

# Press Release

Berlin, July 7, 2017

## ESMT Berlin begins Industry Immersion Program in Africa to foster graduate employability

Thirty graduates from ten African countries have started the first academic module of the Industry Immersion Program (IIP) in Cape Town, South Africa. Launched by ESMT Berlin and the [African Institute of Mathematical Sciences \(AIMS\)](#) this week, the IIP is a six-month pilot program that prepares mathematically and technically trained students to transition from an academic environment to an applied industry setting. The class will graduate on December 1, 2017. The initiators of the program, ESMT Founding Dean [Wulff Plinke](#) and Associate Dean of Degree Programs Nick Barniville, presented the program during the [G20 Africa Partnership conference](#), a part of the German G20 activities.

The program includes two academic modules as well as a 12-week internship with industry partners across Africa. The academic part includes topics such as business etiquette and presentation skills, corporate strategy, finance and accounting, data analytics, and organizational behavior. Renowned members of the ESMT faculty, such as [Zoltán Antal-Mokos](#), Professor of Strategy and Dean of Degree Programs; [Matthew S. Bothner](#), Professor of Strategy and Deutsche Telekom Chair in Leadership and HR Development; [Michał Grajek](#), Associate Professor of Economics; [Rajshri Jayaraman](#), Associate Professor of Economics and Karl-Heinz Kipp Chair in Research; [Konstantin Korotov](#), Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior and Director of the Center for Leadership Development Research (CLDR); [Xu Li](#), Assistant Professor of Strategy; and [Per Olsson](#), Professor of Accounting and Academic Director of the Center for Financial Reporting and Auditing, are teaching pro bono.

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### About ESMT Berlin

ESMT Berlin was founded by 25 leading global companies and institutions. The international business school offers a full-time MBA, an executive MBA, a master's in management, as well as open enrollment and customized executive education programs. ESMT focuses on three main topics: leadership and social responsibility, European competitiveness, and the management of technology. ESMT faculty publishes in top academic journals. Additionally, the business school provides an interdisciplinary platform for discourse between politics, business, and academia. The business school is based in Berlin, Germany, with Schloss Gracht as an additional location near Cologne. ESMT is a private business school with the right to grant PhDs and is accredited by the German state, AACSB, AMBA, EQUIS, and FIBAA. [www.esmt.org](http://www.esmt.org)