Esri South Africa
College

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About Us
Esri South Africa College

As digital transformation continues to drive change around the world, location intelligence is emerging as a principal driver for maximising value. These forces are driving up demand in the geospatial industry, and the critical skill sets provided by geospatial practitioners are highly sought after in South Africa. This demand has been gradually increasing, as evidenced by previous years National List of High Demand Occupations. Many people working in the industry, however, lacked and continue to lack the qualifications required by the South African Geomatics Council (SAGC) to practice as registered practitioners.

Esri South Africa College was founded to enable individuals to achieve a qualification and reskill themselves to align with the latest technology trends. Our passion is geography, and our philosophy is to encourage lifelong learning in the geospatial industry. Esri South Africa College provides an opportunity for professionals to register as geomatic practitioners and advance the role of geospatial technologies in the region.

Our goal is to transform the country's geospatial landscape by providing our community with an academic model that allows them to build a qualification from individual modules, allowing students to study on their own time and at their own pace.

Our mission is to provide a platform for education that:

- Provides flexible learning choices
- Builds capacity in the GISc industry
- Open learning through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- Enables individuals to register with a professional body

Esri South Africa College includes as part of its offering, access to technology-based courses, that can lead to international certification. We offer short learning programmes such as the NQF Level 5 Mining Certificate and other industry focussed certificates.

In addition, the Diploma in GISc&T is the only GISc programme that caters to the unique needs of professional learners. The GISc&T programme, which is based on the HEQF NQF Level 6, was developed in 2016 in accordance with the academic framework for Geographic Information Science (GISc) technicians as required by the SAGC under Act 19 of 2013.

Esri South Africa College provides unique learning options for individuals who would not otherwise be able to attend a university for full-time studies. It is intended for individuals who are working and have limited study time and provides a stepping-stone to further qualifications.

We are working with Esri experts in academia and our industry partners to ensure high-quality, tailored, and market-focused solutions. With so many learning choices, our customers can expect to gain access to an unlimited amount of knowledge.

The Esri South Africa College offers a variety of training options that can be tailored to meet your specific requirements. Our courses are geared towards helping both new GIS users and professionals with the necessary skills to improve your overall proficiency with the technology. We offer Instructor-led courses, Self-paced courses, E-learning as well as our Diploma in GISc & T. Learning is a lifelong journey – keep your skills up to date.

Professional Development Courses

ArcGIS Pro is the latest professional GIS desktop application from Esri. Courses are available for a wide range of users, from those who are just starting to use Esri software, to the experienced professional that wants to migrate to the latest version. Instructor-led courses are presented by certified instructors who cover both theoretical and practical aspects of GIS topics. Topics vary depending on which course is being attended, but cover GIS themes such as analysis, sharing and data management. Participants are provided with a virtual training environment where they can complete practical exercises with the assistance of instructors.

Foundation Courses

Organisations all around the world are realising the value of location and adopting geospatial tools to visualise real-world features, find patterns, analyse change, and transform raw data into usable information that supports informed decisions. To become a GIS Professional, one must first master the fundamental GIS functions that will allow you to realise their full potential.

The foundation courses introduce one to the essential concepts underpinning geospatial technology and enables you to begin producing geo-enabled information products.

Courses for GIS Professionals

The courses in this section are packed with all the skills you need and the latest technology capabilities. As a GIS professional regardless of your industry, you will about learn how location analytics provides your organisation with data-driven insight that leads to a competitive advantage.

Using ArcGIS's analytical power, one can learn how to use the locational component of organisation data to gain a better understanding of markets, customers, risk, and growth potential. Use ArcGIS Extensions to model and manage an organisation's assets, analyse data, and share findings with decision-makers via engaging maps and information products.

Courses for Administrators

Not long ago, GIS practitioners dreamed about being able to share their information products with internal and external clients. The good times have arrived, and as GIS Administrators, we must identify the best solutions for enabling enterprise systems in our organisations. With Esri's cloud-based mapping and analytics tools, it enables you to connect people, places, and data.

