MAGNA SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Capacity Building • Professional Training • Organisational Development

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Course Profile Document

NGO Management and Policy Development

Impact Evaluation and Casual Inference

Prepared as a professional course profile for delegate review, sponsorship approval and organisational training planning.

COURSE CODE	DELIVERY	DURATION	PREPARED FOR
MSD2740	**Online / Face-to-Face**	**Flexible**	**Organisation Approval**

Register for this Course

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Course Overview

The science of impact evaluation is a rigorous field that requires thorough knowledge of the area of work, simple to complex study designs, as well as knowledge of advanced statistical methods for causal inference. Many programme funders and managers want to know whether their programmes have produced measurable impact. They want to be able to measure that impact and express it in numbers.

The key focus of impact evaluation is attribution and causality – that the programme is indeed responsible for the observed changes reported. To achieve this, a major challenge is the possibility of selecting an “untouched” comparison group and using the appropriate statistical methods for inference.

Course Outcomes

- Introduction to impact evaluation
- The need for and culture of impact evaluation
- Programme indicators
- Introduction to programmes and logic models
- What really is impact – efficiency versus effectiveness
- Counterfactuals – looking for a suitable control
- Experimental and quasi-experimental study designs
- Research ethics in IE and design implications
- Causality
- Attribution and research validity in impact evaluation
- Potential biases in impact evaluation
- Design and statistical methods for controlling for confounders
- Statistical techniques for causal inference

Course Outline / Curriculum

- We will review the what, how, and why of impact evaluation, with particular emphasis on the role of control groups, pre-&-post measurement, and covariate data to define counterfactual scenarios (including formal definition of all terms).
- We will review detailed examples of the main methods for evaluation - randomized experiments and quasi-experiments (including natural experiments, and matching methods) - with a clear description of the pros and cons of each method.
- We will work in groups to develop a plan for evaluating some real life projects. The emphasis will be on defining the counterfactual situation and identifying potential confounders.
- We will do stylized evaluations in class and in evenings using STATA so we can apply the concepts.
- Finally, we will place econometric evaluations within the broader context - how can we move beyond press-button evaluations; what do we do under time, resource and data constraints; when and where should we rely on theory-based evaluations and mixed methods to complement and/or substitute for econometric evaluations.
- Participants will have to think about and articulate a solution to the evaluation problem in all three aspects of the empirical work - study design, data collection, and analysis.

Target Audience

- Epidemiologists
- Biostatisticians
- Programme managers
- Programme funders
- Mid-level to senior researchers
- Postgraduate students
- Consultants
- Programme technical experts

Key Course Benefits

Work-Ready Skills

Delegates leave with practical tools, templates and methods they can apply immediately at work.

Better Institutional Results

The programme supports stronger planning, reporting, compliance, accountability and service delivery.

Sponsor-Friendly

This document is designed to help supervisors, HR units and sponsors approve delegate participation quickly.

Professional Recognition

Delegates receive training documentation and a certificate of completion after successful participation.

Our Training Centres & Delivery Options

Magna Skills offers flexible delivery through face-to-face training centres across Africa and beyond, plus Online / E-Learning for delegates who prefer remote participation.

Southern Africa

Practical training destinations with strong travel access and delegate support.

- Pretoria, South Africa
- Vic Falls, Zimbabwe
- Livingstone, Zambia

East Africa

Popular regional centres for government, NGO and donor-funded project teams.

- Kigali, Rwanda
- Kampala, Uganda
- Nairobi,
- Zanzibar, Tanzania

West Africa & Islands

Strategic locations for regional networking and executive capacity building.

- Accra, Ghana
- Port Louis, Mauritius

International Executive Venue

Premium destination training for senior teams and international delegates.

- Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Online / E-Learning

Attend from anywhere through live online, blended or self-paced learning options.

- Online, E-Learning
- Remote Teams
- Flex

Organisation-Based Training

Magna Skills can also arrange dedicated in-house training for ministries, NGOs and companies.

- Onsite
- Custom Dates
- Group Training

Ready to Nominate Delegates?

Use the links below to register, review the live course page or contact Magna Skills for organisation-based training support.

Register / Apply Online | **View Full Course Page**

About Magna Skills

Magna Skills Development Institute provides practical capacity building programmes for government departments, NGOs, public institutions, donor-funded projects and private sector professionals across Africa. Our training approach combines expert facilitation, real workplace case studies, practical tools, post-training support and professional documentation that helps organisations strengthen staff performance and service delivery.

Government Training | NGO Capacity Building | Corporate Workshops | Online Learning | Face-to-Face Training | Certifica

Approval & Authorisation Form

This section may be completed by the organisation, department, HR office, finance office or sponsor approving delegate participation. It can be attached to an internal memo, procurement request or training approval submission.

Organisation / Department	
Delegate Name(s)	
Approved Course	Impact Evaluation and Casual Inference
Preferred Delivery Mode	☐ Online ☐ Face-to-Face ☐ Organisation-Based Training
Preferred Training Venue / Date	
Estimated Number of Delegates	
Budget / Vote Number	
Contact Person	
Email / Mobile	

Authorised Name _____ Signature / Stamp _____ Date _____