



## ASISA Academy Newsflash – September 2021

Dear Stakeholder

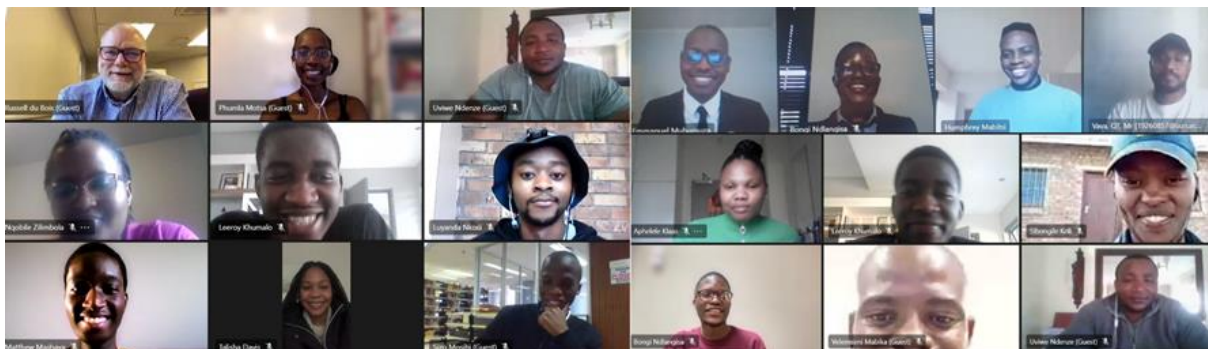
One of the key objectives of the ASISA Academy is to assist black graduates keen to pursue a career in the savings and investment industry by bridging the gap between tertiary education and the skills required by potential employers. Work readiness courses play an important role towards bridging this gap. For this reason we were approached by the Association of Black Securities and Investment Professionals (ABSIP) to offer an online work readiness course for their student members across the country.

Foord Asset Management offered to sponsor the work readiness course, making it possible for us to deliver eight sessions on a host of topics to over 100 students during September. Students from the following universities attended the two-hour sessions, which were scheduled for the late afternoons and early evenings to accommodate their class times: University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch University, University of Johannesburg, University of Zululand, University of KwaZulu Natal, University of Limpopo, University of the Free State, University of the Witwatersrand.

Topics covered included time management and office etiquette as well as an overview of financial markets, the legislative landscape, and products in the financial sector.

We would like to extend a massive thank you to Foord Asset Management for funding one of the key stepping stones towards a career in our industry for so many students. We asked Brendan Africa, Financial Director at Foord Asset Management, to share with us their motivation for funding the ABSIP students:

*"Foord is very supportive of the work that the ASISA Academy does to enhance the skills and effectiveness of young individuals entering the investment management arena. Bridging the gap between theoretical studies and practical work life is a very important part of the development journey for any professional. This type of program provides a solid foundation to enable participants to hit the ground running. Many successful professionals benefitted tremendously from similar work readiness programmes prior to commencing their working careers, therefore we understood the importance for us to make this initiative possible. We are grateful to have played a small part in this journey."*



Some of the ABSIP students from various universities who attended the ASISA Academy Work Readiness course, pictured above with Programme Champions Russell du Bois and Phumla Motsa (Top left).

## **IFA Internship 2022**

We received a record 258 applications from black graduates around the country interested in participating in our seventh ASISA Academy Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) Internship in 2022. Our team is facing a tough selection process over the next couple of weeks as we work with participating IFA practices in Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London and Johannesburg to select graduates for the 38 internships available next year. The internship is funded by Allan Gray, Coronation, Prudential and Ninety One.

## **Retirement Fund Trustee Education**

Retirement fund trustee education is a key focus for the ASISA Academy in recognition of the important role that trustees play as the custodians of the retirement savings of millions of South Africans. The ASISA Academy Retirement Fund Trustee Education Programme is independently funded by the ASISA Foundation for South African retirement fund trustees and principal officers and professionally recognised for CPD points by Batseta - Council of Retirement Funds for South Africa.

In September 163 trustees and principal officers participated in fifteen workshops, including a workshop to members of the Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA) on the topic of "Fund Annual Financial Statement Analysis". The single fund workshops were presented to the following retirement funds: Municipal Employees' Union Retirement Fund, UNISA Retirement Fund, Political Office Bearers Pension Fund, Engen Pension Fund, and the Clicks Group Retirement Fund.

## **The following courses were also presented in September**

1. Two Consumer Financial Education (CFE) Practitioner Blitzcamps on the following topics:
  - Introduction to CFE
  - Engaging CFE Stakeholders
  
2. Four Investment Sprints on the following topics:
  - Fundamentals of equities portfolio management
  - Investment management business overview
  - Fundamentals of pricing and unitisation
  - Investment performance overview

## Upcoming courses

1. In October and November, we will be running the UCT Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) Short Course which has seen very high demand, to the extent that both courses are now fully subscribed. The next UCT CIS Short Course is scheduled for March 2022. [Click here](#) to enrol in this popular course.
2. Following the successful launch of the [Shariah Investing Blitzcamp](#) in August, we have scheduled another one for 21 October. Please click [here](#) to enrol.
3. The following [CFE Blitzcamps](#) have been scheduled:
  - CFE Content Creation and Delivery - 7 October
  - CFE and Behavioural Economics - 14 October
4. Three [Investment Sprints](#) have been lined-up:
  - Introduction to the SA savings and investment sector - 12 October
  - Investment products and structures – 19 October
  - The investments governance landscape – 21 October

**We would like to thank all industry presenters who present on the various Academy courses as a means of giving back to the industry. Delegates who attend our courses have the great privilege of learning from professionals who are at the cutting edge of development in the industry.**

## Learn with us

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.

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**