

**HOW IT WORKS:**

Complete and submit this application form (PTO) before the 21th of August 2015. (Please note that late or incomplete applications will be automatically disqualified). Completed application forms may be emailed to khuboned@durbanchamber.co.za ; OR drop it into a box at The Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry Offices, Chamber Square, Lion Match Office Park, 892 Umgeni Road, Durban 4001.

[[Google Map](https://maps.google.com/maps?q=190+Stalwart+Simelane+St,+Durban,+South+Africa&hl=en&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=37.735377,86.572266&oq=190&hnear=190+Stalwart+Simelane+St,+North+Beach,+Durban,+Durban+Metro,+KwaZulu-Natal+4063,+South+Africa&t=m&z=16)].

1. All applications will be reviewed and screened against the selection criteria. Thereafter candidates will be shortlisted whereby 20 will be selected to participate in the Entrepreneur Program.
2. The twenty selected candidates will receive eight weeks of invaluable business modelling training endorsed by the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and USA-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) which includes group and one-on-one mentorship with chamber accredited mentors who themselves have invaluable business experience.
3. The candidates will be expected to attend training at least once a week over an eight week period starting from 29 August 2015 until 01 November 2015. Training sessions will be held at the Durban Chamber Offices.  The training programme will include all aspects of business, including strategy, marketing and sales, operational planning, staffing, financial planning and presentation skills.
4. During the eight weeks period candidates will receive relevant skills to prepare a business plan which will then be submitted for adjudication. You will also be judged by your company’s financial performance and overall business success during the incubation period.
5. At the end of the program participating candidates would be equipped with a business plan to grow their businesses sustainably as well as a certificate of completion for the UKZN-endorsed program. A panel of judges and mentors will then scrutinize individual business plans and the candidates will be offered an opportunity to showcase their businesses at the Regional Entrepreneur Exhibition to funders and the public at large. After a rigorous selection process, three finalists will be selected and awarded as winners at a regional level who will then proceed and compete at a provincial level with the winners from other chambers in the Province.
6. The money will be divided up against the winners. The money will not be handed over in cash, but be held in a trust account, which can be accessed in accordance with their expansion plan signed off by their respective mentor.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Business must be registered in South Africa and must be operating within the eThekwini Municipal boundaries
2. Business must have been in existence for at least one year
3. Business must be making a turnover of not more than R3 million per annum
4. Entrepreneur must be full-time in the business

**IMPORTANT DATES**

1. Closing dates for entries – 21 August 2015
2. Announcement of candidates to participate in the programme – 25 August 2015
3. Announcement of Regional winners – 26 October 2015
4. Announcement of Provincial winners – 19 November 2015

***NB: Dates in this document are indicative and may be subject to change.***

Enquiries relating to this programme may be directed to the Enterprise Development Manager: Dumile Khubone, 031 335-1000 OR

Khubone@durbanchamber.co.za

**DISCLAIMER: NB: PLEASE SIGN THAT YOU HAVE READ THIS DISCLAIMER.**

1. I certify that I have answered all of the above questions truthfully and have not withheld any information relative to this application. I further confirm that I am the registered owner of the business and have full authority to enter this competition.
2. I hereby confirm that the business is an existing business that has been in full operation for more than one year, located within the eThekwini Municipality, and that I am employed full time by the business.
3. Should I be selected into the programme, I understand that I will have to attend the six weeks mentorship and training programme which will take place at least once a week from end of September until the beginning of November at the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry Offices.
4. I understand that the training and mentorship offered by the chamber will be free of charge, but that I will need to arrange and pay for my own transport to and from the venue.
5. I have read and understood all the details on this entry form.
6. I acknowledge that the Sponsors, Mentors, and Adjudicators reserve the right not to allocate all of the prize money and I agree and accept the adjudicators’ decision is final and that there will be no further discussion on the results.
7. I acknowledge then the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, its Executive Committee, employees, its members, mentors, trainers, and sponsors of this competition will not be liable for any loss or damage suffered, direct or indirect, arising from my participation in this competition.

NAME: SIGNATURE: DATE:

**APPLICATION FORM**

Name: Company Name:

Physical Address:

Contact Number: Email Address:

1. Briefly describe your business and its products or services:
2. How long has your business been in operation for? (Please mark with a cross)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Less than a year |
|   | 1 to 2 years |
|  | 2 to 3 years |
|  | More than 3 years |

1. On what basis are you employed by your business?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Full time |
|  | Part time |

1. How much income does your business generate on a monthly basis?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Less than R5 000 per month |
|  | R5 000 to R15 000 per month |
|  | R15 000 to R30 000 per month |
|  | More than R30 000 per month |

1. How many people do you employ? Full time: Part time:
2. As a business owner, briefly describe your strengths and reasons for succeeding?
3. What work or business experience do you have?

**Should you wish to attach more information to this form, please feel free to do so.**