

# DIPLOMA IN ECOTOURISM



FACULTY OF  
MANAGEMENT  
SCIENCES

ECOTOURISM

01 JAN - 31 DEC 2026

## Diploma in Ecotourism

NQF Level 6

SAQA ID: 119069

**Qualification Code:** DIPECT (PMB)  
**Location:** Riverside Campus (Pietermaritzburg)

## Description of the Programme

Ecotourism is a branch of tourism that is directed towards conservation of natural environments and protection of the local communities against exploitation by tourists. This distinct branch of tourism is important due to its ability to make significant contribution to vulnerable and finite natural environmental resources, thus contributing positively to the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of destinations and local communities around the world. Thus, the Diploma in Ecotourism will address the need for knowledge and skilled employees in the growing field of ecotourism.

Upon completion of the Diploma in Ecotourism, students will be able to articulate into DUT's CHE accredited Advanced Diploma in Ecotourism or into other Advanced Diploma programmes offered by DUT or other higher education institutions

## Personal Qualities Required

If you are passionate about contributing to the growth of a **sustainable and reputable ecotourism industry**, then ecotourism needs you. To succeed in this field, you must develop **leadership, organizational skills, effective communication (both written and oral), and active listening abilities**. A strong sense of **integrity, ambition, and a commitment to environmental responsibility** will support your professional journey.

Building a career in ecotourism requires **initiative, patience, and enthusiasm** as you navigate the evolving landscape of sustainable tourism. **Ample opportunities** await those who are **deeply passionate about South Africa's rich biodiversity, cultural heritage, and conservation efforts** and can **effectively communicate that passion to eco-conscious travelers**.

## Duration of the Programme

This is a three-year full-time, contact-learning programme.

Substantial time is spent in the industry. The remaining period is spent on full-time classes and fieldwork.

## Career Opportunities

The Diploma in Ecotourism is designed to enhance the employability of students by providing them with the basic and intermediate knowledge and skills pertaining to ecotourism, which will enable them to occupy various positions in the ecotourism sector. Students will be equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to work as Tourism Project Officers, Heritage Site Managers, and Park Rangers; trainee tour/field guides, trainee conservation officers.

### Explanation of Points Scale

SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)		
SYMBOL	HIGHER GRADE	STANDARD GRADE
A	8	6
B	7	5
C	6	4
D	5	3
E	4	2
F	3	1

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE		
%	NSC LEVEL	POINTS
90-100	7	8
80-89%	7	7
70-79%	6	6
60-69%	5	5
50-59%	4	4
40-49%	3	3
30-39%	2	2
20-29%	1	1

## MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A person will only be considered for registration for an instructional programme approved by the Institution's Senate if the person complies with:

- The minimum admission requirements stated in DUT general handbook (refer to DUT website for general handbook).
- Institutional faculty, departmental and/or instructional programme specific rules; and

### MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK (HEQSF)

#### G7 rule: For Diploma:

“a National Senior Certificate (NSC) as certified by the Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi), with a minimum of achievement rating of 3 for English and a minimum achievement rating of 3 in four recognised NSC 20-credit subjects.”

#### Entry Requirements (Diploma in Ecotourism)

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) (01 January 2009)		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) (PRE 2009)			NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (VOCATIONAL)(NCV)	
NSC Diploma Entry. Applicants with 25 or more points will be considered excluding Life Orientation		A Senior Certificate or equivalent qualification Applicants with 22 or more points will be considered			(NCV) (Level 4)	
Compulsory Subjects	NSC Rating Code	Compulsory Subjects	HG	SG	Compulsory Subjects	Mark
English	4	English	E	D	English/Communication	50%
Mathematics <b>OR</b>	3	Mathematics <b>OR</b>	F	E	Mathematics <b>OR</b>	50%
Mathematics Literacy <b>AND</b>	3				Mathematics Literacy <b>OR</b>	50%
Accounting,	3	Accounting	F	E	Accounting	60%
Agricultural Sciences <b>OR</b>	4				Agricultural Sciences <b>OR</b>	50%
Life Sciences	4				Life Sciences	50%
In addition: <b>ONE</b> recognized NSC 20 credit subjects as per G7 rule stated above	3					

#### Additional Entry Requirements

Preference will be given to applicants who have (in addition to the above):-

- Successfully completed National Qualification units/levels as recorded by qualified assessors of CATHSSETA.
- Successfully completed an appropriate Further Education and Training Certificate at NQF Level 4 or equivalent.

**NB:** If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the department reserves the right to apply a ranking system to select students. Use the NSC rating system below to determine the rating level.

