

# International Immersions

Transform your leadership journey through global insights, cutting-edge strategies, and sustainable growth.

Travel to Chile or Singapore

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

Globally  
accredited,  
proudly  
African

## INTERNATIONAL IMMERSIONS

These immersive programmes are specifically designed to explore new markets, innovations, and global best practices. Our immersive learning programs offer participants a transformative journey through distinct themes providing unique insights and opportunities. Through this comprehensive and immersive programme, participants will engage in hands-on experiences, gain industry insights, and develop cultural and technological understanding without time spent in the classroom. The aim is to learn from global best practices implemented by practitioners, with little to no theory. This desire stems from executives either not having time to attend class or having completed either academic or non-academic programmes leading them to favour practical experience.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Senior executives, business leaders, and decision-makers eager to elevate their strategic impact, embrace innovation, and explore global best practices in sustainability and leadership. Ideal for those seeking to foster growth, navigate disruption, and drive meaningful change in their organisations.

### 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)

## SINGAPORE

This exclusive 6-day immersion in Singapore offers senior executives a rare opportunity to delve into the intricate workings of one of the world's most advanced and sustainable economies. By experiencing Singapore's approach to smart cities, innovation hubs, retail transformation, and financial ecosystems first-hand, participants will gain actionable insights that can be applied directly to their organisations.

Blending professional learning with cultural discovery, the programme includes site visits, company visits, in-country workshops, and networking sessions designed to foster collaboration and inspire leadership excellence.



### WHY SINGAPORE?

Singapore exemplifies the perfect blend of modernity and tradition, innovation and sustainability. Here's what makes it an exceptional destination for executive learning:

- **Pioneers of Smart Cities:** See how Singapore integrates digital technology with urban infrastructure at the Smart Nation Experience Centre.
- **Leaders in Sustainability:** Learn from the Zero Energy Building and explore renewable energy advancements at SERIS.
- **Innovation Powerhouse:** Visit One North Business Park, a vibrant ecosystem for research, entrepreneurship, and start-ups.
- **Global Financial Hub:** Gain insights into financial innovation and regulatory strategies at the Monetary Authority of Singapore.
- **Retail Excellence:** Discover retail transformation through site visits and interactive sessions with the Singapore Retailers Association.
- **Cultural Melting Pot:** Experience Singapore's rich diversity through its cuisine, architecture, and business practices.
- **Fluid Capability:** Understand how organisations are developing their people and capabilities for future relevance.

## HOW YOU WILL BENEFIT

### 1

#### Interactive Site Visits

- **Smart Nation Experience Centre:** Explore digital government solutions and urban mobility innovations.
- **Zero Energy Building:** Learn about sustainable design and energy-efficient practices.
- **One North Business Park:** Engage with business leaders and entrepreneurs in a thriving innovation hub.
- **Singapore Retailers Association:** Gain insights into digital wallets, live commerce, and emerging retail trends through interactive sessions and site visits.

### 2

#### In-country Workshops and Networking

- Participate in talent management sessions and academic insights hosted by local thought leaders.
- Collaborate with innovators and business leaders
- Engage in thought-provoking discussions at the Monetary Authority of Singapore, exploring financial innovation, regulatory strategies, and their impact on economic growth.

### 3

#### Cultural and Professional Highlights

- Take a private city tour and savour local cuisine at iconic spots like Lau Pa Sat.
- Enjoy a spectacular farewell dinner at Marina Sands Hotel, complete with a light show and champagne.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants will leave equipped to:

- Apply systems thinking and strategic execution to complex challenges.
- Thinking strategically and decision-making over multiple horizons.
- Embrace ESG practices and urban planning innovations.
- Drive organisational innovation through digital transformation.
- Talent fostering and talent management.
- Navigate global trends in financial innovation and retail commerce.
- Foster relationships with fellow business leaders, building international networks.
- Insights into failures and successes, whilst considering AI and big data.
- Driving culture as a leverage tool for continuous change and innovation.



Singapore

## PROGRAMME INFORMATION

### PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

- **DAY 1:**  
Welcome lunch, city tour, and cultural immersion.
- **DAY 2:**  
Smart Nation strategy workshops and green energy site visits.
- **DAY 3:**  
Talent management and behavioural economics insights by thought leaders.
- **DAY 4:**  
Full-day exploration of One North Business Park, company visits, workshops, and networking sessions.
- **DAY 5:**  
Financial innovation museum tour, trade ministry discussions, and a night tour or sunset cruise.
- **DAY 6:**  
Retail and digital commerce sessions, followed by a farewell dinner at Marina Sands.

### FACULTY



**Brett Will**, Founder and CEO of the WillShift Group, is a globally recognized thought leader with over 25 years of experience crafting immersive experiences across 30+ countries. Passionate about Africa's economic growth and community well-being, he drives strategic execution and sustainable futures for organizations worldwide. As the visionary behind Ethical Arrow and the Paladin approach, Brett champions leadership development, collaborating with non-profits, governments, and corporations. His diverse ventures include a champagne business in Épernay, France, where he hosts leadership think tanks on digital disruption. A faculty member and guest lecturer at top global business schools, Brett fosters transformative learning experiences, exemplified through his partnership with GIBS Business School, equipping executives to navigate global challenges and drive success.

