

W&RSETA DESIGNERS TURKEY IMMERSION PROGRAMME

1. BACKGROUND

The Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA) is inviting emerging fashion designers to be part of the Design Immersion to Turkey as part of its International Leadership Development Programme. This initiative is a collaboration between the W&RSETA with retail and trade associations in Turkey to expose South African designers to the manufacturing excellence and retail value chain in Turkey as one of the leading apparel manufacturers globally with extensive export networks across the world.

2. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Five emerging designers will be selected for the programme which aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Enable co-learning between South African and Turkish designs for best practices sharing and collaboration.
- Capacitate the South African designers to develop their manufacturing capabilities to scale their businesses at a local level and position them for international opportunities.
- Create connections for the designers with potential partners to collaborate on design and export opportunities.
- Incorporate a post-immersion programme to support the designers to implement projects aimed at growing their businesses in South Africa and beyond the local borders.

The programme comprises the following elements:

- 5-day in-immersion in Istanbul, Turkey through engagements with designers, manufacturers and retailers as well as relevant organisations.
- Programme with the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business to support the participants to implement their identified growth strategies.
- The participants will travel between **02 and 08 February 2025**.

3. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants for the programme are required to meet the following criteria and submit the relevant documentation:

- Formally registered company.
- In operation for a minimum of five (5) years.
- Compliant with the South African Revenue Services.
- Must be manufacturing own original textile, clothing, leather and footwear merchandise.
- Must be an independent retailer.
- Profitable with a minimum turnover of R1 million through audited Annual Financial Statements.
- Within the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise category (employing less than 49 people).
- Existing strategy to scale the business detailing medium- and long-term plans as well as the required resources.
- Registration for the Skills Development Levy with the relevant SETA.

4. PROGRAMME COSTS

The programme is fully funded by the W&RSETA for the cost of:

- Return international travel to Istanbul, Turkey.
- Accommodation and meals.
- Travel insurance.
- Support programme costs.

5. REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be willing and able to travel outside of South Africa for the period **02 to 08 February 2025**.
- Valid passport with at least 5 open pages.

6. SUBMISSIONS

Interested candidates must submit complete documentation to mshingange@wrseta.org.za by **06 December 2024**.

Enquiries may be directed to the same email address.