OR

## Admission Requirement Based Upon Work Experience, Age and Maturity

### For admission to entry-level DIPLOMA and certificate studies:

A person may, subject to such requirements as the Senate may determine, be admitted to the Institution even if such a person is not in a possession of a National Senior Certificate, Senior Certificate or an equivalent certificate, provided that:

- The person shall have reached the age of 23 in the first year of registration and shall have at least:
  - three years' appropriate work experience; and/or
  - capacity for the proposed instructional programme, which shall be assessed at the discretion of the respective Head of Department by a Senate approved admission assessment comprising of a DUT Standardised Assessment Test for Access and Placement (SATAP), Academic Literacies (Al) & English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and/or an appropriate subject or programme specific written assessment designed and marked by the relevant Department; and
- The relevant Faculty Board shall be satisfied that the person is standard of communication skills, ability to study successfully and/or work experience is such that the person, in the opinion of the relevant Faculty Board, should be able to complete the proposed instructional programme successfully. If required, the communication skills and study skills should be tested; and
- the person's application for admission in terms of work experience, age and maturity is approved prior to registration.

**Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before the commencement of the academic year inclusive of the date of scheduling writing a requisite eligibility assessment.**

### Tuition Fees

To assist you with your planning, the 2025 fees have been indicated.

### Please Note:

DUT cannot be held liable for the fees in this brochure, as the 2026 fees are not yet final

First Year Curriculum				
Name of Module	Module Code	HEQSF Level	SAQA Credits	2025 Fees
<b>Semester One</b>				
Cornerstone	CSTN101	5	12	R2 530.00
Introduction to Technology	ITLG101	5	12	R2 850.00
Business Communications and Information Literacy	BCIF101	5	16	R3 890.00
Principles of Sustainable Ecotourism Development	PSED101	5	16	R3 310.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>R12 580.00</b>
<b>Semester Two</b>				
Introduction to Natural Resources Management	INRM102	5	16	R6 520.00
Principles of Ecotourism Management	POEM102	5	16	R6 520.00
Principles of Ecotourism Marketing	POME102	5	16	R5 750.00
Fundamentals of Plant Biology	FOPB102	5	16	R4 810.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>R23 600.00</b>
<b>Total credits for semester 1 &amp; 2</b>			120	
Second Year Curriculum				
<b>Semester Three</b>				
Sustainable Ecotourism Development 2a	ESED201	6	16	R4 200.00
Natural Resources Management 2a	ENRM202	6	16	R2 730.00
Ecotourism Management 2a	ETRM201	6	16	R2 730.00
Ecotourism Marketing	ETMK201	6	16	R5 260.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>R14 920.00</b>
<b>Semester Four</b>				
Sustainable Ecotourism Development 2b	ESED202	6	16	R4 200.00
Natural Resources Management 2b	ENRM202	6	16	R3 260.00
Ecotourism Management 2b	ETRM202	6	16	R2 730.00
Biology 2: Animal Studies	B2AS202	6	16	R4 810.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>R15 000.00</b>
<b>Total credits for semester 3 &amp; 4</b>			128	
Third Year Curriculum				
<b>Semester Five</b>				
Sustainable Ecotourism Development 3	ESED301	6	16	R4 520.00
Nature Guiding and Interpretation	NGAI301	6	16	R4 620.00
Ecotourism Management 3	ETRM301	6	16	R4 350.00
Service Excellence and Work Preparedness	SEWP301	6	12	R4 520.00
Entrepreneurship	EENT301	6	12	R3 260.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>R21 270.00</b>
<b>Semester Six (WIL)</b>				
Work Integrated Learning	EWIL302	6	48	R2 020.00
<b>Total credits for semester 5 &amp; 6</b>			120	

### Application

Applicants who wish to enrol for the programme/s must apply through the CAO system by no later than 30 September of the previous year.

For CAO Online Application visit: <http://www.cao.ac.za>

### Address letters to:

Central Applications Office Private Bag X06  
Dalbridge  
4014

**Tel:** (031) 268 4444

**Fax:** (031) 268 4422

**CAO Codes for Diploma: DU-P-ET3 (PMB)**

**Closing Date for Applications:** 30 September 2025

### For Further Information

Contact the Department of Ecotourism (Midlands)

Durban University of Technology

P O Box 101112

SCOTTSVILLE

3209

**Tel:** (033) 845 8844

### Financial Aid

For Financial Aid application for a DUT programme please apply online at [www.nsfas.org.za](http://www.nsfas.org.za) or call the NSFAS call centre on 0860 067 327.

**Please note** that completing a form does not guarantee Financial Aid. For further assistance, please consult the Department of Financial Aid and Scholarships on (031)373.2931/2557/2054.