

Green Star Accredited Professional Program – Interiors

Course Overview

The program provides a comprehensive overview of the *GBCSA Green Star rating system for Interiors* tool for the **objective measurement and rating of the environmental performance of interior fit-outs** and provides insight into all major aspects of environmental sustainability that should be considered in the design and construction of green interiors.

Who Should Attend This Course

Architects, Interior Designers, Project Managers, Contractors, Sustainability Consultants, and Retailers, Tenants and major corporates, Students and anyone else involved in the design and fit out of interior spaces in South Africa and beyond.

Key Course Objectives

1. To gain an understanding of the importance of Green building design and understand the role of the GBCSA
2. To understand the Interiors PILOT tool
3. To become an Accredited Professional in Interiors (GSAP I) with a focus on doing Green Star submissions for interior fit-outs

Key Benefits

1. On completing all 3 parts of the program and passing the exam, participants will be registered as Green Star Accredited Professionals for Interiors (GSAP I)
2. As a registered GS AP I you will be equipped with the knowledge to guide a project team in the design and certification of a Green Star registered project for interior fit-outs
3. Be recognised as a professional with a greater understanding of environmental issues related to the built environment and property industry

The Face to Face Workshop

Green Star Accredited Professional for Interiors face to face workshop is hosted by the GBCSA and a faculty member and presented face to face to a group of 50 people in each of the major centres

The workshop offers the participant the opportunity to experience a South African Green Star Tool for interiors in action. It opens with a recap of the tool and its structure, a sharing of basic technical

information and highlights relevant local examples of the application of the Green Star to explore each category through a combination presentation by industry expert and video content. Following this, participants will join groups to explore how the tool is applied through a series of scenarios based exercises. This group work with a multidisciplinary team of professionals creates opportunity for deeper learning, engagement and application of the tool in practice. Wherever possible group will also be given the opportunity to tour a green star rated space.

Key Course Objectives

- To encourage collaboration & team work between professionals
- To gain understanding of how the GS tool works in a “real” project scenario
- To gain insight into the role of the AP in a professional team

Prerequisites

- A good attitude for collaboration, sharing and learning
- Some property industry experience would be beneficial though not essential

Duration

Full day course

The Online Course

The online course forms a key part of the Green Star Accredited Professional Program for Interiors. If you're a details person or no stranger to the online learning environment, you can choose to do the online course first. The advantage of this is that you will get a deep dive into the nitty gritty, technical detail of the tool right up front, preparing you well for engaging with the more interactive workshop component of the program.

The online course is accessible anywhere with a reasonably good internet connection. Course material can be accessed with a computer, tablet or even a smart phone. On purchasing the course, participants can choose convenient dates to join a course. It runs every single month, starting on the second Monday of that month and is accessible to you for a full two week period. All the available dates are displayed on our website under the online course tab within your chosen Accredited Professional Program.

During this 2 week period, you can:

- access the material at **any time of day**
- spend as little as **8 to 10 hours** going through the material at your own pace
- **read** course material

- **download everything** to keep
- **access all technical manuals** and other supporting documents
- **engage** with other course participants through a forum
- **ask for technical support** anytime during working hours
- complete quizzes to **test your understanding**

In order to qualify to write the exam and become a GSAP I, you will need to “complete” both the online course and the workshop before writing and passing the exam. “Completion” of the online course means that you have opened all the documents, watched the videos and finally, very importantly **completed all the quizzes**. We are able to track all your activity through our learning management system so no shortcuts!

During your chosen two-week course period you will receive regular prompts to encourage you to move through material and to help you manage your time and our support team will be at hand to help you wherever necessary.

The modules are outlined below

- **Module 1:** Green Building & the GBC. Understand why green building is important and the role of the Green Building Council South Africa.
- **Module 2:** The Green Star Rating System. Get to know how the interior rating system was developed, its relationship to regulation and the role of a Green Star AP. Get to know how the interiors tool is structured, how it relates to the other tools as well as how to calculate your interiors rating.
- **Module 3:** Management Category - Interiors tool. How an interior fit out is managed through its construction and commissioning phases is key to its efficiency and waste reduction. Understand how and why this category is measured by learning about the 8 credits that make up this category.
- **Module 4:** Indoor Environment Quality - Interiors tool. We spend a lot of our working day occupying indoor spaces and there are a number of factors that can be mitigated and measured in order to make these places healthy leading to greater productivity and happier, healthier staff. Learn about the 11 credits that make up this category.
- **Module 5:** Energy Category - Interiors tool. With South Africa producing power in one of the most inefficient and environmentally detrimental ways, tenants should make every effort to use energy wisely. This category is made up of 2 credits that contribute to creating a more energy efficient building.
- **Module 6:** Transport Category - Interiors tool. Encouraging people to use mass transport as well as offering amenities within walking distance of workspaces with the overall aim to

reduce individual car use is key to creating better built environs. Understand how and why this category is measured by learning about the 3 credits.

- **Module 7:** Water Category - Interiors tool. Water is a scarce resource in South Africa and all building owners and tenants need to do what they can to reduce and re-use water. There are 2 credits in this category that aim to reduce potable water usage.
- **Module 8:** Materials Category - Interiors tool. The materials selected to construct and finish a building should be more carefully selected with sustainability as a selection criterion. This category is made up of 7 credits that target the specification and consumption of sustainably sourced materials and resources as well as the reduction and reuse of materials.
- **Module 9:** Land Use & Ecology Category - Interiors tool. Protecting the diversity of our ecosystems, flora and fauna is key to sustainable development. There is only 1 credit in this category that speaks to the importance of site selection.
- **Module 10:** Emissions Category - Interiors tool: The emissions to both the air and land are of concern when trying to create a greener future. This category is made up of 2 credits that address light pollution as well as avoidance of products that are known to deteriorate the atmosphere.
- **Module 11:** Innovation: This category recognises, rewards and encourages innovative initiatives incorporated into interior fit-outs.
- **Module 12:** Certifications & Submissions: Understanding what data and information need to be gathered for a submission and how the certification process works.

The learner will come away with a good understanding of the following:

- Why each category is important
- The aim of each credit
- How the credits are measured and how to obtain points

Course Requirements

- An internet connection
- A high level understanding of the design and construction process of an interior fit-out

Duration

Each module takes an average of 30 minutes with a total time of 6 - 8 hours with access to the course available for a chosen 2-week period.

The Online Exam

The Green Star Interiors Accredited Professional Exam is offered online and accessible anywhere at any time.

The examination tests your knowledge and understanding of the use and application of the interiors tool. It is an online, open book examination and is made up of a combination of short questions, multiple choice questions as well as long answers.

You need to achieve at least 75% in order to pass the exam and attain you GSAP I status.

Duration

2.5 Hours

Prerequisites

- completed online course
- attended workshop
- An internet connection
- Access to technical manuals
- Graduate of relevant degree or diploma from recognized tertiary institution or 2 years relevant work experience