

## Project Name: Maharishi Institute

**Organization(s):** Maharishi Education Invincibility Trust (MEIT) known as Maharishi Institute

**Dates of Implementation:** 2007 ongoing

**Country:** South Africa

**Partner(s):** Absa Bank, Rockefeller Foundation, **Invuya**, Bryte, Accenture, DSG, Moshal Family Trust, JP Morgan, Saville Foundation

**Funder(s):** JP Morgan, Bryte Insurance, Accenture, ABSA Cyber Security Academy, Hudaco

**Website:** <http://maharishiinstitute.org/>

**Project description:** Maharishi Institute (MI) offers virtually free University access opportunities to unemployed youth at risk and eventually alleviates the poverty. MI provides a fully inclusive bursary and comprehensive support: tuition, books, study materials, a daily cooked meal, work experience, counseling, leadership development, intensive focus on self-development and leadership, computer and technology skills coupled with job placement on graduation. The 5-year program includes a 4-year internationally recognized Business Degree, that normally costs \$112,000. MI introduces business degree from high school grade 8,9 and 10. It uses a blended and human-centered approach of education that optimizes digital technologies and integrating all 43 standford (?) courses with transferable credits and allows student to benefit from high-speed, self-paced accelerated learning.

**Target Population:** African youth living in target area from diverse socio-economic and education background.

**Results to-Date and/or Target Results:** MI graduates earn over R1 billion combined salaries per annum. The annual running costs for the Institute in Johannesburg, Durban, and Nature Based campus in Mpumalanga is combined \$2m per year. Graduates are collectively earning 45-times MI's running costs per year Graduates are expected to earn R27.2 billion (\$2.5 billion) conservatively over their working careers, breaking them out of poverty completely. Second order effects: 150,000 family members are supported by Graduates

Results are tested through:

- **Employment Rate Tracker:** Dedicated department tracking performance, success and income bracket and Assesses Student Employment rate.
- **Work place assessments:** Engagement with employers for feedback on Students Optimal performance on the job against KPI's.
- **EEG testing:** Extensive research and published reports of the effectiveness of the TM technique for optimal brain wave coherence and full optimal development of the student cognitive functioning.

### Interesting Features & Innovations:

-MEIT pioneered the “Free Tertiary Education” movement in South Africa. MI is one of the Six free access tertiary institutions founded during last 15 years.

-The “Learn and Earn” model compensates students with monthly stipend that enables them to stay in University as the lack of funds for basic needs.

-The “Pay if forward” system: once students have started working they commit to funding another student.

-**Invincible Outsourcing:** 100% black youth owned Business Process Outsourcing center (started 2014).

-**Unique holistic competency-based education (CBE)** approach focused on Self Development through meditation, mentorship and coaching structures are changing the game in terms of closing the achievement gap.