

## Wits partners with major international MOOC provider

The University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) has announced its partnership with edX, a non-profit online learning platform founded by Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to offer massive open online courses (MOOCs), marking the first collaboration between a major international MOOC provider and an African university.



The total number of students pursuing higher education in Africa tripled between 1991 and 2006, however public investment in education has remained the same. This increase in demand, along with the growing value of university degrees on the continent, means that the current high levels of educational expansion may still not be enough. The edX and Wits partnership will help bridge this gap by delivering education opportunities to students on the continent and beyond.

The edX community throughout Africa, which is already more than 200,000 learners strong, will now have access to courses from a top university on the continent.

"This is a pioneering, innovative project spearheaded by Wits, which will indeed unlock new opportunities in South Africa and through the rest of the continent. This is in line with the University's commitment to being locally responsive and internationally competitive," says Prof. Adam Habib, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Wits University. "We are still developing the course content but students from around the world will be able to access our international expertise in a variety of fields ranging from economics and law to deep level mining and the palaeosciences."

Wits courses (WitsX) will be open for enrolment on [edx.org](http://edx.org) towards the end of 2015. A special edX certificate is issued when a course (or module) has been successfully completed.

"We are pleased to welcome Wits to our global community of educators and learners," says Anant Agarwal, CEO of edX. "As a premier research institution and our first university partner in Africa, we look forward to collaborating to increase access to high quality education for all, and especially for learners in South Africa and throughout the continent who are eager for new educational opportunities and to develop new skills."

Wits joins the more than 60 global universities, colleges and institutions that make up edX's distinguished academic body, which offer online courses to anyone, anywhere in the world with a desire to learn.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>