototype, test, evaluate, and refine solutions.
- Present ideas and communicate solutions using visual, verbal, digital, and storytelling methods.
- Develop implementation and scaling strategies for innovative solutions.
- Apply ethical, collaborative, and customer-centric approaches within innovation environments.
- Stimulate creativity and innovation within multidisciplinary teams.

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3. A Qualified Learner Will Be Able To:

A learner who has successfully completed this qualification will be able to:

- Lead teams in conducting applied ethnographic research and stakeholder engagement.
- Facilitate innovation workshops and collaborative problem-solving sessions.
- Apply design thinking methodologies to solve complex organisational and customer challenges.
- Guide multidisciplinary teams through ideation, prototyping, testing, and implementation processes.
- Analyse and synthesise data from multiple sources to inform innovative solutions.
- Coach teams to embrace creativity, innovation, and human-centred thinking.
- Develop and communicate innovative concepts using various presentation formats and tools.
- Support organisations in driving digital transformation and innovation strategies

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement for this qualification is:

- An NQF Level 3 qualification or equivalent.
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) may be applied in accordance with QCTO policies.
- Learners with workplace experience or informal learning may access the programme through RPL pathways where applicable.

4. International Comparability

The Occupational Certificate: Design Thinking Innovation Lead compares favourably with internationally recognised programmes in Canada and Australia focusing on human-centred design, service design, and innovation leadership.

The qualification aligns with global best practices in:

- Human-centred design methodologies

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- Design research and ethnographic research
- Collaborative innovation practices
- Problem-solving and prototyping
- Innovation strategy and implementation
- Stakeholder engagement and communication
- Multidisciplinary teamwork and facilitation

International comparability studies referenced programmes such as:

- Interdisciplinary Studies in Human-Centred Design – Ontario College, Canada
- Graduate Certificate in Service Design – RMIT University

These programmes share strong alignment in research methodologies, innovation leadership, collaborative problem-solving, and human-centred design approaches.

5. Occupational Trainer – NQF Level 4 Certification

Upon successful completion, learners will receive the:

Occupational Certificate: Design Thinking Innovation Lead

- **SAQA ID:** 118788
- **NQF Level:** 4
- **Credits:** 160
- **Quality Assurance Partner:** MICT SETA

This qualification forms part of occupational and innovation-focused learning pathways aligned to the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) and supports progression into higher qualifications in innovation, digital transformation, design, and technology-related fields

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6. Potential Career Opportunities

Successful learners may pursue career opportunities such as:

- Design Thinking Innovation Lead
- Design Thinking Practitioner
- Innovation Facilitator
- Innovation Coach
- Human-Centred Design Practitioner
- Service Design Facilitator
- Innovation Consultant
- Creative Problem-Solving Specialist
- Digital Transformation Support Practitioner
- Design Thinking Champion
- Workshop Facilitator
- User Experience (UX) Support Practitioner
- Innovation Project Coordinator

Learners may find opportunities within public sector organisations, private companies, NGOs, educational institutions, creative industries, digital agencies, and technology-driven organisations.

7. Learning Options

This programme may be delivered through various learning methodologies, including:

- Classroom-Based Learning
- Online Learning
- Blended Learning
- Facilitated Workshops
- Workplace-Based Learning

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- Practical Innovation Labs
- Collaborative Team Projects
- Self-Paced Digital Learning

The programme includes:

- Knowledge Modules
- Practical Skills Training
- Workplace Experience Components
- Integrated Formative Assessments
- External Integrated Summative Assessments aligned with QCTO requirements.

Contact Details

Email

sales@bconsult.co.za

info@bconsult.co.za

Phone

+27 31 536 8167

+27 87 222 7137

+27 31 536 8467

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