



ASISA Academy Newsflash – April 2021

Our [IMACS@TSiBA](#) interns, who completed their internships towards the end of last year, recently graduated from the TSiBA Business School with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree. Despite a lack of resources and the additional challenges presented by Covid-19, all of them passed the Academy's Investment Management Administration & Client Servicing (IMACS) examinations as well as their TSiBA examinations and completed their 16-week internships. We are exceptionally proud of them for this achievement.

Two of the graduates, Zikhona Monkqoyana and Anastasia Roberts completed their internships at the ASISA Academy. Zikhona joined the ASISA Academy in January 2021 as a part-time junior course coordinator responsible for ensuring the smooth running of our [Retirement Fund Trustee Education \(RFTE\)](#) workshops.

Anastasia was one of two TSiBA graduates awarded the inaugural Graham Lashbrooke prize for academic excellence in Entrepreneurship and Leadership at the TSiBA graduation ceremony. The prize was awarded in honour of the legacy of Graham Lashbrooke, a co-founder of TSiBA, who died last year.



*Anastasia Roberts receiving the Graham Lashbrooke Prize at the TSiBA annual graduation ceremony.
From the left: Dr Rudi Kimmie (TSiBA CEO), Fiona Cola (2019 Graduate), Anastasia Roberts (2020 Graduate) & Dr Peter Ayuk (Executive Dean)*

The IMACS@TSiBA programme is the result of a partnership formed in 2011 between the ASISA Academy and Cape-Town based TSiBA Business School to identify and attract black graduates who are aspiring to build a career in our industry.

Students in the tenth IMACS@TSiBA cohort are in their final stages of course work and must be applauded for persevering through an incredibly rough path of study under lockdown. Coming from underserved communities, the playing fields are far from level for them. Students returned to the physical classroom recently and ASISA Academy programme champion, Anton Berkovitz, has pulled out all the stops this semester by offering afternoon tutorials on Fridays after the formal classes have ended. Thanks to their sponsors, they are also able to once again enjoy breakfast and lunch every Friday at the ASISA Academy.

Preparing graduates for formal employment

The [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#), funded by a number of ASISA members, was launched in 2016 with the aim of helping young black graduates interested in pursuing a career in financial planning with the opportunity to intern with established IFA practices for 12 months.

Before the graduates begin their 12-month internships that will introduce them to a career in financial planning, they participate in a rigorous work readiness course. This ASISA Academy course prepares the graduates for the formal work environment.

The following feedback received from one of the 2021 interns reminded us why the work readiness courses are a critical component of the IFA Internship.

"What a bittersweet final day of the work readiness course. This experience has impacted me in more ways than simply through the transfer of knowledge, but has inspired me, challenged my perspective and pushed me to grow. I appreciate the time and effort put in by Sumayya and the ASISA Academy IFA internship team for making this experience as impactful and educational as it has been. I feel much more prepared and equipped to start my IFA internship as a direct result of the work readiness course. It has been an absolute pleasure engaging with other interns across the country, despite COVID restrictions, the opportunity to connect with others has been one of the greatest highlights of this experience for me. I look forward to a year of growth and success with the Academy, NFB and my fellow interns."

Inspiration for our IFA interns

One of the interns who showed incredible grit throughout his IFA internship last year was Cliff Mathikhi. Cliff interned at Wealth Associates CBS Financial Planning in Bloemfontein, where he is now permanently employed as a para planner.

We were so inspired by Cliff's determination to seize opportunities and use them to build his career, that we asked him to share some key learnings with interns who may be grappling with challenges that currently seem insurmountable. Please click [here](#) to watch the interview.



Cliff Mathikhi at Wealth Associates CBS Financial Planning in Bloemfontein

Cliff Mathikhi (25) was born in Limpopo Province, but grew up in Johannesburg. He moved to Bloemfontein to study at the University of the Free State where he graduated with a BSc majoring in Statistics and Economics in 2018. In 2019, he enrolled for a BCom Hons in Financial Economics and Investment Management, which he completed last year while interning at Wealth Associates CBS Financial Planning in Bloemfontein.

The following courses were presented in April

- The [Equity Analyst Short Course](#) was presented to delegates from a number of different financial services companies.
- The following two [Investment Sprints](#) were attended by employees from ASISA member companies:
 - Introduction to the South African Savings and Investment Sector
 - Investment Management Business Overview
- The following [Retirement Fund Trustee Education \(RFTE\)](#) workshops were presented:
 - The [Death Benefits](#) and [Employee Benefits](#) workshops were delivered to trustees and principal officers from different retirement funds in a public online workshop.
 - Bespoke [Death Benefits](#) workshops were also presented to delegates from the Pathcare Pension Fund, the UCT Retirement Fund and to members of the Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA) delegates.
 - The new [Protection of Personal Information \(POPI\) Act for Retirement Fund Trustees](#) workshop was presented to the Cape Municipal Pension Funds.

Upcoming courses

- On 20 May we launch our [Shariah Investing Blitzcamp](#), which will provide delegates with an overview of Shariah investing, its origins, how to implement and administer Shariah compliant investments and the relevant governance considerations. [Click here](#) to enrol.
- Our popular [UCT Life Insurance Claims Assessors Short Course](#) will start on 14 July 2021 and will be delivered online as a series of 17 full-day online sessions. This course is recognised by the Insurance Institute of South Africa (IISA) for CPD points, which can be claimed by delegates who successfully complete the course. We still have a few spaces available – [click here](#) to enrol.
- A number of [Investment Sprints](#) and [RFTE](#) workshops have been scheduled for May. Please click on the relevant links for dates and enrolment details.

Learn with us in 2021

The ASISA Academy is recognised as a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor, with more than 75% of the Academy's beneficiaries being black South Africans. This means that employers can claim 135% of their skills development spend with the ASISA Academy. Please feel free to [contact us](#) to discuss how we can support your skills development requirements for 2021.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information on our many learning opportunities and like our [Facebook page](#) for regular updates. We also invite you to interact with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Best wishes
Alicia Davids
ASISA Academy CEO