



ASISA Academy Newsflash – June 2020

Our 2019/2020 [IMACS@TSiBA](#) students wrote their final examinations in June under the most challenging circumstances. These 10 students are now anxiously awaiting their results, which will determine whether they are able to start their internships with sponsoring ASISA member companies towards the end of July.

The IMACS@TSiBA programme is the result of a dynamic partnership formed in 2011 between the ASISA Academy and TSiBA Education to identify and attract graduates who have what it takes to build a career in our industry. In terms of the partnership, TSiBA students in their second year of studying towards their Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degrees can apply to participate in the programme. Students are required to pass the Academy's Investment Management Administration & Client Servicing (IMACS) examinations as well as their TSiBA examinations before commencing their 16-week internships with sponsoring ASISA member companies towards the completion of their degrees.

Not only did the current group have to transition to an online learning environment less than two months into their final year due to Covid-19, but six students also did not have access to proper computer equipment. Concerned about how these students would be able to write their final examinations, IMACS@TSiBA programme champion, Anton Berkovitz, appealed to Fundamental Software for help. [Fundamental Software](#), a specialist financial services software company, came to the rescue with refurbished laptops just in time for the six students to write their online examinations. Best of all, the students get to keep their "new" laptops.

Neil Hampton, CEO of Fundamental Software, says the company agreed to help the IMACS@TSiBA students, because: *"Fundamental Software is committed to supporting the next generation of South African software developers and potential users of our investment software through education. We believe that education is key to a better and healthier life and is a 'fundamental' contributor to transforming our society."*

According to the feedback received from the students, the laptops made all the difference in their June exams:

Zikhona wrote to us saying that: "My laptop is working so well. It's a machine and I'm flowing when writing my exams. Thank you!"

JP described the laptop as an asset that will help him achieve his goals: "I am so grateful because the laptop helped me to finish my online tests which would have been more tedious if I did not receive the laptop. It gave me a sense of independence."

Claudia shared with us that without the laptop she would most probably not have been in a position to get through her exams. "The laptop has been a huge help during my exam period. I am forever grateful for receiving this laptop."

For Lesego the laptop came just in time to help her with her final preparations: "The laptop has made it so much easier for me to access my notes when studying and in completing my exams. Truly grateful for an opportunity like this."

Michaela would have had to write her examinations on her mobile phone had it not been for the donation: "This laptop helped me greatly throughout my study preparation and examination. If it was not for this laptop, I would have been completing my examination on my phone, which would have been time consuming. I am grateful to have gotten this laptop. Thank you so much!"

Maryam says the laptop really helped during the final exam preparations as well as the exams "as I have written more comfortably with it".



IMACS@TSIBA students studying from home with their new laptops

Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) Internship Programme

The interns on the [IFA Internship Programme](#) were given the opportunity to practice their online presentation skills in June. The 36 graduates currently interning with host practices in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London and Bloemfontein were required to present to their mentors and managers on their learnings and experiences thus far. A group mentoring session followed the feedback session. For the first time, all these interactions took place via virtual online platforms.

The IFA internship programme provides high potential black graduates who have a keen interest in financial planning with the opportunity to intern at established top performing IFA practices. Interns participate in a structured programme that offers a powerful combination of work-readiness input, theoretical knowledge and practical work experience delivered by the Academy in partnership with the IFA practices. Due to the very strong demand by both IFA practices and students to participate in this programme, we have implemented a sign-up window period during which practices and interns can apply. This window period will close on 31 August 2020.

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

UCT-endorsd short courses

In June the Academy presented the first online version of the popular [UCT Collective Investment Schemes \(CIS\)](#) Short Course. Instead of the previous five full-day sessions, the course was presented in 10 half-day sessions spread over three weeks. The upside of the online offering is that delegates can join from anywhere in the country. Previously, the course was presented only in Cape Town or Johannesburg.

The UCT-endorsd short courses were developed in collaboration with industry professionals in order to support new and existing staff members of investment management firms and CIS management companies. Every session takes the form of an interactive workshop drawing deeply on the expertise of experienced investment professionals in the industry.

The next UCT-endorsd CIS short course will be presented in August, together with the [UCT Investment Management Administration & Client Servicing \(IMACS\)](#) Short Course.

Equity Analysts' Short Course

We delivered our first online inhouse [Equity Analysts' Short Course](#) to the Old Mutual Investment Group in June.

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.

The Academy will present the next Equity Analysts' Short Course over 10 mornings from 11 to 31 August. [Click here](#) to enrol.

Also delivered online in June

- [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, including the latest addition – a Derivatives Sprint. For more information on our Sprints, please email learn@asisaacademy.org.za
- [Retirement Fund Trustee Education](#) (RFTE) workshops to the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) Pension Fund and the Eskom Pension and Provident Fund.
- We continued our online tutoring programme for the Sanlam Investment Group's new graduate employees currently preparing for the CFA Investment Foundations Certificate Exam.

In closing

The upside of the new learning environment forced upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic has been the realisation that we are able to tailor the content of all our traditional learning programmes into live online sessions that will meet your needs. 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 [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