



## ASISA Academy Newsflash – July 2022

Dear Stakeholder

Every year, on the 9th of August, South Africans celebrate Women's Day in commemoration of the 20 000 courageous women who stood up with determination and dignity against oppressive pass laws on 9 August in 1956, as well as the women who pioneered the women's movement in South Africa.

This year, our government is putting the spotlight on women's socio-economic rights and empowerment with a view to achieving gender equality by 2030. The ASISA Academy's strong support for achieving the goal of gender equality is demonstrated by the diversity of our team as well as our delegate profile. Our current group of Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) interns, for example, consists of 30 Black female graduates out of a total of 40 interns.

We could not have achieved this without the support of those companies who have partnered with us over the years in providing both sponsorship as well as employment opportunities for young people, especially young women. We follow their career progress with interest and celebrate their achievements and career growth.

Not only do our partnerships with industry support socio-economic rights and gender equality but the ASISA Academy's Work Readiness courses also empower young women and men starting out their careers, with top quality "World of Work" skills as well as mentor support.

In a country that faces stark realities of poverty, unemployment, gender inequality and gender-based violence, it is incumbent on us as an industry to show courage and determination to change the status quo like the 20 000 women in 1956. We must work collaboratively to ensure high-quality education, mentorship and dignified employment with career growth initiatives for women at all levels.

I would like to leave you with this powerful quote by Dr James E. Kwegyir-Aggrey: "When you educate a woman, you educate a nation."

## News from our graduate programmes

### ASISA Academy IMACS@TSiBA Internship

The generosity of a number of ASISA members has made it possible for us to enrol the 12th group of students from TSiBA, a Cape Town-based not-for-profit higher education institution, for the 2022/23 ASISA Academy IMACS@TSiBA Internship.

The relationship with TSiBA was formed in 2011 and is the ASISA Academy's longest standing university partnership. Together, we identify TSiBA students who have what it takes to build a career in the savings and investment industry and develop them through the IMACS@TSiBA Internship. 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 are excited that 10 students in the second year of their TSiBA Bachelor in Business Administration degree (Finance) started their learning journey with us on Friday, 29 July. These students are sponsored by M&G Investments, Taquanta Asset Managers, Prescient, Coronation Fund Managers, Intembeko Investment Administrators, Allan Gray, Citadel Investment Services and PSG.



*2022/23 ASISA Academy IMACS@TSiBA Internship 12th cohort.*

We would also like to congratulate the seven TSiBA students from the 2021/22 group who passed their third-year courses in June this year and who have started their four-month internships with their respective sponsors: M&G Investments, Prudential, Sanlam Investments, Allan Gray, Prescient, Taquanta Asset Managers and Futuregrowth Asset Management.

## ASISA Academy IFA Internship

The [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#) is the ASISA Academy's second graduate programme, also funded by a number of ASISA members. Launched in 2016, the IFA Internship provides young Black graduates interested in pursuing a career in financial planning with the opportunity to intern with established IFA practices for 12 months.

The anchor sponsors of this internship are Allan Gray, Coronation Fund Managers, M&G Investments and Ninety One. In addition, Perpetua Investment Managers and Camissa Asset Management, recently came on board as new sponsors. This presented us with the opportunity of being able to significantly scale the IFA Internship.

We already have more than 40 IFA practices requesting at least 55 interns, which means that next year's IFA Internship will be our biggest yet.

We currently have 40 graduates enrolled in our seventh IFA Internship working at host practices in Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London, Johannesburg and Gqeberha. We recently received the progress update below from RFAAdvice, a Cape Town-based practice that has hosted interns since 2018. This year, RFAAdvice is hosting Inge Wagenaar and Miche September.

*"Miche has done very well for this quarter and won consultant of the quarter on 1 July. Her prize is to travel with one of the advisers to an investment event. Her productivity was 128% overall and we are very pleased with her progress. She received exceptional compliments from clients, and she always goes the extra mile."*

*"We are extremely proud of Inge and the role she is fulfilling. She goes the extra mile as well for her clients and acts immediately on a pressing case once delegated to her. We are tapping into Inge's law knowledge and skills by having her assist with quality assurance doing major compliance checks."*

*"Both interns are extremely hardworking and can handle major pressure. They are team players and always happy to assist where they can."*



