

Executive Programme in Media Leadership

Strengthening Media Leaders in Africa

July to October 2026

**Gordon Institute
of Business Science**
University of Pretoria

Globally
accredited,
proudly
African

This four-month programme is designed to equip participants with critical leadership skills necessary to transform and sustain their media organisations.

The programme addresses the pressing need for media leadership development, in a regional context enhanced by global-quality education.



The Executive Programme in Media Leadership is a response to the current market crisis facing many media organisations in Africa and across the globe.

This offering immerses participants in diverse contexts, promoting personal growth, encouraging disruption, and facilitating the adoption of alternative perspectives and

mindsets. The goal is to achieve greater media leadership and inspire transformative change within the industry.

Furthermore, the programme fosters the development of strong social capital, empowering participants to leverage collective leadership and drive innovation within the media sector.

BENEFITS

1

Enhance Sustainability Leadership Skills:

Participants will gain essential competencies required to drive transformation and ensure the long term sustainability of the news, media and communications industries.

2

Build Leadership Expertise:

Equip participants with critical management skills necessary for navigating and effecting change within the News and Media Industry.

3

Foster Personal Growth and Diverse Perspectives:

Immerse participants in various contexts that promote personal disruption and the development of alternative mindsets to address evolving industry demands.

4

Develop Valuable Social Capital:

Participants will cultivate a powerful network that empowers collective leadership, innovation and collaboration within the News and Media Industry.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The course invites applications from practitioners and professionals across the African media and communications landscape, including:

- editors, newsroom leaders, and content strategists
- digital, technology, and product heads
- media executives and senior managers
- policy, financial and operational decision-makers
- communication professionals.

This Executive Programme is designed for individuals who have prior leadership exposure to maximise the value and impact of the programme.

At the end of the programme:

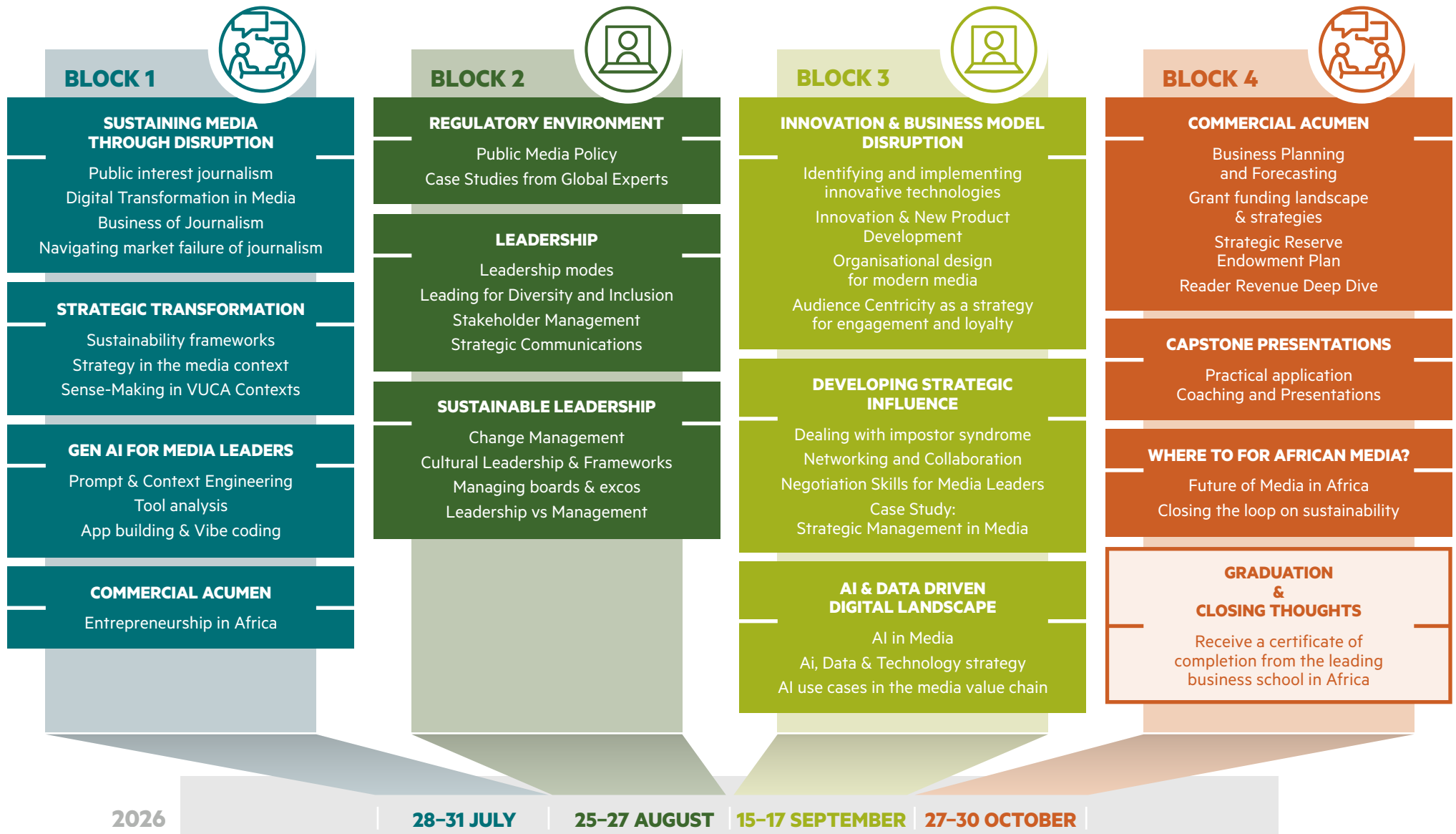
Participants will emerge with the strategic insights, advanced leadership skills, and innovative capabilities required to drive impactful change and lead effectively within a rapidly evolving media landscape.