### FEE

R 280 000 (Fee includes reading materials, meals, accommodation, and travel. Excludes visas).

### DATES

8 - 14 March 2026 (includes travel time)

### CONTACT

For enquiries call **+27 (0)11 771 4257** or email **execed@gibs.co.za**  
For more information, visit **[www.gibs.co.za/immersions](http://www.gibs.co.za/immersions)**



## CHILE

Embark on a 6-day transformative executive education experience in Santiago, Chile, designed to equip leaders with actionable strategies for navigating complexity, driving innovation, and fostering sustainable growth. This program blends practical learning, cultural immersion, and exposure to pioneering organisations, providing a platform for senior executives to gain unique insights into global best practices. Participants will develop leadership resilience, explore new market opportunities, and unlock innovative approaches to address modern business challenges.



### WHY CHILE?

Santiago, Chile offers a compelling destination for an immersive learning trip for executives due to several factors:

- **Innovation Hub:** Santiago is home to a thriving startup ecosystem, supported by initiatives like Startup Chile, a globally renowned accelerator program that fosters innovation.
- **Sustainability Leader:** Chile is at the forefront of renewable energy, especially in solar and wind power. Santiago hosts several companies spearheading sustainable energy solutions.
- **Economic Growth:** As one of the most stable and open economies in Latin America, Chile provides insights into trade, export strategies, and economic resilience.
- **Mining and Natural Resources:** Chile is the world's largest copper producer. Santiago offers opportunities to explore innovations in mining technology and sustainable resource management.
- **Cultural and Social Dynamics:** With its mix of traditional and modern elements, Santiago showcases the interplay between heritage and progress, offering lessons in balancing growth with cultural identity.
- **Public and Private Collaboration:** Strong government initiatives paired with private sector dynamism make Santiago a model for collaborative innovation. Explore sustainable agriculture practices, supply chain resilience, and innovative farming techniques.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants will leave equipped to:

- Apply global best practices to enhance your organisation's competitive edge.
- Integrate innovation and sustainability into core business strategies.
- Lead teams with greater alignment, fostering collaboration and resilience.
- Identify and seize new market opportunities through customer-centric approaches.
- Confidently navigate disruption, uncertainty, and complexity in business environments.
- Leverage insights from startups and industry leaders to spark innovation.
- Craft impactful strategies aligned with sustainable development goals.
- Foster a culture of adaptability and continuous improvement in your organisation.
- Drive organisational transformation with a forward-thinking, global perspective.



## HOW YOU WILL BENEFIT

- 1 Gain exposure to global best practices in innovation, sustainability, and leadership.
- 2 Develop actionable strategies to navigate disruption and drive organisational growth.
- 3 Build a global network of thought leaders, innovators, and business executives.
- 4 Deepen cultural intelligence and foster collaboration in diverse environments.
- 5 Learn from Santiago's thriving startup ecosystem and industry leaders.
- 6 Enhance your ability to align teams and cultivate creative problem-solving capabilities.
- 7 Explore strategies for customer-centric solutions and service excellence.
- 8 Immerse yourself in environments that foster mindset shifts and spark innovation.
- 9 Develop resilience and adaptability to lead through global challenges.
- 10 Integrate sustainability into business models for long-term competitive advantage.

## KEY FOCUS AREAS

- Explore Santiago's startup ecosystem and insights into digital transformation.
- Learn about advancements in renewable energy and sustainable practices.
- Discover strategies from Chile's open economy and trade practices.
- Gain insights into sustainable resource management and mining innovations.
- Understand the interplay of tradition and progress for inclusive growth.
- Enhance leadership resilience and team alignment through hands-on learning.

Santiago, Chile



## PROGRAMME INFORMATION

### PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

- **DAY 1:**  
Arrival, welcome lunch, city tour, and cultural immersion.
- **DAY 2:**  
**LOGINSA :**  
Streamlining Logistics in South America.  
**OPTIMIZA ID:** Innovating Digital Identity Solutions;  
Group dinner
- **DAY 3:**  
**BANCO DE CHILE:**  
Driving Financial Inclusion in a Dynamic Economy.  
**THE GANESHA LAB:**  
Scaling Science: Transforming Innovations.
- **DAY 4:**  
**FERROSTAAL CHILE:**  
Powering Industrial Growth with Innovation.  
**LATAM AIRLINES:**  
Transforming Global Travel Through Innovation.
- **DAY 5:**  
**WESTFALIA FRUITS:**  
Sustaining Excellence in Global Agriculture.
- **DAY 6:**  
Final integration, Leisure time, Departure

### FACULTY



**Abdullah Verachia:** Having presented and consulted in over 60 cities globally, Abdullah has been recognised as a leading speaker, disruptor, strategist and thought leader on competitiveness and the interplay between strategy and innovation. He speaks and consults globally in this area.

Abdullah Verachia currently serves as the founder and CEO of The Strategists, a leading strategy and advisory firm, which helps organisations around the world craft competitive future strategies. He also serves as faculty at the Gordon Institute of Business Science as well as programme director for the Harvard Senior Executive Programme for Africa. Abdullah also serves on several boards as a non-executive.

### FEE

R 205 000 (Fee includes reading materials, meals, accommodation, and travel. Excludes visas).

### DATES

8 - 14 March 2026 (includes travel time)

### CONTACT

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## 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 113<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.gibs.co.za)

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