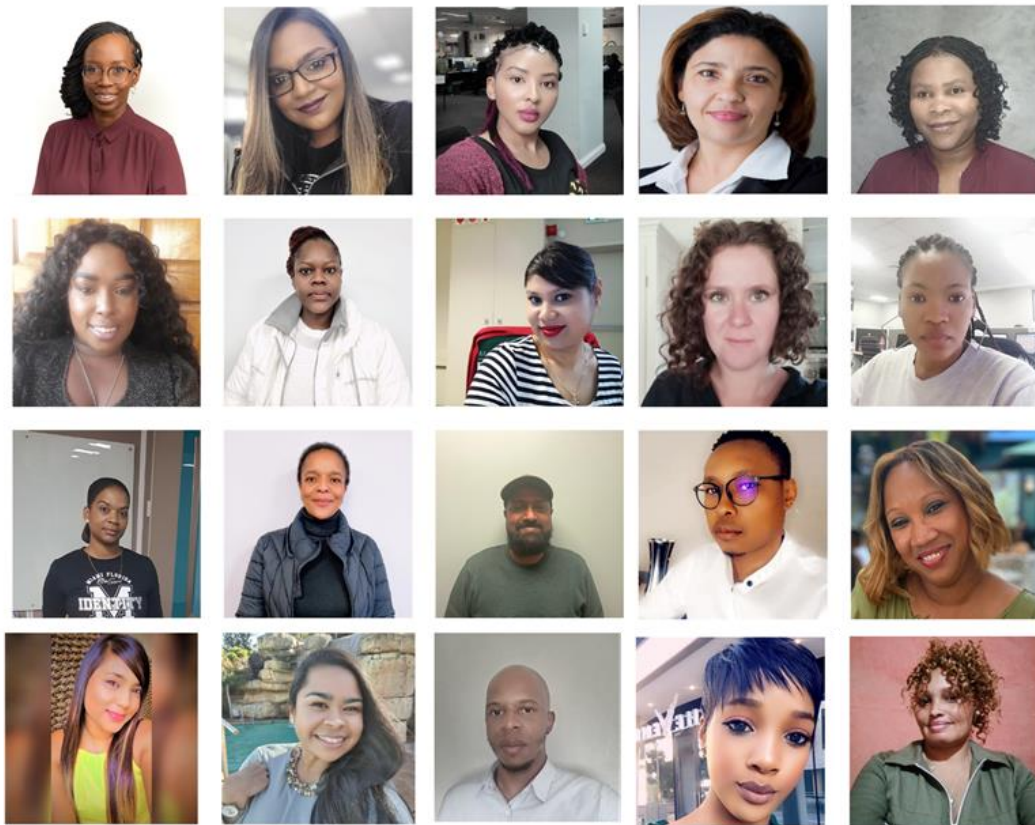
*IFA interns, Inge Wagenaar (left) and Miche September (right) who are currently interning at RFAAdvice.*

## UCT Life Insurance Claims Assessors Short Course

Our popular [UCT Life Insurance Claims Assessors Short Course](#) kicked off on 11 July 2022 with 19 delegates from various life insurance companies attending. This academically rigorous course, endorsed by the University of Cape Town (UCT), is being delivered as a hybrid course over the next four months. Once the course concludes in October, delegates write their final exam which is externally moderated by UCT.

This course was once again oversubscribed for 2022 and we are therefore considering offering it twice next year: as an online course in the first half of 2023 and as a face-to-face course from July to October 2023 in either Cape Town or Johannesburg, depending on where the demand is greater. Delegates who could not be accommodated in this year's course will be given first option to participate in next year's courses.

This course is recognised for CPD points by the Insurance Institute of South Africa (IISA) and points can be earned both by delegates who pass their exams and industry professionals registered with the IISA, who present on this course.



2022 UCT Life Insurance Claims Assessors Short Course delegates, pictured above with Programme Champion, Phumla Motsa (top left).

## Retirement Fund Trustee Education

In July, we presented 15 [Retirement Fund Trustee Education](#) (RFTE) workshops to 171 trustees and principal officers. In addition to the seven public workshops and the one workshop for members of the Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA), we also delivered seven bespoke workshops for the following retirement funds:

- Municipal Employees Union (MEU) Retirement Fund - 2 workshops
- PRASA Pension Fund – 3 workshops
- Engen Pension Fund - 1 workshop
- CPUT Retirement Fund – 1 workshop

## Other courses presented in July

- The following online Investment Sprints were presented to graduate employees from PPS:
  - Introduction to the SA savings and investment sector
  - Investment products and structures
  - Fundamentals of retirement funds and life insurance
  - Trade cycle
  - Investment performance overview
  - Investment management fees and costs in the context of retirement funds
- Three online Work Readiness Sprints were presented to graduate interns from Citadel.



*Graduate interns from Citadel who attended a bespoke Work Readiness Course presented as a set of 2-hour Sprints, pictured above with presenter Phumla Motsa (top left) who is one of the ASISA Academy's most popular Work Readiness presenters.*

## Upcoming learning opportunities

The following upcoming courses can still accommodate delegates:

### 1. Retirement Fund Trustee Education (RFTE)

- Fund Annual Financial Statement Analysis – 10 August 2022
- Beneficiary Fund, Trust and Guardian's Fund – 12 August 2022
- Responsible Investing - 25 & 26 August 2022

### 2. Investment Sprints

The full line-up of our live online two-hour Investment Sprint workshops for August and September can be found [here](#). Two of our most popular Sprints are scheduled for the end of August, but are filling up fast:

- The investments governance landscape - 25 August 2022
- Investment management ethics - 26 August 2022

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

## Learn with us

The ASISA Academy is recognised as a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor (more than 75% of the Academy's beneficiaries are 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