



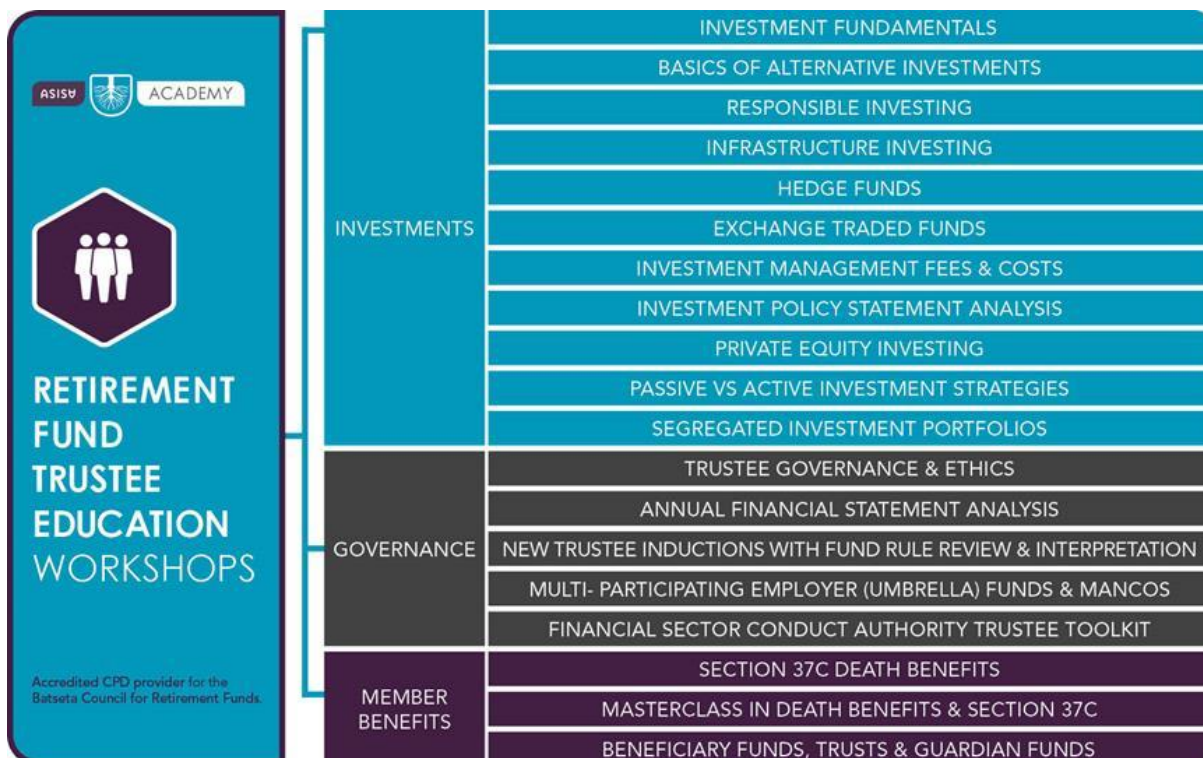
ASISA Academy Newsflash – April 2022

Dear Stakeholder

We have seen an unprecedented demand in recent months for the ASISA Academy [Retirement Fund Trustee Education](#) (RFTE) workshops, which are funded by the ASISA Foundation and professionally recognised for CPD points by [Batseta](#) - Council of Retirement Funds for South Africa. In April alone, the ASISA Academy presented 10 RFTE workshops presented to more than 80 retirement fund trustees and principal officers.

The ASISA Academy team has responded to this growing demand by designing exciting new workshops that widen the learning scope for retirement fund trustees beyond foundational concepts. The most recent addition to the line-up of RFTE workshops is the [Exchange Traded Funds](#) workshop, which was piloted to members of the Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA) on 6 April.

With an offering of more than 14 workshops, we have started layering our RFTE workshops with the aim of providing trustees with a learning pathway, enabling them to progress from fundamental to advanced workshops. This will open doors for trustees to increasingly professionalise and potentially become independent trustees of several retirement funds.



Graduate Programmes

The ASISA Academy offers three graduate programmes aimed at upskilling ASISA member employees and creating jobs for graduates while at the same time speeding up transformation in the savings and investment industry.

1. Financial Markets Practitioner Learnership

In the March edition of Newsflash, we introduced you to our most recently launched qualification, the ASISA Academy [Financial Markets Practitioner Learnership](#). This Fasset-registered learnership is based on a South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) accredited NQF Level 7 occupational qualification and provides a learning pathway to a higher qualification such as an honours degree or a NQF level 8 post graduate diploma. This learnership is suitable for employed staff as well as unemployed graduates.

Our first cohort of 15 delegates just completed the second month of the 12-month programme and we look forward to catching up with them every week for their three-hour online classroom sessions.

2. Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) Internship

Now in its seventh year, the 2022/23 [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#) currently has 34 graduates interning with IFA host practices in Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London, Johannesburg and Gqeberha.

Considering that these graduates have only just completed their second month in the formal workplace, we were pleasantly surprised when news reached us that two of them have already passed their RE5 exams. The RE5 exams test candidates' knowledge of the FAIS and FICA Acts.

