



Dept. of Mechanical Engineering | Honours module | CPD course

Leadership in a Technical Environment

8 – 12 September 2025



Implemented by:
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

SAGEN

SOUTH AFRICAN-GERMAN
ENERGY PROGRAMME



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



Introduction



The energy transition presents both significant opportunities and complex challenges. In this evolving landscape, engineers and managers are not only tasked with solving technical problems but also with leading teams effectively in a dynamic and often uncertain environment. This short course is designed to develop the leadership skills and techniques necessary for technical professionals to navigate and thrive in such conditions.

Participants will explore core leadership and management frameworks, gaining the competencies needed to lead individuals, teams, and organisations within the power and energy sector. Specifically, the course will enable participants to:

- Build a strong foundation for continuous personal and professional growth throughout their careers.
- Identify and develop the skills required to lead themselves and others effectively.
- Understand the critical influence of leadership on organisational culture and performance.
- Address leadership challenges specific to Africa's energy sector, including the integration of renewable energy and infrastructure constraints.

Participants who have successfully completed the course should be able to:

- Lead themselves and others effectively in complex, technical, and high-stakes environments.
- Develop and grow individuals and teams to achieve organisational goals.
- Apply leadership principles to influence culture, drive performance, and manage change.

Who Should Attend

Technical and managerial level staff working in engineering companies or utilities relevant to the electricity, power generation or related sectors.

Course Content

Personal Leadership: Leading self and teams in technical environments

- Recognising the value of self-leadership.
- Applying leadership principles within engineering and power generation contexts.

Growth-Focused Leadership: Leading through continuous development

- Developing leadership skills in yourself and others.
- Using a growth mindset to foster a culture of continuous learning.

Outward Leadership: The leadership experience

- Building effective communication skills, emotional intelligence, and conflict management abilities.
- Implementing leadership strategies for emergencies and risk management in the power sector.

Relational Leadership: Leading and building technical teams

- Creating and sustaining high-performing teams.
- Promoting cross-collaboration among stakeholders.
- Applying effective decision-making techniques in complex, high-stakes situations.

Organisational Leadership: Driving teams towards organisational goals

- Building and maintaining a strong organisational culture.
- Leading and facilitating organisational change while understanding external influences.
- Addressing infrastructure, policy, and emerging market leadership challenges within Africa's energy sector.

Course Facilitator



Mieke Burger: With over 16 years of experience in leadership development, organisational effectiveness, and human capital strategy, Mieke Burger is passionate about understanding human behaviour and leadership. She thrives on helping organisations and executive teams build the leadership capabilities needed to lead with purpose and deliver on strategy.

Her career has spanned diverse industries, with significant time in the insurance and health sectors across eight African countries and the UK. More recently, she has brought her expertise to agriculture and exports, broadening her perspective on people, performance, and organisational growth. Known for designing and delivering impactful leadership and team development programmes, she has worked extensively with senior leaders to shape culture, drive change, and enhance business performance.

Currently serving as Head of Organisational Effectiveness at United Exports, she previously held senior leadership roles at Liberty Health, including Divisional Director: Shared Support Services and Head: Human Resources and Learning & Development. Earlier in her career, she contributed to talent and leadership initiatives at Discovery's UK division.

Her academic achievements include an MBA from Stellenbosch Business School, as well as executive education from leading global institutions such as MIT, IE Business School in Madrid, and GIBS. She is also a certified Change Management Practitioner and holds both Honours and Bachelor's degrees in Industrial Psychology and Human Resource Management.

Driven by a commitment to shaping the leaders of tomorrow, Mieke brings a dynamic blend of strategic insight, practical experience, and human-centred thinking to her teaching. She believes in creating learning environments that challenge thinking, inspire growth, and equip future leaders to make a meaningful difference.

Overview

Course name	Leadership in a Technical Environment
Course dates	8 – 12 September 2025
Venue	Alberts Wessels Lecture Room, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town.
CPD	5 CPD points, ECSA registration number: UCTPPELTE25
Who should attend	Technical and managerial level staff working in engineering companies or utilities relevant to the electricity, power generation or related sectors.
Fees	R16 500

Registration

Registration and Cancellation

- [Register for this course](#)
- Registration covers attendance of all sessions of the course and course material.
- Registrations close one week before the start of the course. Confirmation of registration will be sent on receipt of a registration form.
- **Cancellations must be received one week before the start of a course, or the full course fee will be charged.**
- For more information on application and registration procedures, please visit our website: www.cpd.uct.ac.za

Certificates and CPD Points

A digital certificate of attendance will be awarded to CPD participants. Participants need to attend 80% of the lectures to qualify for an attendance certificate. For further information on digital certificates please visit [Digital Certificates at UCT](#)

According to guidelines set out by the Engineering Council of South Africa, attendance of this course will earn participants 5 points towards Category 1 (Developmental Activities). The ECSA validation number for this course is *UCTPPELTE25*.

Please note: If you are interested in attending this course for credit purposes, you will need to register for the Honours Programme or as an occasional student. If you attend the course as a CPD participant, credit cannot be claimed in retrospect.

Contact details

For more information or details on CPD courses, visit our website or contact us.

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