



ASISA Academy Newsflash – October 2021

Dear Stakeholder

During lockdown last year, the ASISA Academy team found creative and practical ways of delivering our learning programmes online. Importantly, the concept of a Sprint was born, enabling delegates to participate in engaging 2-hour online workshops with one of our expert presenters on specific topics.

Over the past 18 months, the ASISA Academy [Investment Sprints](#) have proven extremely popular and are now part of our permanent offering. We continue to innovate and are pleased to announce the [IMACS Sprints Combo](#) commencing in 2022. This new offering provides a flexible way of completing our existing UCT Investment Management Administration & Client Servicing (IMACS) Short Course by making it possible to write the UCT IMACS assessment on completion of 12 specific Investment Sprints within 24 months. A UCT graduate certificate is awarded to successful delegates. Click [here](#) to enrol in the IMACS Sprints Combo.

We have also finalised the [ASISA Academy 2022 Learning Calendar](#), which provides an overview of the learning opportunities for next year.

ABSIP Work Readiness

In the September edition of the ASISA Academy Newsflash we provided feedback about the online work readiness courses presented to more than 100 student members of the Association of Black Securities and Investment Professionals (ABSIP).

The work readiness courses were sponsored by Foord Asset Management and covered topics including time management and office etiquette as well as an overview of financial markets, the legislative landscape, and products in the financial sector. The topics were covered over eight online sessions.

We would like to share with you some of the feedback received from Leeroy Khumalo, a BCom Finance and Investments student at the University of the Witwatersrand. Leeroy was our most engaged participant and also the most committed student in that he attended all eight sessions.



Leeroy Khumalo, a BCom Finance and Investments student at the University of the Witwatersrand

"At first, I was hesitant to attend the work readiness courses, but admittedly it has been the most impactful on my behaviour. Within the course there were many great sprints such as time management, effective goal setting and my personal favourite mental health. What I got from the course, was that without a holistic and complete life it is very difficult to sustain good relations at home and at work."

"All the Investment Sprints were incredibly informative, every session I left even more excited to be going into the investment and finance field. One of the biggest takeaways for me has been the importance of being a learning machine. The investing landscape is forever evolving and growing, fortunately the ASISA champions are leading industry experts, and they were fantastic teachers and mentors."

"Personally, I am grateful to all the ASISA Champions for taking the time out to come teach and engage with us, it has been so beneficial to me and all those who attended."

We have shared Leeroy's note to the ASISA Academy in full on [LinkedIn](#).

IFA Internship - in pursuit of excellence

The interns on the ASISA Academy [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#) are expected to study for their RE5 exams and write the exams during their 12 month internship. These exams test candidates' knowledge of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services (FAIS) Act and the Financial Intelligence Centre Act (FICA). The RE5 certificate together with the experience gained on the IFA Internship provide interns with a strong foundation on which to build should they wish to pursue the board exams that qualify them to become fully-fledged advisors.

We would like to acknowledge the following five IFA interns who recently received their RE5 certificates.



From the left: Palesa Mareletse, Yonela Vena, Matumelo Matsoane, Mikayla Williams and Masabata Sebusi

We would also like to congratulate [Gradidge-Mahura Investments](#) on winning the 2021 Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa (FPI) Approved Professional Practice of the Year Award. Craig Gradidge and Kagiso Mahura have supported the IFA Internship since 2017 and have taken on a total of six interns over the five years.

We would also like to use the opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to all IFA practices hosting our 2021 interns.

IMACS@TSiBA Internship

The application window for investment management firms interested in sponsoring students for next year's [IMACS@TSiBA Internship](#) is now open. This internship connects ASISA members with high-potential, black undergraduate Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) students at TSiBA Education, a Cape Town-based not-for-profit higher education institution.

The IMACS@TSiBA Internship is a dynamic university partnership formed in 2011 between the ASISA Academy and TSiBA Education. Together, we identify black students who have what it takes to build a career in the savings and investment industry and develop them through the IMACS@TSiBA programme. Designed by our industry and delivered by expert practitioners, the programme creates a pipeline of work ready graduates who have a practical understanding of the investment administration environment and its systems.

We would like to acknowledge the sponsors of the 2020/21 internship who remain dedicated to helping these young people, many of whom are the first in their families to graduate from a university. A big thank you goes to Allan Gray, Coronation, Futuregrowth, Prescient, Prudential, Sanlam Investments and Taquanta.