PROGRAMME ARCHITECTURE

IN PERSON AT GIBS



ONLINE



The programme is part of GIBS's commitment to the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) and to the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

FACULTY LEAD

Michael Markovitz

PROGRAMME DIRECTORS & COURSE DESIGNERS

Styli Charalambous

Michael Markovitz

FEE

R150 000 (includes tuition, instruction material, lunches and refreshments, accommodation for 7 nights and is VAT exempt).

DATES

Online Launch		21 July 2026
Block 1	In-Person (GIBS)	28–31 July 2026
Block 2	Online	25–27 August 2026
Block 3	Online	15–17 September 2026
Block 4 + Graduation	In-Person (GIBS)	27–30 October 2026

DURATION

14 Day Hybrid Programme: Across four blocks, consisting of 8 days of in-person sessions and 6 days of virtual engagements and coaching.

CONTACT

For more information and an online application form, please visit www.gibs.co.za/programmes/executive-programme-in-media-leadership

GIBS is a Level 1 BEE Contributor.

** Certain types of products and services, including the educational offerings made available by GIBS, are classed as VAT-exempt and do not attract VAT.*

WHY GIBS?



Top business school for executive education in Africa



Best reputation among employers and first choice for students



Ranked amongst top 50 business schools worldwide for the past 10 years



Triple crown accredited, EQUIS (EFMD), AMBA (UK) and AACSB (USA)



Regional accreditation (AABS)

Michael Markovitz, **Director, Media Leadership Think Tank, GIBS**

Lead faculty

Michael Markovitz is an adjunct faculty member at GIBS and director of the Media Leadership Think Tank (MLTT) — an independent research and advocacy platform advancing solutions for African media in support of democracy. As Faculty Lead, he co-designed and launched the inaugural Executive Programme in Media Leadership at GIBS in 2025. Michael is regarded as one of South Africa's leading experts on media and tech policy. He was named among the top 50 alumni of Rhodes University's School of Journalism and Media Studies in its first 50 years. In 2023, the MLTT convened a landmark global conference at GIBS that adopted Big Tech and Journalism: Principles for Fair Compensation, endorsed by 101 signatories from 28 countries. Michael has held senior roles in both the public and private sectors, including a five-year term on the board of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC). More recently, in collaboration with partners in Brazil and Indonesia, and with support from the International Fund for Public Interest Media, the MLTT established the CTRL+J Alliance in 2025 as a strategic South-to-South initiative. In addition to his journalism and honours degrees at Rhodes, Michael has an LLB from Wits and an MA from the University of York.

