



ASISA Academy Newsflash – July 2020

It is finally time for the big reveal! We have a new [website](#).

Over the past couple of months we have had a team working on creating our new online home, which showcases our offering of high-quality learning solutions.

The brief was to keep it simple and to make it easy to navigate. We believe that this has been achieved and we therefore proudly invite you to spend some time looking around. We hope that you appreciate the new look and feel as much as we do.

Internships and work readiness programmes

The ASISA Academy runs three internships aimed at creating desperately needed employment opportunities for graduates wanting to pursue a career in the savings and investment industry: the IMACS@TSiBA Internship, the Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) Internship and the Investment Management Work Ready (I'M Work Ready) Internship. On request from universities, the Academy also presents work readiness short courses to postgraduate students.

Below follows an update on these initiatives:

- **IMACS@TSiBA Internship**

We are exceptionally proud of our 2019/2020 [IMACS@TSiBA](#) students. This group of students has shown true grit, proving that where there is a will there is a way. 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) course as well as their TSiBA courses. As a result these 10 students, all of them from underprivileged backgrounds, have started their 16-week internships towards the completion of their degrees.

We would like to acknowledge the sponsors of this internship who remain dedicated to helping these young people, many of whom are the first in their families to graduate from a university. Not only are these sponsors creating employment opportunities for young talent, but they are also pro-actively transforming our industry one intern at a time. A big thank you goes to Allan Gray, Coronation, Futuregrowth, Prescient, Prudential, Sanlam and Taquanta.

- **IFA Internship**

Judging from the encouraging updates received from the IFA host practices in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London and Bloemfontein, most interns participating in the 2020 [IFA Internship](#) are doing well despite the challenging circumstances.

We would like to commend this group, their hosts as well as their mentors for persevering during these unprecedented times.

Independent Financial Advisory practices and final year students who meet the criteria and who would like to sign up for the 2021 IFA Internship are reminded that the sign-up window period during which practices and interns can apply will close on 31 August 2020.

IFA practices interested in hosting interns are requested to [click here](#) to apply. Interested students can apply [here](#).

- **I'M Work Ready Internship**

Graduates participating in the [I'M Work Ready Internship](#) completed the first six months of their internships at the end of July. Based in Johannesburg and Cape Town, the internship provides B.Comm (predominantly Investment Management) graduates from the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and the University of the Western Cape (UWC) with the opportunity to participate in a specialist internship programme that will prepare them for formal employment in the investment management industry.

We have started preparations for next year's internship by engaging with potential sponsors. Investment management companies interested in participating are invited to sign up [here](#). Interested final year students in Johannesburg and Cape Town can apply [here](#).

- **Work readiness at the University of KwaZulu-Natal**

At the request of the University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of Accounting, Economics & Finance, the Academy presented an online work readiness course to students doing various post-graduate qualifications in Finance. Due to the large number of students who signed up, the group was split in two with each group attending the online work readiness course over four consecutive mornings over two weeks during July. Despite students having to grapple with challenges such as a lack of data and load shedding, the participation was good and we received positive feedback from students. The course material focused on preparing students for the workplace by teaching skills such as writing a CV, preparing for and handling a job interview, goal setting, team work and diversity in the workplace.

"Presenters were truly amazing and engaging. I truly appreciate what they have done for us because sometimes we struggle with awkwardness and not really knowing what is expected from us in the workplace."

"Thank you so much for instilling confidence and tackling issues that are usually ignored."

"I am ready to tackle my career confidently after these sessions. Looking forward to joining the workplace next year."

Industry Programmes

Our Short Courses, Blitzcamps and Investment Sprints are constantly evolving to ensure that content and delivery is aligned to the requirements of our industry. The aim of these [programmes](#) is to raise the skills levels of ASISA member company employees and assist in professionalising their roles. On request these programmes can also be adapted for regulators and other industry stakeholders in Southern Africa.

- **Consumer Financial Education Practitioner Blitzcamp**

Our new programme champion, Jolly Mkorosi, kicked off the recreated [Consumer Financial Education Practitioner Blitzcamp](#) in July. Presented in a virtual format over three Thursday mornings, we received great feedback from the 17 delegates. The Blitzcamp is aimed at Consumer Financial Education (CFE) practitioners who manage their respective companies' CFE programmes. Topics covered include the ASISA Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) guideline, business imperatives, digital CFE, behavioural economics, project design, project management and impact assessment.

"The presentations will not only assist in my work space, but I have been challenged to also improve my personal space in terms of finances and communication."

"Having presenters who are experts in their respective disciplines makes for an engaging and thought-provoking session."

"Today was amazing in that I could learn more and how to apply what I have learned."

The next Blitzcamp has been scheduled for 8, 15 and 22 October. A brochure with detailed course content can be downloaded [here](#).

- **UCT Claims Assessors' Short Course**

The ASISA Academy powered UCT Life Insurance [Claims Assessors' Short Course](#) started on Wednesday, 15 July. For the next four months the 22 delegates will be joining programme champion Phumla Motsa and her line-up of expert presenters every Wednesday. The course aims to equip claims assessors with certification and skills in the complex field of assessing long-term insurance claims.

- **Equity Analysts' Short Course**

We delivered an inhouse [Equity Analysts' Short Course](#) to Ninety One (formerly Investec Asset Management) in July.

The short course is aimed at new equity analysts entering the industry who have the necessary tertiary qualifications but have limited experience in building models and valuing companies in the workplace.

- **Also delivered online in July**

- Five [Investment Sprints](#). The Investment Sprint series repackages the content of our Financial Services Overview Blitzcamps into an offering of 15 engaging 2-hour online workshops. For more information on our Sprints, please email learn@asisaacademy.org.za
- We completed our online tutoring programme for the Sanlam Investment Group's new graduate employees preparing for their [CFA Investment Foundations Certificate](#) Exam. We are delighted to report that under the watchful eye of programme champion Anton Berkovitz, 10 of the 11 candidates passed this exam on their first attempt.

- **Upcoming in August**

The next online version of the popular [UCT Collective Investment Schemes \(CIS\)](#) Short Course will be presented over nine mornings from 11 to 27 August, together with the [UCT Investment Management Administration & Client Servicing \(IMACS\)](#) Short Course.

While the CIS Short Course is fully subscribed, we can still accommodate a few participants in the IMACS Short Course. If you would like to enrol, please click [here](#).

Retirement Fund Trustee Education (RFTE)

Over the past decade we have developed a suite of 12 [workshops](#) covering the most critical topics for South African trustees and principal officers. These workshops, which all qualify for Batseta CPD points, are offered at no cost to retirement funds through our partnership with the ASISA Foundation.

In July we delivered RFTE workshops to the following pension funds:

- Cape Municipal Pension Fund: Responsible Investing; Annual Financial Statement Analysis
- PRASA Provident Fund: Death Benefits (Master Class)
- FundsAtWork Umbrella Pension Fund: Investment Management Fees and Costs; Annual Financial Statement Analysis

In closing

We invite you to contact us to discuss how we can support your learning requirements. As always, we also welcome suggestions and proposals.

Please visit our new [website](#) for more information and like our [Facebook page](#) for regular updates. You are also welcome to interact with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Best wishes
Alicia Davids
ASISA Academy CEO