

## School of Leisure and Lifestyle

### Programme Title

## Advanced Game Ranging and Lodge Management Certificate

### Type of Programme

- Full-time
- Damelin Provider Programme
- Agent Programme\*

\*In the case of an Agent Programme, Damelin registers the learners, provides tuition and conducts formative assessments. The agent body usually sets and/or verifies the final examinations, and certifies the learner. Agent programmes provide local and/or international mobility to learners.

### About the Programme

The rapid growth in the Wildlife Tourism and Game Lodge industries, as well as an increase in environmental awareness, has created a demand for well-trained, passionate professionals. This two-year programme has been designed to provide a sound foundation of knowledge and skills in the game ranging industry.

The course focuses on three specific areas of study to address the needs of the market and to form a foundation on which to build a rewarding career. In the first year, learners are trained to be qualified entry-level field guides. The second year of the course has three focus points – conservation, game reserve management and lodge/hospitality management.

The theoretical component of the course is backed up with extensive practical experience. Weekly practical sessions are combined with two extensive practicals in conjunction with **Entabeni Nature Guide Training**. The practical module allows learners to investigate wildlife and the natural environment up close, and qualifies them to conduct guided game drives and function as back-up trails guides.

### Programme Benefits

- This programme has been designed in consultation with industry experts from private game lodges as well as specialist guides and ecotourism managers and is endorsed by the **Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA)**
- The programme thus ensures that learners are trained according to the needs of the industry as well as according to the standards set by the industry regulatory bodies
- While there are many short courses for FGASA Level 1, it is our feeling that a competent Nature Guide cannot be trained in 4 or 6 weeks
- The duration and practical components of this programme enable learners to build on their knowledge and experience, and to grow confidence in this challenging field
- Qualifying learners can achieve FGASA Level 1 and FGASA Trails Guide certification
- Tuition is provided for FGASA Level 2 theory
- Practical training takes place in some of the most pristine wildlife areas in Southern Africa
- Practical instructors are all FGASA accredited instructors and have many years of guiding experience

### About FGASA

The Field Guides Association of Southern Africa is responsible for the Quality Assurance and moderation of nature guiding qualifications. Established in 1992, it is a non-profit organisation representing individual field guides, trackers and organisations involved in offering professional field guiding services to members of the public.



  
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and provisionally accredited by Umalusi FET00453PA

## Career Fields

Learners could pursue a career as a:

- Game Ranger
- Nature / Field Guide
- Wildlife Photographer
- Nature Conservator
- Game Lodge Manager / Staff
- Farmer
- Game Farm Owner
- Lodge Owner

## Certification

Upon successful completion of this programme, the learner will be awarded the Damelin Advanced Game Ranging and Lodge Management Certificate.

Additional certificates obtained by the successful learner:

- First Aid Level 2 Certificate – Bush specialisation
- Entabeni Certificate in Field Guiding
- Entabeni Certificate - Back-up Trails Guide
- Full FGASA Level 1 certification (theory and practical)
- FGASA Level II (theory only)
- FGASA Back-up Trails Guide Certificate
- SASSETA Basic Rifle Handling Unit Standard Certificate
- Cybertracker – Animal Tracking Certificate (Damelin West Rand only)
- Cape Wine Academy Certificate (Damelin West Rand only)

## Admission Requirements

- Knowledge, comprehension and application of language and Mathematics at NQF Level 3/Grade 11 or equivalent
- Biology at Grade 11 is highly recommended
- Any relevant bush experience would be advantageous
- A valid drivers' license is required for Entabeni Game Drive assessments
- Admission may be subject to an interview with the facilitator
- Learner registration with FGASA upon enrolment
- Learner registration with Entabeni/practical provider upon enrolment

## Duration

This is a 2 year full-time programme. Tuition is face-to-face including 56 days of Entabeni practical training (28 day practical sessions each year). In addition, learners are required to complete 60 days of experiential workplace-based training before graduating. This training must be conducted at an eco-tourism business (lodge) approved by the campus. Learners are responsible for finding suitable industry placement themselves unless otherwise arranged. All industry placements must first be approved by Damelin West Rand.

## Pricing

Enquire at your nearest Damelin campus for a current programme pricelist.

## Learner Course Material

- All course material and textbooks are included in the price unless otherwise indicated
- Damelin West Rand learners will receive a USB memory stick to assist them when researching and documenting their practical activities
- All external fees are included for the first assessment

## Additional Costs

- Learners are expected to make provision for additional items such as a uniform, Game Ranger kit etc
- Learners will be expected to pay all additional costs relating to transport, to and from practical activities, including the Entabeni Nature Guide Training, unless otherwise stated
- Learners must also make provision for the costs of any industry visits or practical excursions that are undertaken in addition to the prescribed programme requirements



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### **Additional Compulsory Modules**

- First Aid Level 1
- FGASA Level 1
- FGASA Level 2
- FGASA Backup Trails Guide
- Entabeni 1
- Entabeni 2
- SASSETA Basic Rifle Handling
- 60 days workplace experience
- Cape Wine Academy (Damelin West Rand only)

To allow access to the practical component of this qualification for Year 1, learners require the following:

- First Aid Level 1 Certificate
- SASSETA Basic Rifle Handling Certificate (SAQA ID: 119651)

To allow access to the practical component of this qualification for Year 2, learners require the following:

- Proficiency in Advanced Rifle Handling Skills

Learners will take the FGASA Level I theory examination during their first-year Entabeni practical and if successful will be able to be assessed practically thereafter. Theoretical and practical FGASA Level I competence is required before the learner can attempt the FGASA Level II theory examination.

FGASA Level II theory examinations will be taken by all successful FGASA Level I candidates on dates prescribed by FGASA.

FGASA Back-up Trails Guide examinations and practical assessments will be conducted during the second-year Entabeni practical.

### **Workplace Learning**

This programme includes a workplace learning component.

### **Assessment**

Formative and summative assessments will assess all specific outcomes and adhere to all assessment criteria of the learning programme. A final summative assessment will be conducted to determine whether the exit level outcomes have been achieved.

### **Fundamentals Modules**

This programme requires learners to be found competent in certain fundamental modules. Learners who have completed Grade 12 with Mathematics, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Languages will be exempt from completing such modules. Finalisation of learner modules will therefore take place once Grade 12 final results have been received.

Learners who have not received exemption will be required to complete the relevant fundamental module/s (Literacy Skills 1st Lang Level 4, Literacy Skills 2<sup>nd</sup> Lang Level 4 and Mathematical Literacy Level 4).

### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this fact sheet is accurate at the time of printing. However, factors beyond Damelin's control (such as environmental, regulatory or technical changes) may cause the contents of this fact sheet or of the programme to change. In the event of any such change, Damelin will formally notify current learners. All possible measures will be taken to minimise inconvenience to learners.



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