For more information and to sponsor a student, please click [here](#).

Consumer Financial Education (CFE) Practitioner Blitzcamps

A series of four [Consumer Financial Education \(CFE\) Practitioner Blitzcamps](#) was delivered online in September and October by our experienced programme champion, Jolly Mokorosi. Each of the Blitzcamps was designed to equip individuals who lead and manage in the area of CFE:

- Introduction to CFE
- Engaging CFE Stakeholders
- CFE Content Creation and Delivery
- CFE and Behavioural Economics

Jolly shared the following feedback with us at the end of the CFE Blitzcamp series:

"It was clear that though many of us are committed to CFE much work still needs to be done. Platforms that allow for knowledge sharing and networking will be key to the meeting of our mandates as CFE Practitioners. We hope that in our future programmes we will be able to continue the digital CFE conversation with mobile network providers as well as investigate the role of new players in financial inclusion."

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 forefront of developments in the industry.

The following courses were also presented in October

1. Retirement Fund Trustee Education (RFTE)

We presented eight RFTE workshops in October, including single fund workshops for the following retirement funds: Tshwane Municipal Pension Fund, National Fund for Municipal Workers, CPUT Retirement Fund, and Clicks Group Retirement Fund.

2. The following Investment Sprints were presented:

- Introduction to the SA savings and investment sector
- Investment products and structures
- The investments governance landscape

Upcoming courses

We had an overwhelming demand for the UCT Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) Short Courses scheduled for the remainder of this year. We have therefore scheduled another online UCT CIS Short Course for March 2022. Please click [here](#) more information and to enrol.

The following public [RFTE workshops](#) still have capacity:

- Trustee Governance & Ethics Part 1 & 2 (8 & 9 November 2021)
- Death Benefits (15 November 2021)
- Investment Policy Statement Analysis (17 November 2021)
- Responsible Investing Part 1 & 2 (18 & 19 November 2021)
- Investment Fundamentals Part 1 & 2 (23 & 24 November 2021)

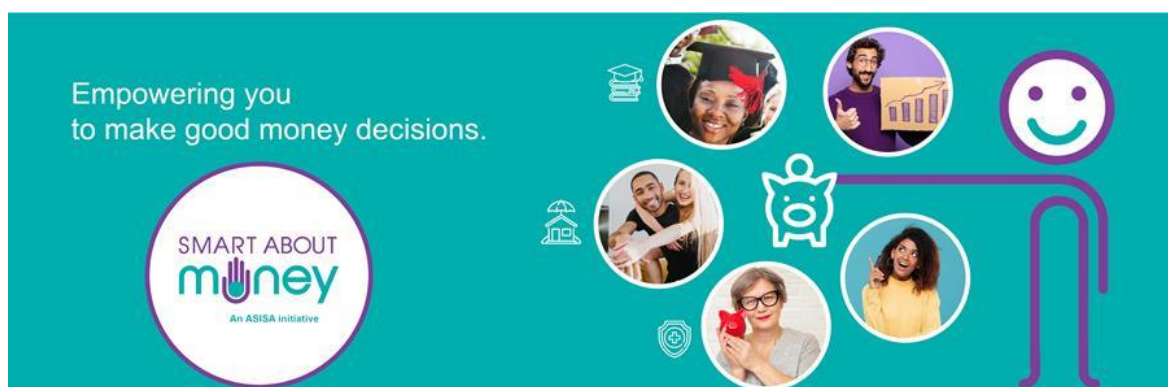
Smart About Money - an ASISA initiative

The [SmartAboutMoney.co.za](#) consumer financial education website has gone live under the tag line: "Empowering you to make good money decisions – an ASISA initiative".

While SmartAboutMoney.co.za is collectively funded by ASISA members, you will not be enticed to buy financial products via SmartAboutMoney.co.za nor will you come across advertising. The aim is to ensure that society has access to accurate, unbiased, plain-language information about regulated financial products and services.

The website recognises the value of financial advice. Once you have navigated the website and gained a solid understanding of how the various financial products work, you are encouraged to contact your financial adviser to help you take the next steps.

We would like to invite you to spend some time on [SmartAboutMoney.co.za](#) and encourage you to subscribe to the inaugural edition of the newsletter, to be distributed later this month.



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