



ASISA Academy Newsflash – November 2021

Dear Stakeholder

With 2021 drawing to a close, four of our 36 interns participating in the 2021/22 [ASISA Academy Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#) have already been informed by their host practices that permanent employment awaits them when their internships conclude at the end of February 2022. While interns have 12 months in which to learn and impress their host IFA practices, these four young ladies convinced their host practices in less than nine months that they have what it takes to pursue a career in financial planning.



From the left: Shanell Domike (Veritas Wealth Management) also passed her RE5 exam in October, Nonkosi Maseti (RF Advice) also passed her RE5 exam in October. Palesa Mareletse (Ascent Wealth Management), Cherozaan Jetha (Olemera), Shanell Domike with her managers from Veritas Wealth Management.

We would like to encourage our other IFA interns to use the next three months to work hard and to show their host practices that they are worth investing in for the long-term. One way of showing your commitment is by passing the RE5 exams. We are very proud of the following interns who achieved this in November.



From the left: Lebohang Ramasela (Global & Local Investment advisors), Sagwati Sambo (Absolut Wealth Management), Nokwanda Msimang (Stonehage Fleming) and Khwezi Makubalo (MapheQ Financial Solutions)

The RE5 exams test candidates' knowledge of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services (FAIS) Act and the Financial Intelligence Centre Act (FICA).

ASISA Academy internship alumni event

A highlight on our calendar each year is the ASISA Academy internship alumni event. This is an opportunity to celebrate the successes of our alumni, while at the same time inspiring and encouraging our current interns. In previous years this event was hosted in Cape Town and Johannesburg, but due to COVID-19 we had to settle for a virtual format once again.

Our second online alumni event was held via Zoom on Thursday, 25 November 2021. We were privileged to have Grant Cloete as our guest speaker. He shared his life insights from what he has learned in the industry including his past experiences as former CEO of Afena Capital and more recently as founder of impact investment firm, Grand Canid. In addition, alumni shared inspiring testimonies of highlights as well as challenges that they overcame during their first few years of work.

We also celebrated with Matthew Beelders, who completed the IFA internship in 2017 and recently achieved his CFA level 1 certificate. Matthew, who currently works at Core Wealth as an investment analyst, shared his journey toward becoming a CFA Charterholder. He urged those who want to pursue the CFA to "adopt a positive attitude, start early and don't underestimate the amount of time that needs to be committed, be willing to make sacrifices and develop a passion for what you are learning."

The alumni event was attended by current interns and some of the young professionals who have come through our three [internships](#):

- [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#)
- [IMACS@TSiBA Internship](#)
- [Investment Management Work Ready \(I'M Work Ready\) Internship](#)

Now enrolling: Financial Markets Practitioner Learnership

Our very first learnership, the [Financial Markets Practitioner Learnership](#), kicks off on 8 March 2022. The academic component of the learnership will be delivered via weekly 3-hour online classroom sessions until February 2023 with the final external exam written in March 2023. The blend of classroom sessions spaced over a year of full-time work enables delegates to integrate their new knowledge with practical workplace experiences.

The learnership is based on the revised Occupational Certificate: Financial Markets Practitioner (NQF ID 117238), which is the first NQF Level 7 occupational qualification and learnership specifically designed for the investment management industry. This qualification complies with the Financial Sector Code (FSC) criteria set out in category D on the Learning Programme Matrix for scoring skills development points.

The Financial Markets Practitioner Learnership is open for enrolments. Please [click here](#) to enrol or email learn@asisaacademy.org.za for more information.

Introducing a new work readiness internship

The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) was piloted in 2017 and implemented in 2018 with the aim of funding the tuition costs of "missing middle" students who do not qualify for financial support from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). Funding is provided to qualifying students interested in pursuing specific careers including medical doctors, nurses, actuaries, engineers and chartered accountants. ASISA was instrumental in designing the funding model and student support solution.

ISFAP approached the ASISA Academy to assist ISFAP graduates with a range of degrees obtained from various universities around the country who have been battling to find employment. We proposed a solution in the form of a 12-month work readiness internship at an ASISA member company.

Employers who wish to participate in this initiative can contact [Alicia Davids](#).

The following courses were presented in November

- The final [UCT CIS Short Course](#) for the year was attended by 16 delegates from various ASISA member companies.
- The [UCT Life Insurance Claims Assessors' Short Course](#) concluded with the 14 delegates writing their final exam on Monday, 15 November 2021.
- We presented 14 [Retirement Fund Trustee Education \(RFTE\)](#) workshops, attended by 113 trustees and principal officers.



The graphic features the ASISA Academy logo on the left, which includes a tree icon and the text 'ASISA ACADEMY'. To the right of the logo, the text 'LEARNING CALENDAR 2022' is displayed in a large, bold, dark purple font. On the far right, there is a circular photograph of a diverse group of people, likely students or staff, standing together outdoors. The background of the graphic is split into orange on the left and red on the right.

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](#).

In closing

I would like to thank the ASISA Academy team for once again taking us to new learning heights in 2021 by embracing challenging teaching conditions and finding the opportunities in this new normal forced upon us by the pandemic.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the ASISA members and the many other stakeholders that support our programmes. With your support more than 2 200 delegates have journeyed the learning path with us in 2021.

The content of our programmes, which are subjected to rigorous academic quality checks, are designed and taught by senior industry experts who do not charge for their services. This creates a unique and highly effective learning environment and the opportunity to interact with industry leaders. We would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions made by these individuals who selflessly volunteer their time to assist the ASISA Academy in creating more opportunities for talented graduates.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the guidance and encouragement received from the ASISA Academy Board of Directors. Your steadfast support is appreciated beyond measure.

Best wishes
Alicia Davids

ASISA Academy CEO