



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

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COURSE BROCHURE

Demonstrate Knowledge Of Iron Age Archaeology Training

Human and Social Studies / Traditions, History and Legacies

Unit Standard 119869 · NQF Level 4 · 10 Credits · 7 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides learners with a comprehensive understanding of Iron Age archaeology in Southern Africa. It covers the key characteristics, cultural phases, and material culture of the Iron Age, enabling learners to interpret archaeological evidence and appreciate its significance in South African heritage.

Category	Human and Social Studies
Subfield	Traditions, History and Legacies
Unit Standard	119869
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 4 · 10 Credits
Duration	7 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate knowledge of the chronological framework and regional variations of the Iron Age in Southern Africa.
- Identify and describe the material culture associated with Iron Age communities, including pottery, metalwork, and settlement patterns.
- Analyze the economic and social structures of Iron Age societies based on archaeological evidence.
- Evaluate the impact of the Iron Age on the development of later societies in the region.
- Apply archaeological methods to interpret Iron Age sites and artifacts.
- Demonstrate understanding of the ethical and legal frameworks governing archaeological heritage in South Africa.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Iron Age Archaeology in Southern Africa

- Overview of Iron Age archaeology
- Chronology: Early, Middle, Late Iron Age
- Geographic distribution of Iron Age sites
- Key sites: Mapungubwe, Great Zimbabwe, Thulamela
- Importance of iron technology
- Introduction to archaeological methods

Day 2: Material Culture and Technology of the Iron Age

- Iron smelting: furnace types and processes
- Metalworking: tools and weapons
- Pottery typology and decoration
- Trade items: glass beads, copper, gold
- Imported goods and long-distance trade
- Material culture as social indicator

Day 3: Settlement Patterns and Architecture

- Settlement hierarchy: capitals, towns, villages
- Stone walling styles: dry stone, coursed
- Hut construction and layout
- Site layout: central cattle kraal, grain bins
- Defensive features and site selection
- Case studies: Mapungubwe, Great Zimbabwe

Day 4: Subsistence, Economy, and Environment

- Domesticates: cattle, sheep, goats, sorghum, millet
- Agricultural techniques: shifting cultivation, irrigation
- Wild resources: game, fish, wild plants
- Storage facilities: grain pits, pots
- Trade networks and exchange systems
- Environmental adaptation and change

Day 5: Social Organisation, Politics, and Ideology

- Social hierarchy: elites, commoners, specialists
- Political organisation: from chiefdom to state
- Ritual objects: figurines, divination bones
- Burial practices: grave goods, burial position
- Rock art and symbolic expression
- Case study: Mapungubwe's elite burials

Day 6: Decline, Transformation, and Contact

- Climate change and resource depletion
- Political fragmentation and migration
- Rise of new polities: Rozvi, Ndebele
- European contact: trade, disruption
- Changes in material culture

- Legacy of Iron Age societies

Day 7: Practical Application and Heritage Management

- Practical exercise: artefact identification and recording
- Site interpretation: visitor centres, signage
- Heritage legislation: NHRA, SAHRA
- Community involvement and indigenous knowledge
- Conservation challenges: looting, development
- Career pathways in archaeology

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **10 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 4**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 28,200.00	R 28,200.00
1	In-House	R 36,700.00	R 36,700.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 42,300.00	R 42,300.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
07 Aug 2026	17 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
07 Aug 2026	17 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Lagos, Nigeria
10 Aug 2026	18 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
10 Aug 2026	18 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
11 Aug 2026	19 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
12 Aug 2026	20 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
13 Aug 2026	21 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
14 Aug 2026	24 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

1. **Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 119869) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
2. **Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
3. **Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call **+27 12 004 8389** or WhatsApp **+27 65 077 6310** and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
4. **Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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