To view and explore your data, create interactive maps. Powerful analytic tools assist in discovering and refining the story of your data. Share engaging maps that explain the story of the data and encourage change. Geo-Administrator courses help you learn how to extend the geospatial cloud capabilities and apply best practices.

Topic Specific Courses

This category is a collection of essential courses that are designed to teach the core principles and essential skills required to enable data analytics specific workflows, such as connecting data to real-time sensors, working with Lidar data, effectively using visually engaging dashboards, collecting data from the field, and how to collate, analyse, visualize, and share data. These courses are designed for analysts and professionals who want to use ArcGIS to support specific missions and industrial applications.

Courses for GIS Developers

Developers understand time is valuable, therefore if the workflow is repetitive, create an automated process for it, and how about customising your tools? The courses in this category are designed to teach you the fundamentals of scripting and web application development, such as how to set up your development environment, debugging techniques, working with data and widgets, and best practices for integrating with ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Enterprise.

These courses are designed for GIS Specialists and developers interested in configuring the software for customised mapping, visualisation, and analysis applications.

Get Started with E-Learning

Web courses, seminars, videos, and much more are yours to explore — whenever and from wherever you like. All Esri qualifying products with a current maintenance subscription include unlimited access to our entire e-Learning collection. Access e-Learning anytime by signing in with your public account, then visit the catalogue to start learning. If you don't have an account, create one for free.

If your employer or school purchased an Esri qualifying product with current maintenance, an administrator at your organisation needs to connect your account to enable e-Learning access. If you use My Esri or are a member of an ArcGIS Online organisation, you may already have e-Learning access.

For Managers and Administrators

Ensure that your workforce has easy access to resources that will allow them to be more productive and consistently enhance their abilities to get the most out of your organisation's ArcGIS investment.

Everyone in your organisation has e-learning access enabled by default. They only need to check in to the Esri Academy site using the same account registered with My Esri Portal. While users of an ArcGIS Online organisation account, with Esri access option enabled, automatically have access to e-learning. To use the site, they simply need to sign in with their existing ArcGIS Online account. If necessary, administrators can restrict Esri Academy access to a certain date range in My Esri. This feature is certainly advantageous for organisations with a high number of employees or learners and a cyclical turnover (such as colleges and universities). This feature is currently unavailable in ArcGIS Online.

How to Connect Learners

When ArcGIS Online administrators enable Esri access to their organisation's members, they also grant Esri Academy access.

Any administrator can invite learners to connect to their organisation through the My Esri site. Learners must simply click the link contained inside the email and check in with their Esri account when required.

Individuals can request Esri Academy access by filling out a My Esri form. When this occurs, all My Esri administrators will receive an email notification. Any administrator can connect the requestor for Esri Academy access if the requestor is an employee or otherwise linked with your organisation.

Our Diploma in GISc & T

Whether you're new to GIS or an experienced professional, our geospatial diploma in GISc&T caters for all levels of GIS users! Discover why hundreds of individuals can accomplish great things in their organisations and communities by applying Geo-information Science and Technology to solve problems.

Esri South Africa College is registered with the Department of Higher Education & Training (DHET) as a private higher institution. The College offers a Diploma in GISc&T programme recognised by the South African Geomatics Council (SAGC), accredited by the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) and the Council for Higher Education (CHE). The diploma places major emphasis on giving individuals the opportunity to study whilst they work and it is therefore designed to accommodate part time learners.

Modules contain both theory and practical components and courses are scheduled throughout the year. Candidates can apply and register at any time. After completing the diploma individuals can register with SAGC as a GISc Technician in Training or if they have enough working experience as a GIS Technician.

The GIS user community can complete individual modules to enable professional registration if they are lacking some modules.

