

Hello Veganite,

Welcome to The Independent Institute of Education's Vega School. We are certain that joining us is one of the best decisions you will ever make, and we trust that 2024 will bring you another step closer to your chosen future. We are determined to provide you with the best level of support during your time of study with us, leading to many great achievements and success.

A reminder of our purpose: In the pursuit of academic excellence, IIE-Vega produces IIE graduates who are able to design and create original strategic solutions for brand challenges in business and society. You are a Veganite and form part of [Gen V](#) – a generation with a purpose.

Our teaching philosophy is built on the mantra of wisdom **with** magic - creating an academic environment that is based on experiential learning where **creatives are trained in strategy and strategists in design-thinking**.

As we prepare for the upcoming 2024 academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the various aspects you need to be aware of before you come onto campus.

Orientation

New student orientation will be held during the week of 12- 17 February 2024. These are designed to assist you on how to be successful as a distance (online) student. During Orientation, you will find out about all the resources available and how to navigate through your academic journey successfully. Further details regarding these sessions will be communicated via email and SMS. You can also find an overview of the orientation schedule [here](#).

Campus Community WhatsApp Group


The IIE Vega Distance Centre has a student community WhatsApp group that is used to communicate important information, reminders and updates in our student community. During orientation, you will be informed of how to sign up to the Campus Community WhatsApp group, and we highly recommend joining this group to stay up to date on matters relating to your student journey.



For the creators.



Directors: RJ Douglas (UK), JDR Oesch, MD Aitken, SCD Lurie | Group Company Secretary: CB Crouse



Vega is an educational brand of The Independent Institute of Education (Pty) Ltd which is registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997 (reg. no. 2007/HE07/002). Company registration number: 1987/004754/07



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Synchronous Online Collab Session Schedules

For the most part, engagement with your Distance Learning Navigator will take place on a scheduled timetabled basis. Furthermore, all sessions are recorded allowing students to also engage with these asynchronously.

Distance Learning Success Navigators and Vega Assist

Timeous and respectful communication and engagement between our team and our students, is fundamental to your journey ahead. Your distance learning success navigation team provide holistic support and track your progress and engagement throughout your distance learning journey. From registration to graduation, your Success Navigator is your “go to” person, focused on providing you with information, assisting with queries, steering you in the right direction, as well as providing affective support throughout your studies.

A key tool in supporting our students is Vega Assist, our customer service management platform. The system ensures that your query is directed to the correct staff member, and we can track the matter and escalate it, where necessary.

Student Systems, Communication and POPIA

During the first few weeks of the academic year, we will provide you with onboarding sessions around the various Student Information Systems. In addition to these systems, each IIE Vega student is issued with an institutional vgconnect email. Once you have received training on how to access your vgconnect email address, the campus will no longer make use of your personal email address when sending out email communication.

We have shifted our communication protocols from including our parents/account payers, to include our students only and will thus engage exclusively with our students in relation to any academic or operational matters, including the release of academic results, which are only released on the student portal. This is consistent with the introduction of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) which has come into effect. Although this may seem at times to run contrary to the provision of quality service, significant precedent within higher education indicates the need for students to develop their ability to navigate their own personal journey during their tertiary studies, whether it be academic, or service related. If not

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allowed the opportunity, this can later impact on a student's confidence in their ability to navigate the wider world independently.

Academic Material

The Wize Books Portal for the ordering of academic material will open on 11 January 2024. Now that you have submitted your registration request, await an email from Wize Books with your UNIQUE log-in link. Your prepopulated cart will be based on the modules you selected when you registered so, please ensure that the correct modules are selected. You will be required to log in using your new student number (starting with ST) and your ID number. We recommend that you do not order your books until you have received final confirmation of your registration from us to prevent a possible delay in the process. **DO NOT SHARE THE MAIL WITH ANYONE ELSE AS THIS IS UNIQUE TO YOU.** Without this UNIQUE link you will not be able to log in.

Student Cards

The issuing of 2024 student cards will be done via the Wize Books portal. When ordering your 2024 academic material, you will be required to upload a clear head and shoulders photo to be used on your student card. Your student card will then be delivered to you along with your academic material from Wize Books.

Make the best of what Vega offers you during your studies, and may you have a wisdomwithmagic experience!

We look forward to navigating this exciting journey with you and wish you every success.

Let the adventure begin!

The IIE's Vega Distance Learning Centre Team

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