



## ASISA Academy Newsflash – November 2020

An important occasion in our calendar each year is the ASISA Academy internship alumni event. Not only is this an opportunity to celebrate the success of our alumni, but by sharing their learnings and stories of perseverance, our alumni also inspire our current interns. Normally this event is hosted in Cape Town as well as Johannesburg, but Covid-19 put a proper spanner in the works this year. Since giving up is never an option at the Academy, we decided to change the event to a virtual format this year – and it was a huge success!

Held on Tuesday, 10 November, via Zoom, the alumni event was attended by current interns and some of the young professionals who have come through our three internships:

- o [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#)
- o [IMACS@TSiBA Internship](#)
- o [Investment Management Work Ready \(I'M Work Ready\) Internship](#)

Thandekile Moloko, an ASISA Academy I'M Work Ready alumnus and founder of SimWealth, shared her career journey with the audience. Thandekile had this to say: "When I was in the ASISA Academy programme I realised that this journey of a career is something that we cannot take for granted. There are so many elements that we need to take into consideration in terms of our interpersonal skills, emotional intelligence and understanding the career path that we are into."

Other alumni who shared their inspirational journeys included Kgomotso Makena, articulated financial planner at Netto Invest, Yustashia Naidoo, report writer at Alexander Forbes, Pebetso Mabona, ESG research analyst at Legae Securities, Sibusiso Mkhali, transaction advisory associate at Ernst & Young, and Nokuthula Siswana, retail operations consultant at Allan Gray.



**ASISA Academy Alumni Event held on 10 November 2020 via Zoom**

### UCT Life Insurance Claims Assessors' Short Course

The 2020 UCT Life Insurance Claims Assessors' Short Course concluded at the beginning of November and delegates sat for their final examination on 18 November.

The results will be out by the middle of December and delegates who were successful will receive their certificates in January 2021.

As an added bonus, successful delegates will also be able to claim CPD points for the course from the Insurance Institute of South Africa (IISA). The ASISA Academy is in the process of registering with IISA as a CPD partner. This new arrangement will benefit both delegates as well as presenters, who will also be able to claim CPD points.

The claims assessors' course was pioneered by the ASISA Academy in 2013 in partnership with a group of leading claims assessors to help position long-term insurance claims assessing as a formal profession in South Africa. Endorsed, moderated and certificated by the University of Cape Town, the 20-day course is delivered over four months.

### **It's a wrap for our 2019/20 IMACS@TSiBA interns**

Our 2019/20 IMACS@TSiBA interns completed their internships in the first week of November. At the beginning of their internships, each student was assigned a practical project by their sponsoring company. Our 10 interns had to present their projects to their lecturers and the Dean of TSiBA on 17 November. The final grade received for these projects will determine whether interns will be awarded their TSiBA Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degrees.

The IMACS@TSiBA programme is a dynamic partnership formed in 2011 with TSiBA to identify and attract graduates who have what it takes to build a career in our industry. Ultimately the success of the internships is measured by the number of interns who receive job offers from ASISA members. While a number of our 2019/20 interns have shared with us the good news that they had either been offered permanent or contract employment, some of our interns have been unable to secure jobs as a result of Covid-19 related logistical problems at their sponsoring companies.

ASISA member companies who have opportunities for bright young graduates eager to prove themselves are encouraged to contact [adavids@asisaacademy.org.za](mailto:adavids@asisaacademy.org.za).



**2019/20 IMACS@TSiBA interns presenting their industry projects to their lecturers**

### **Courses presented in November**

Six Investment Sprints were delivered in November to delegates from the JSE Information Services Division on the following topics:

- Introduction to the SA savings and investment sector
- Investment products and structures
- Investment management business overview

We also delivered the following Retirement Fund Trustee Education (RFTE) workshops:

- Legal Provident Fund: Advanced Death Benefits
- Fedusa Organised Labour: Responsible Investing Masterclass
- Hospitality General Pension Fund: Investment Management Fees & Costs
- Engen Pension Fund: Responsible Investing

## **Learn with us in 2021**

We have released a comprehensive overview of our [2021](#) courses including dates and fees. Please visit our new [website](#) for more information and like our [Facebook page](#) for regular updates. We also invite you to interact with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Please feel free to [contact us](#) to discuss how we can support your learning requirements. As always, we welcome suggestions and proposals.

## **In closing**

I would like to thank the ASISA Academy team for taking us to new learning heights this year under the most extraordinary and trying circumstances. The following quote by Albert Einstein comes to mind: "Out of clutter, find simplicity. From discord, find harmony. In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity." With the help of my dedicated, loyal, hardworking and resourceful team, we definitely managed to find opportunities in the middle of difficulty.

Our programme champions were quick to transition their courses from physical classrooms to virtual learning platforms and our course co-ordinators had to acquire an arsenal of new software skills almost overnight. Our mentors have been guiding young interns grappling with finding their feet in a virtual place of work. A big thank you also goes to the many subject matter experts from our industry who so freely give their time and share their knowledge.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the ASISA members and the many other stakeholders that support our programmes. With your support more than 1 100 delegates have journeyed the learning path with us in 2020.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the guidance and encouragement received from the ASISA Academy Board of Directors. Your unwavering support this year was appreciated beyond measure.

Best wishes

Alicia Davids  
ASISA Academy CEO