Duration 3-5 Years | **Locations** Midrand, Durban Cape Town | **NQF Level 6** 252 Credits | **Distance Learning** | **Trainers are Esri Certified** | **Recognised by SAGC, accredited by SAQA & CHE**

Full time students can complete the Diploma in 2 years, provided all 252 credits are acquired. Please refer to the programme guide provided.

Year 1 Modules

Level 1 starts off with the basics of information technology, geography and GIS. Mathematics, statistics and physics are also included in the first level modules and will be offered as applied sciences.

Year 2 Modules

Candidates will learn about working with spatial data, data structures, data quality and map design. Candidates will learn how to capture data using a GPS or conventional surveying instruments.

Year 3 Modules

Level 3 is more challenging and will focus on topics in advanced analysis. Candidates will also have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, by designing a practical GIS project.

Apply now for a Diploma in GISc&T by contacting college@esri-southafrica.com.

Skills Assessment Tool

Training to help you achieve your goals

Esri South Africa College provides a Skills Assessment Tool for GIS practitioners to test their general GIS knowledge, application, and technical abilities against their experience. Individuals can assess their abilities in an informal and user-friendly online environment. The online assessment is divided into three levels: basic, intermediate, and advanced, and feedback is provided upon completion. The Skills Assessment Tool can be used multiple times, with each attempt containing a different set of questions. This assessment tool is not intended to provide professional certification; rather, it is intended to test the practitioners' strengths and gaps. Esri South Africa will not share the results with any third party; the evaluation is strictly confidential. Upon completion, a digital badge is awarded.

Extend your GIS skills and stand out from the crowd by receiving Esri Certification

The Esri Technical Certification is a programme that recognises people who have mastered the Esri system and enhances your professional development. Over 3,000 GIS professionals from all over the world have received certification, including professionals from South Africa.

The programmes' purpose is to build a shared understanding of how to use Esri products and technologies. GIS professionals can validate their knowledge, skills, and abilities against a measurable level of competency by taking globally standardised examinations, regardless of their location.

The Esri Technical Certification Programme honours experienced Esri software experts. Many areas of expertise have exams offered at the Entry, Associate, and Professional levels. The programme is open to Esri users from all over the world.

Meet Our College Academic Team

Our team of lecturers & Trainers brings a wealth of knowledge and industry experience to the classroom. They are passionate about Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIS&T) and are committed to delivering high-quality education. Their diverse backgrounds and practical insights ensure that you receive a well-rounded and comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

Mokhine Maake
Head of College

Mokhine Maake serves as the Head of Esri South Africa College, where she oversees the institution's strategic direction and its day-to-day operations. With a solid foundation in geospatial science, Mokhine earned a Master of Science in Geoinformatics from Stellenbosch University in 2015. Throughout her career, Mokhine has honed her expertise in GIS and remote sensing technology, leveraging its power for conservation management and geological mapping.

Mokhine is passionate about educational excellence and professional development. She obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Education Management from Mancosa in 2022. As an educator at heart, Mokhine is dedicated to fostering a collaborative learning environment where students are empowered to explore, innovate, and excel.

In her role as the Head of College, Mokhine channels her passion for geospatial science and education into ensuring the delivery of high-quality educational programmes.

Tendai Dupwa
Programme Coordinator

Tendai Dupwa combines a background in Environmental Science and IT with a fervent passion for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Dedicated to empowering Africa, Tendai believes in the transformative potential of GIS to address challenges in the region. Tendai firmly believes that effective communication and knowledge transfer of GIS can empower the continent to overcome obstacles and thrive.

Tendai's commitment extends beyond the digital realm. Tendai is also a tree hugger, with a profound love for the environment and a strong desire to protect it. Whether through GIS or eco-friendly practices, Tendai's mission is to foster a harmonious balance between technology and nature, working towards a brighter and more sustainable future for all.

"In the dance between nature and technology, the harmony we create is the true rhythm of progress."