Affiliations and Links:

- GIBS Media Leadership Think Tank [🔗](#)
- Media Explorations newsletter [🔗](#)

Styli Charalambous **Co-Founder and CEO at Daily Maverick**

Styli Charalambous is an accomplished media executive, strategic advisor, and cofounder with a focus on independent journalism, digital innovation, and sustainable media business models. He is the CEO of Daily Maverick, a leading South African investigative journalism outlet known for its in-depth reporting and hard-hitting analysis. Under his leadership, Daily Maverick has been globally recognised for its commitment to public-interest journalism and innovative approaches to revenue diversification.

Styli is deeply engaged in thought leadership on the business and evolution of the news industry. He has contributed to shaping the conversation around policy interventions that support the sustainability of independent media and lectures on the business of journalism and media strategy.

A finance professional by training, Styli combines his analytical expertise with a passion for media innovation. He is a sought-after speaker at global journalism conferences and has served in advisory capacities on matters of media policy and strategic transformation. In 2019, he was awarded South Africa's top prize for courage and integrity in journalism for his leadership at Daily Maverick.

Affiliations and Links:

- Daily Maverick [🔗](#)

ALUMNI REFLECTIONS | 2025 COHORT

“Deep appreciation for shaping such a timely programme for those of us building the future of African media. Excited for what comes next!”

WALE LAWAL
Founder, The Republic

“...one mind-blowing class after another, reflecting the thoughtful goals and process that went into putting this programme together...This wonderful programme has provided the well-needed and nuanced space for us to think deeply and learn about new ways to lead resilient, high-quality media organisations on the continent”.

ANITA EBINEHITA EBOIGBE
COO, Big Cabal Media

“..the EPML was a transformative journey led by Styli Charalambous and Michael Markovitz... What incredible, life-changing learnings and hopefully, lifelong connections! When a cohort becomes family, you know you're leaving truly enriched”.

SHIRLEY GOVENDER
Founder & Group News
Editor, Xenor Media

“I've stretched myself more than I expected. Learning, unlearning, and rethinking what media leadership should look like in Africa.”

MÚYIWÁ MÁTÚLÚKÒ
CEO, Businessfront/
Techpoint Africa

“....we've learned, laughed, debated (a lot), and built something truly pan-African ...a space for media leaders to grow together without having to fly halfway across the world to do it. Massive gratitude to my classmates and the brilliant faculty who made this journey unforgettable”.

KOPANO COWEN
CEO Connect Channel

“I learned so many new and useful things that we have been implementing at Communiqué over the past few months. Our business is already growing faster due to some of these ideas.”

DAVID ADELEKE
Founder & CEO,
Communiqué

SUPPORTED BY:

Google News Initiative

ABOUT GIBS

Internationally accredited Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) is the University of Pretoria's business school based in Johannesburg.

We focus on general management and aim to significantly improve responsible individual and organisational performance in South Africa and our broader African environment through high-quality business and management education. Our purpose is to inspire exceptional performance to make business healthier.

The UK *Financial Times* ranked GIBS 26th globally for open enrolment programmes in the Executive Education Rankings 2024. In 2024, the GIBS MBA was recognised as having the best reputation amongst employers and being the first choice for students looking to pursue an MBA, by the *Financial Mail* Top MBAs Ranking. The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Global Executive MBA Rankings 2024 placed the GIBS MBA in the top 40% of its global ranking. In addition, in 2024, US-based *CEO Magazine* ranked GIBS 18th in its Global MBA Rankings, highlighting the School as a Tier 1 business school.

GIBS is Triple Crown accredited, holding EQUIS accreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), the Association of MBAs (AMBA), and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). GIBS is the 113th business school worldwide to achieve Triple Crown status. In addition, the School holds regional accreditation from the Association of African Business Schools (AABS) and local accreditation from the South African Council on Higher Education (CHE). GIBS is a member of the South African Business Schools Association (SABSA) and Global Business School Network (GBSN). GIBS is a United Nations Principles for Responsible Management (PRME) Champion and is an affiliate of the Central and East European Management Development Association (CEEMAN).

GIBS is a Level 1 B-BBEE Contributor

For more information, visit www.gibs.co.za

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