



COURSE OVERVIEW

ONE YEAR DIPLOMA IN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY 2026 - ONLINE



ONE YEAR DIPLOMA IN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY

This part time, One Year Diploma is highly regarded by the packaging industry in South Africa. It is also endorsed by the World Packaging Organisation, and supported by the IOM3-Packaging Society (UK), IOPP (USA) as well as the Australian Institute of Packaging and is, from time to time, conducted "under licence" by certain African countries.

'Packaging' is a multi-faceted discipline and science, requiring the packaging specialist to have an all-round understanding of both technical and business related aspects. This course addresses these needs and is suitable for both the newcomer to the field as well as the more experienced.

The One Year Diploma begins by reviewing the major business management aspects that the packaging specialist requires to be conversant with, management principles, economics and environmental sustainability to marketing and supply chain requirements. The course focusses on the technical aspects of packaging covering the essentials of protection and preservation for a wide variety of consumer and industrial goods, across the Supply Chain. Other pertinent aspects addressed are Brand Management and Graphics Design, Printing Processes, Barcodes, Legal aspects, Specifications and Materials Handling.

The growing expectation for packaging that is more sustainable, more energy efficient and more innovative, now requires the packaging technologist to have greater knowledge of the emerging technical requirements of the global packaging industry. The One Year Diploma, benchmarked annually against global best practices, is therefore aimed at people in the following positions: Sales and Marketing, Packaging Research, Design and Development, Technical and Engineering, Production, Quality, Procurement and Supply Chain. Actually any individual that has an interest in Packaging as a science will greatly benefit from this training.

The One Year Diploma runs every year with a duration of about 10 months, with usually one or two sessions (lectures) per week. It sets a high standard academically with 6 research-based assignments combined with Moodle tests as well as the practical project. This practical project is spread over approximately six-months, during which each student is required to undertake research and report on their project's progress. Given the course workload, it must be stressed that students will need to demonstrate a high level of commitment of time and effort to meet the pre-requisites of the One Year Diploma.

The One Year Diploma has been offered in SA, as a fundamental source of Packaging Technology, for over 25 years and has been maintained, over the years, in alignment with global standards.



COURSE OBJECTIVE

- To assist the newer entrant into the packaging, printing and related industries to acquire a basic knowledge in all aspects of business, technical, design and marketing within these fields.
- In regard to those already employed in these industries, to provide an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and basic understanding with the objective of improving their contribution to their organisations.

(Our separate course - 'An Overview of Packaging Technology' certificate course is for those who are brand new to the industry).

IT REQUIREMENTS

Students must have access to a PC, WIFI, internet and data as the sessions will be conducted through the Zoom application.

DURATION AND LECTURES (ONLINE)

February to November every year - lectures will be held via Zoom every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 17h30 to 19h30. All Zoom lectures will be recorded and uploaded to our Moodle site for student use. Audio recordings of the chapters are available on the Moodle site for the students. Regional monthly tutorial sessions will be available as well as factory visits.

COURSE CONTENT BUSINESS ASPECTS OF PACKAGING

Management Principles and Practices
Management Reporting
Successful Marketing
Packaging : a Marketing Tool
Economics of Packaging

PACKAGE PLANNING

Introduction to Packaging
Fundamentals of packaging as a corporate identity
Product Assessment
Package Production and Handling
Marketing

PACKAGING PRACTICES

Protection 1 - Cushioning
Protection 2 - Permeability and gas barrier
Protection 3 - Other environmental hazards
Introduction to Quality/Lean Six Sigma Packaging
Specification and testing
Legal Aspects of Packaging
Packaging and the Environment

PRODUCT HANDLING AND PACKAGING

Materials handling
Materials Handling equipment
Distribution Packaging
Packaging Machinery

PACKAGING MATERIALS

Paper and Board
Adhesives and Labelling
Corrugated Board
Plastics
Flexible Packaging
Glass Packaging
Metals 1 - Tinplate
Metals 2 - Aluminium
Closures

GRAPHICS (SUMMARISED, AS THIS IS A WIDE FIELD)

The Design Brief and Principles
Illustration and Photography
Barcoding
Print Principles and Processes
Digital Printing
Printing Inks
Print Characteristics and choice of Print Process

FOOD PACKAGING

The Composition of Food
Food Spoilage Mechanisms
Food Processing
Grain Products
Savoury Snack Foods Beverages
Sugar, Chocolate and Confectionery
Milk and Milk Products
Poultry and Eggs
Fruit and Vegetables Fish
Meat and Meat Products
Food Packaging Control

SPECIAL APPLICATIONS

Artificial Intelligence integration into packaging manufacturing
Introduction to Nanotechnology
Pharmaceutical Packaging 1 and 2
Cosmetics and Toiletries Packaging
Industrial and Chemical Packaging
Industrial Packaging: Flexible
Industrial packaging: Rigid

CERTIFICATION

Provided a student achieves the necessary pass mark in the 6 research-based assignments and Moodle tests throughout the year, and the practical project. He / she will receive the Institute's official Diploma in Packaging Technology. A pass mark is 50%.

Successful graduates are entitled to use the affix M.I.Pkg(SA)Grad after their names whilst they are members in good standing of the Institute.

LECTURERS

Lecturers are drawn from both the academic field, as well as from within the packaging industry. Students therefore receive well balanced input from academics as well as from practical people with local and global packaging exposure.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A proficiency in the English language, as well as maths and science (normally at about Grade 12 level) is advisable if the student is to cope with the course requirements. Student must have access to a PC or laptop as well as internet access and data.

COURSE FEES AND TEXT BOOK COST

The course fee for South African students enrolled with the Institute for the entire year's course in 2026 is R26 260,00 incl VAT. This is payable prior to the commencement of the course (i.e. by 31 January of the year of study) and includes -

- One Year Student Membership to the Institute of Packaging
- PDF or Ebook of Packaging Technology Text Book
- Lecturing tuition over the year
- a free subscription for the year of study to a monthly packaging journal, currently "Packaging and Print Media".
- Successful graduates of the course also receive gratuitous membership of the Institute for one year after completion of the course

ENROLMENT FORM

This will be supplied upon request, or can be accessed via the Institute's website www.ipsa.org.za.
Once completed in full, this should be emailed to the address given below.
Interim enquiries can be addressed as below.

ENQUIRIES AND ENROLMENTS

See further detail on the Institute's official website or contact

Lara-Jane Venter
082 776 2201
education@ipsa.org.za

The student is the most important persons in our lives. He or she is not dependent upon us – we are dependent upon him or her. He or she is not an interruption of our work but is the purpose of it. He or she is not an outsider to our business, but a part of it. We are not doing him or her a favour by serving him or her, he or she is doing us a favour by giving us an opportunity to do so. - Borrowed and adapted from the sayings of Mahatma Ghandi



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.ipsa.org.za