Arwen Bowman
Senior Geospatial Lecturer

Arwen has been involved with the Esri South Africa College for over eleven years. She holds a BSc Honours degree in GIS from Nelson Mandela University. Her focus is on data quality and management, cartographic skills, as well as standards, ethics and law for Geospatial Practitioners.

Arwen is passionate about GIS and its adaptability to any environment, condition, or problem. Having worked with many different sectors and industries, this has given her the ability to be able to translate in cross-functional environments and to be adaptable and diverse, which allows her to create custom training materials and teach GIS to a wide audience.

Dr Arulsivanathan Naidoo
Senior Lecturer

Dr Naidoo is a former university lecturer and executive manager for Stakeholder Relations and Marketing at Stats SA. He holds a B Com, B Com (hons) and M Com from University of KZN and D Com degree in Statistics from the University of Pretoria and also a second masters in GIS from Stellenbosch University.

Dr Naidoo lectured at University of Durban Westville, University of KwaZulu Natal, Fort Hare University, University of Zululand and ML Sultan Technikon. He was also a planner at Rhodes University. He has extensive experience in consulting in statistical analysis, data mining and spatial statistics.

Michael Mutekeri
Senior Lecturer

Michael is a dedicated professional in the GIS space, he specialises in physics and mathematics training. Michael is passionate about harnessing the power of data to drive actionable insights and foster business growth.

With a solid academic foundation from UNISA, he holds degrees in Mathematics and Statistical Science, financial modelling, and a postgraduate qualification in mathematics teaching. His certifications include several Microsoft credentials in analytics and business intelligence, complemented by comprehensive Esri training in GIS, climate action, and data engineering. His experience spans over a decade, including roles at Esri South Africa College.

Joshua Manamela
Geospatial Lecturer

Joshua develops and trains courses in utilities (water & electricity), database management, UAV technology and military and intelligence related courses. With a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Environmental Engineering Technology from the University of Pretoria, Joshua leverages GIS to improve environmental health and sustainability, particularly in the realm of climate change. Joshua applies his knowledge to advise on best-practice solutions for GIS related environmental engineering problems.

Basil Rabophala
Geospatial Lecturer

Basil Rabophala holds an Honors degree in Environmental and Resource Studies from the University of Limpopo. With a fervent interest in Remote Sensing, he advocates that *"Every pixel narrates a tale, and every layer adds depth to our understanding of the planet"*.

As a geospatial professional, Basil specialises in guiding curious minds through the dynamic landscape of GIS, remote sensing, and spatial analysis to ignite the spark of spatial understanding and nurture it into a strong foundation of expertise necessary for effective decision-making. Alongside this, he is responsible for administering and maintaining the College's ArcGIS infrastructure, overseeing hardware, software, and data repositories.

Kgomotso Johnson
Geospatial Lecturer

Kgomotso brings extensive experience to her role as a Geospatial Lecturer. Kgomotso's primary focus within the college revolves around training GIS courses. Additionally, she also lends her expertise to the diploma programme modules. With a Bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of the Free State, Kgomotso is passionate about harnessing geospatial technology to cultivate skilled professionals in the field.

Ion Crafford
Geospatial Lecturer

Ion Crafford, embarked on his career journey in 2014 with the South African National Defence Force. His passion for GIS ignited in 2017 during a work project where he was first introduced to GIS, leading him to earn a degree in Geoinformatics in 2020 at the University of Pretoria. Ion's experience as a GIS Operator at the SANDF and his continued work in the field deepened his enthusiasm.

Today, at Esri South Africa College, he shares his passion for GIS with others through lecturing, embodying the belief that loving your job means never working a day in your life.

Simile Masango
Geospatial Lecturer

Simile provides lectures on various geospatial topics. Her work experience coupled with a BSc Honours degree in Geography and Environmental Sciences majoring in GIS and Remote Sensing has helped her develop a key understanding of geospatial science.

