



Information for 2026 Crafts Training



ABOVE: 2025 2nd year group with their repeat pattern starch batik fabrics

About Imbali

Imbali employs innovative, applied, and work-based learning strategies to teach art, design, and critical thinking to youth, women, and the unemployed — providing individuals and their communities with pathways to economic sustainability.

Founded on the belief that art and creativity are powerful forces for social change, Imbali promotes creative entrepreneurship through the arts as a means of fostering productivity, independence, and personal transformation.

Imbali is registered with the **CATHS SETA** and offers accredited training programmes in **craft production, craft enterprise, and creative facilitation**.

Admission Requirements for the Crafts Training Programme

Imbali accepts students aged 18 and older who demonstrate a passion for craft, art, and design. Admission is based on an interview with Imbali staff, during which applicants present any items they have made and discuss their interests and future goals.

Applicants are also required to complete a series of baseline assessment tasks and an English comprehension test.

Admission decisions are made based on the outcomes of the interview and assessments, determining each applicant's suitability for the programme.

A **Grade 11 pass** is required for entry into both the **NQF Level 2 Craft Production** and **NQF Level 2 Craft Enterprise** programmes.

Tuition Fees

Upon acceptance into the programme, students are required to pay a **registration fee of R350**. The full **tuition fee is R25,000 per annum**, but this amount is **subsidised by Imbali (subject to available funding)**, with

students contributing **R2,200 by the end of the first term**.

Please note that **both the registration fee and the course fee are non-refundable**.

Course Description

The Imbali Crafts Training Programme runs over two years. For the first **18 months**, participants attend full-time training at Imbali, where they develop a broad range of craft, design, and entrepreneurial skills. The final **six months** form an **incubator phase**, during which participants are supported to start their own businesses, design and produce their own craft products, and work in a production environment, creating a range of items.

The incubator phase also includes a **facilitation course**, after which eligible participants have the opportunity to implement an **outreach project** within their own communities.

Each year of the programme follows a structured curriculum with a detailed schedule of activities.

The first 18 months of training cover the unit standards for the **Craft Production Skills Programme** and the **Craft Enterprise Skills Programme**, both accredited through **CATHS SETA**. Additional unit standards include:

- **115139: Develop Innovative Craft Product**, Level 4 (15 credits)
- **119460: Use Language and Communication in Occupational Learning Programme**, Level 2 (5 credits)

Teaching and Facilities

Specialist teachers are allocated to each module to ensure high-quality, skills-based training. Imbali's fully equipped **ceramics** and **textile studios** provide hands-on learning in a wide range of techniques, including:

- Pinching
- Slab construction
- Coil construction
- Screen printing
- Block printing
- Starch batik
- Sewing
- Embroidery and appliqué
- Patchwork
- Weaving
- Pattern design and making

In addition to these core skills, students also learn **jewellery making** and how to create products using **recycled and waste materials**.

Throughout the course, students are actively involved in every stage of the creative process — from concept development to the completion of finished, market-ready products.

Specific craft course modules are designed to progressively build skills and competence — beginning with foundational techniques and advancing to a level where participants can produce and sell their own products.

As the programme aims to support the development of sustainable, income-generating activities, it also includes **entrepreneurial training** covering financial management, market research, costing and pricing, marketing, and sales.

Additional components of the training include **writing, communication, research, exhibition design, display, and marketing**, as well as **educational visits** to exhibitions and relevant craft and design retail outlets.

Assessment

Imbali employs a comprehensive assessment approach designed to help learners develop the **skills, knowledge, attitudes, and values** required to become professional crafters and entrepreneurs. Each project or assignment introduces new learning through **demonstration, observation, and practical implementation**, with trainers providing

continuous support to help learners achieve the required outcomes.

Formative assessment takes place throughout each project. Facilitators and trainers provide regular feedback as learners work, with a focus on class assignments, attendance, participation, and active engagement in discussions, activities, and report-back sessions.

Summative assessment occurs at the completion of each project. Final pieces are assessed by Imbali trainers and facilitators, together with a **SAQA-accredited assessor**, according to the unit standards and predefined criteria shared at the start of the project. An assessment template outlining these criteria is completed for each learner.

All completed assessments are **moderated and verified** before being submitted to the **CATHS SETA** for final accreditation and certification.



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