We would like to congratulate Moshibudi Rampedi, interning with Olemera, and Itumeleng Motlhale, interning with Refuge Financial Services, on this achievement.



Moshibudi Rampedi (left) and Itumeleng Motlhale (right).

In other exciting news, we were recently informed by the sponsors of the ASISA Academy IFA Internship that funding has been made available for a second group of graduates. The six selected graduates will be starting their internships in May at participating IFA practices in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

This brings to 40 the number of graduates participating in our seventh ASISA Academy IFA Internship. We would like to thank the sponsors of this programme - Allan Gray, Coronation, M & G Investments and Ninety One - for their generous support aimed at creating employment opportunities for black graduates pursuing a career in financial planning.

In an effort to scale the internship even further from next year, we will embark on a targeted information drive in the more remote regions of our country to hopefully partner with more IFA practices in outlying areas.

3. IMACS@TSiBA Internship

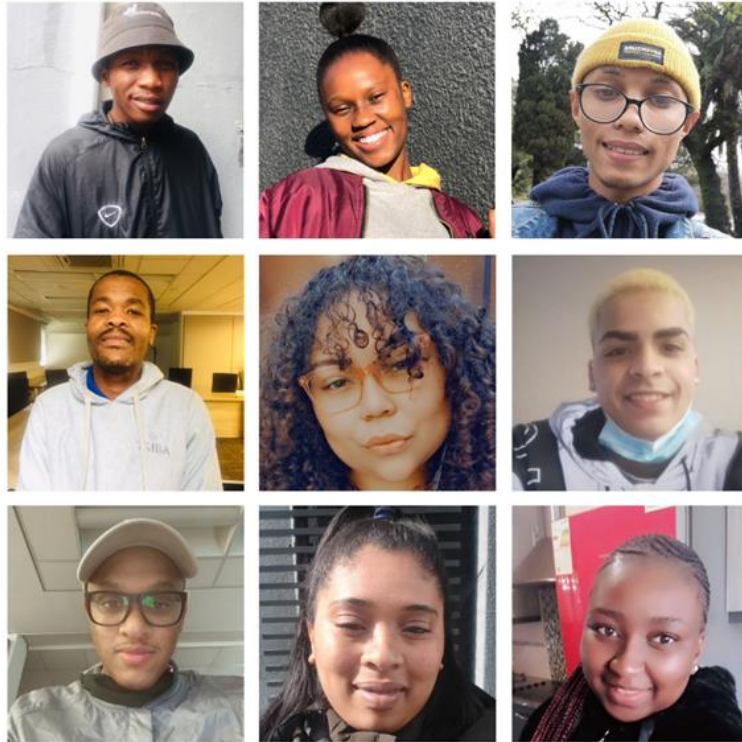
The nine TSiBA students enrolled in the 11th ASISA Academy [IMACS@TSiBA Internship](#) have commenced the final stretch of their studies before writing the exams in June that will determine whether they proceed to their four-month internships with ASISA member companies. These students started their academic journeys shortly before the country was plunged into the COVID pandemic and as a result have had to overcome significant challenges in order to make it to this point.

To help these students achieve their goals, the ASISA Academy is partnering with the National Mentoring Movement and Old Mutual to make mentors available to help them master the last remaining hurdles as they approach their final exams. We are very pleased to have the following mentors on board to guide our IMACS@TSiBA students:

- Grant Cloete, ex-CEO of Afena Capital and the founder of impact investment firm, Grand Canid;
- Karen Wilson, project manager at the National Mentoring Movement; and
- Velly Masuku, an ASISA Academy IMACS@TSiBA alumnus currently employed at Curo Fund Services as an Operations Manager.

The IMACS@TSiBA Internship was created in 2011 as a partnership between the ASISA Academy and TSiBA Education, a Cape Town-based not-for-profit higher education institution, to connect ASISA members with high-potential, black undergraduate Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) students at TSiBA. Together, we identify students who have what it takes to build a career in the savings and investment industry and prepare them for this through the IMACS@TSiBA programme.

We would like to acknowledge the sponsors of the 2021/22 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, M&G Investments, Prescient, Sanlam Investments and Taqanta.



Students who are currently enrolled in the 11th ASISA Academy IMACS@TSiBA internship

Courses presented in April

The Auditor-General of South Africa requested a bespoke workshop on Local and International Bonds for their employees, ranging from trainee auditors to senior managers. This brings the total number of Auditor-General employees who attended courses with the ASISA Academy in March and April to 206.

In addition, the following six Investment Sprints were presented (click [here](#) for upcoming dates):

- Fundamentals of equities portfolio management
- Fundamentals of equity operations
- Fundamentals of interest-bearing assets
- Fundamentals of other asset classes
- Fundamentals of pricing and unitisation
- Investment performance overview

Upcoming courses in May

The following RFTE workshops will be offered online in May:

- o [Annual Financial Statement Analysis](#) – 6 May 2022
- o [Death Benefits](#) - 19 May 2022
- o [Infrastructure Investing](#) - 24 May 2022

The next online 2-hour [Consumer Financial Education \(CFE\) Practitioner Sprint](#) has been scheduled for 25 May 2022.

For an overview of learning opportunities lined up for 2022, please visit the [ASISA Academy 2022 Learning Calendar](#).

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