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## Water Business College (WBC) – Investing in Skills Development

### About Us

Water Business College (WBC) (<https://www.waterbusinesscollege.co.za/>) is an accredited Skills Development Provider (QCTO Accreditation Number: QCTOSDP01200724-2088). WBC aims to contribute to the development of skills and capacity in the water sector through occupational qualifications and training programmes.

### Our Qualifications

WBC is accredited by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) to offer the following occupational qualifications at NQF Levels 4 and 8:

- Occupational Certificate: Water Reticulation Practitioner (NQF Level 04)
- Occupational Certificate: Water Infrastructure Manager (NQF Level 08)

WBC is forming partnerships with other Skills Development Providers (SDP's) to offer additional occupational qualifications and skills development training programmes in the water sector.

### Pilot Programmes

WBC conducted a pilot programme for the Water Reticulation Practitioner (NQF 04) qualification during 2022-2023 and plans to launch a similar pilot programme for the post-graduate Water Infrastructure Manager (NQF 08) qualification in 2024. The pilot programme was launched to address (and refine) potential operational, logistical and administrative challenges (including financial challenges for learners) that may arise with the roll-out of the entry-level Water Reticulation Practitioner Qualification. Our academic approach integrates blended learning strategies, combining online theory sessions with in-person practical sessions to optimize the learning experience.

- **Online lectures were scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 17h00 to 19h00.** All lectures were recorded and made available to the learners. Forty-six (46) on-line contact sessions / lectures covered the knowledge modules of the Water Reticulation Practitioner qualification. The lectures were supplemented by **prescribed readings / text** as well as theoretical and practical-orientated assignments.
- **Assignments** were issued and completed on a weekly basis.
- All online contact sessions were recorded, and all learning materials are available.
- The **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** process is integrated into the application process.

### Simultaneous Examinations in Different Provinces

Full **examinations** were completed during June / July 2022. Examinations were implemented in Gauteng, Western Cape (Ceres), Free State (Harrismith) and Northwest (Rustenburg). Examinations (Papers 1 and 2) as well as Supplementary Examinations (Papers 1 and 2) were conducted in-person in three provinces (Gauteng, Western Cape and Free State). The examination papers were conducted / written at the same time in all three provinces.

### **Laboratory (A Prototype Water Reticulation System)**

WBC built a laboratory for practicals (i.e., a prototype water reticulation system) to simulate (for training purposes) the water reticulation processes / systems of water service providers (i.e. municipalities) and private industry (eg. mines, industrial plants, etc). This facility enabled learners to gain hands-on experience in installing, operating, and maintaining water supply systems - a crucial aspect of skills development in the water sector. The laboratory facility has been dissembled and will be implemented in regions where there is sufficient demand for our programmes. Please see a video of our practical site by accessing the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RndYrlr6L7Q>

### **Learner Management System (LMS)**

The fully online, bespoke LMS can host learning materials for diverse training programmes, ensuring easy access (24/7) and a personalised learning environment for registered learners. This technology supports our flexible Non-Contractual – Modular, 'Pay as You Learn' system, enhancing affordability and convenience.

### **DIY Online Courses**

WBC offers (and is developing) industry-based DIY courses designed to familiarize learners with an overview of applied methods to prepare learners for the work environment. These courses are accessible 24/7 via our website and LMS, catering to a diverse audience - from senior students to younger practitioners.

### **Short Courses for Industry**

Our CPD-accredited short courses on water resource management, presented by industry specialists, provide valuable professional development opportunities. Accredited by the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP), these courses offer industry professionals essential skills and knowledge.

### **Diverse Target Audiences**

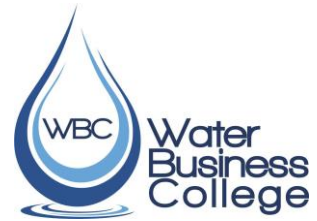
- Water Reticulation Practitioner (NQF Level 04) - The major target groups for this entry-level occupational qualification are technical staff seeking to formalise their knowledge and years of experience (i.e. upskilling and/or re-skilling programmes) as well as scholars / young persons' looking for opportunities to access the critical water sector.
- The DIY courses – The target audiences include senior and post-graduate students as well as younger practitioners in the water and related engineering, environmental and science sectors.
- The short courses - Professional development opportunities for the water industry (CPD accreditation in process).

### **Partnerships and Future Growth**

WBC is actively seeking partnerships with governmental and non-governmental institutions and private sector companies in the water sector. By launching new qualifications and expanding our programmes, we aim to address critical skills shortages and contribute to the sustainable development of the water industry.

The **Benefits of Training for the Industry** results in:

- Business incorporate training into their business models to cultivate a workforce that is competent with the critical skills to attain company goals / objectives.



- Re-skilling and up-skilling programmes enhance the knowledge and skills base of employees and offers staff the opportunity to formalise their practical 'know-how' and experience.
- Corporate training programmes increase job satisfaction, enhance employee performance and productivity, and reduce staff turn-over.

### **Invest in the Future of Water Skills with WBC**

By partnering with and investing in Water Business College, you support the growth of a skilled workforce equipped to tackle the challenges of the water sector.

WBC is already partnering with both water resources and water services specialists.

For more information on partnership opportunities and on how to get involved, please contact Rian directly at [rtitus@waterbusinesscollege.co.za](mailto:rtitus@waterbusinesscollege.co.za) or at 084 522 3363.

Please also visit our website at [waterbusinesscollege.co.za](http://waterbusinesscollege.co.za).

Yours faithfully

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## Water Reticulation System - Training