With a deep passion for Remote sensing, LiDAR, and detailed mapping, she believes that geospatial science is a powerful tool that can be used to impact all aspects of society and that it is important to stay current within the ever-evolving field of geospatial science. Using her skillset, she seeks to advance clients and general users of geospatial technology.

Kaneesha Maboshego
Junior Geospatial Lecturer

Kaneesha earned her diploma in Geographic Information Science and Technology (GISC&T) from Esri South Africa College. Guided by the principle that "learning is a journey, not a destination," Kaneesha brings a professional yet approachable demeanor to her role. Her commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment is evident in her honest and encouraging approach with students.

By promoting a culture of continuous growth and exploration, Kaneesha inspires her students to excel in their understanding and application of geospatial technology, contributing to their professional development within the industry.

Mpho Rangolo
Geospatial Trainer

Mpho holds a BSc degree in Geography from the University of Pretoria, specialising in GIS and Remote Sensing. Mpho's role involves conducting training sessions for government and private sector clients, leveraging GIS expertise to upskill individuals in the geospatial community.

Passionate about geography from a young age, Mpho believes in harnessing the power of location intelligence to extract valuable insights from geospatial data and address complex challenges.

Rethabile Motsoeneng
Geospatial Trainer

As a Geospatial Technician at Esri South Africa College, Rethabile is responsible for facilitating corporate courses both government and private sector. She is intrigued about Corporate GIS which provides tools to analyse and process territory-location data, geographic information systems form part of future technologies which will change the status quo of the world.

"I am fortunate in enabling users to interact with spatial data in various innovative ways within the many different industries."

Rethabile, holds an Advanced Diploma in Geomatics, specialising in GIS and Land Surveying from Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

Meet Our College Administrative Team

Behind the scenes, our administrative team works diligently to support both students and faculty. They handle the essential functions that keep our college running smoothly, from enrolment and scheduling to examination coordination and student services. Their dedication ensures that you have the resources and support you need to succeed in your studies.

Queen Mofokeng
Registrar

Queen oversees the seamless functioning of administrative processes within the College. She oversees student inquiries, operations in the registration process, student fees process and ensures that every aspect of student engagement and institutional operations runs with accuracy.

Part of her responsibilities entails ensuring compliance with institutional norms and overseeing the maintenance of permanent student records, including grades and marks.

Seipati Petlo
Examination and Administration Officer

Seipati coordinates and administers examinations, oversees the processing of results, and ensures compliance with regulatory standards and institutional policies. Collaborating closely with academic staff and students, Seipati handles SETA-related inquiries and dispatches official academic records to students.

Eussel Modika
Academic Operations Coordinator

Eussel provides comprehensive administrative support to students, serving as the primary contact for all academic needs. From applications to course changes, Eussel ensures a seamless experience for students throughout their academic journey.

Refiloe Msibi
Library Services

Refiloe manages library resources, curates collections, assists students with research, and delivers information literacy instruction. In addition to overseeing library operations, she coordinates programmes and ensures the library remains a welcoming and inclusive space for all users.

Nokubonga Nkosi
Junior Administrative Assistant

Nokubonga provides diligent administrative support, assisting executives and teams in a fast-paced office environment. Proficient in managing administrative tasks, she ensures efficient office operations and delivers high-quality support to facilitate organisational success.

Kayleigh van der Merwe
Junior Administrative Assistant

Kayleigh manages student records, schedules appointments, and handles correspondence, ensuring timely and accurate communication.

Kayleigh provides frontline support to students by answering inquiries, directing them to appropriate resources, and assisting with administrative tasks related to academic and personal support.

Through these efforts, Kayleigh helps create a welcoming and efficient environment that fosters student success and well-being.

Patricia van Schalkwyk
Student Advisor

Patricia is the primary point of contact for all enquiries, enrolment process and RPL procedure. She will also support and resources to help students overcome challenges and achieve their goals. She serves as a bridge between students and College to achieve the end goals.

Esri South Africa College

Esri South Africa College Learning Centre

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