



ASISA Academy Newsflash – May 2022

Dear Stakeholder

One Saturday in May, out of the blue, I received a message via LinkedIn, which started as follows: "Good morning Alicia. This is an appreciation message to you and the team. I am honoured to have been part of the ASISA Academy. So many doors are available to me to better my career and when I reflect, ASISA has had a major role to play in making this happen."

The young man who sent the message reminded me that he had graduated in 2019 from TSiBA Education with a Bachelor in Business Administration following a successful ASISA Academy [IMACS@TSiBA Internship](#). He later applied and was selected for the ASISA Academy [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#). He is now employed as a senior fund administrator working for an ASISA member company.

He wanted to share with me the impact of the ASISA Academy and how we are "changing the game" for black graduates aspiring for a career in the savings and investment industry by bridging the divide between university theory and workplace reality and facilitating access to internships and learnerships.

This was a stark reminder that behind our impact numbers are individuals whose lives have been placed on a path of hope and opportunity by ASISA members who choose to make funding available and the companies that offer internship opportunities to students who might otherwise be deprived of a solid start to their careers.

Another heart-warming story involves 26-year-old Tawfeeq Adams, a TSiBA Education graduate with a Bachelor in Business Administration who is currently completing a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration, also with TSiBA. [He had his heart set on enrolling in the ASISA Academy Equity Analyst Short Course](#), aimed at new investment analysts within investment management firms or stockbrokers, but could not afford the course fee.

Aeon Investment Management put their hand up and offered to sponsor him. As a result, Tawfeeq completed the course in May and now holds an ASISA Academy Equity Analyst Short Course certificate.



Tawfeeq Adams who attended the May ASISA Academy Equity Analyst Short Course.

News from our graduate programmes

Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) Internship

In April we shared with you that additional funding had become available for a second group of graduates to join the ASISA Academy [IFA Internship](#) for 2022/23. This brings to 40 the number of graduates participating in our seventh ASISA Academy IFA Internship, our highest number of interns since the start of the internship in 2016.

The six interns who are part of the second tranche of the IFA internship completed the work-readiness programme in May and have started interning at their host IFA practices in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

All IFA interns are expected to pass the RE5 examinations during their internships. These exams test candidates' knowledge of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services (FAIS) Act and the Financial Intelligence Centre Act (FICA).

To help prepare our IFA interns for the RE5 exams, our IFA programme champion and mentor based in KwaZulu-Natal, Sumayya Lambey, offered exam preparation workshops over two Saturday mornings during May via Zoom. We are very proud of the three interns who attended these training sessions and passed their RE5 exams with flying colours.

The RE5 certificate, together with the experience gained on the ASISA Academy's IFA Internship, provides 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.

I would also like to thank the [Women in Finance Network](#) for sponsoring six of our female interns to attend one of their recent networking events. Sponsored by Allan Gray, Old Mutual Wealth and Chartered Wealth Solutions, the Women in Finance Network was created as a support network for women in the financial services industry.



Six IFA interns who attended the Women in Finance Network event.
From top left: Zizipho Dweba, Miche September and Inge-Chante Wagenaar
From bottom left: Gail Mokwatto, Sisipho Peter and Wami Anele Luthuli

IMACS@TSiBA

While our **IMACS@TSiBA** students will be writing their final examinations in June, we are getting ready for the intake of our 13th group of interns. We have received 23 applications for the nine internships on offer. Sponsoring companies will be conducting interviews and selecting their candidates during June.



ASISA's CEO, Busisa Jiya (seated right) and Co-CEO, Leon Campher, (centre) engaging with the IMACS@TSiBA students in their final mentoring session which was facilitated by Karen Wilson of the National Mentoring Movement and Velly Masuku (an Alumnus of the programme and now Operations Manager at Curo Fund Administrators) seated behind Leon Campher.

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.

The IMACS@TSiBA internship aligns with category B on the learning programme matrix as the mixed approach of academic learning and workplace learning culminates in a degree issued by TSiBA Education, an accredited private higher education institution, registered with the Department of Higher Education and the Council for Higher Education.

B	Institution – based theoretical instruction, as well as some practical learning with an employer of in a simulated work environment – formally assessed through the institution	Mixed-mode delivery with institutional instruction as well as supervised learning in an appropriate workplace or simulated work environment	Institutions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Universities▪ Colleges▪ Schools▪ ABET providers and the workplace	Theoretical knowledge and workplace experience with set requirements resulting in the achievement of a degree, diploma or certificate issued by an accredited or registered formal institution of learning
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Retirement Fund Trustee Education (RFTE)

In May, some 100 trustees and principal officers attended nine [RFTE](#) workshops. Our inaugural [Masterclass in Death Benefits & Section 37C](#) was presented to members of the Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA). In addition, two public workshops were held while bespoke workshops were delivered to the following retirement funds:

- Petro SA – Responsible Investing
- Tshwane Municipal Pension Fund – Responsible Investing
- KZN Joint Municipal Pension Fund – Trustee Governance and Ethics

ASISA Academy Industry Short Courses

UCT Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) Short Course

The [UCT CIS Short Course](#) was delivered online over nine mornings in May. It was great to see a number of familiar faces on this course since most of the delegates were graduate interns with AlexForbes, who had attended the ASISA Academy work readiness course in January.

Equity Analyst Short Course

The [Equity Analyst Short Course](#) was delivered over 10 mornings to delegates employed by a number of ASISA member companies.

Equity Analyst Short Courses are presented as live online sessions by Francois Toerien, an associate professor in finance in the Department of Tax and Finance at the University of Cape Town. Before joining the world of academics, Francois worked as an equity analyst for Allan Gray.

The course has also been run very successfully in-house, tailored to meet a company's specific needs. To explore this in-house option, please [email](#) us.

Bespoke courses presented in May

- Digiata: two inhouse Investment Management Business Overview Blitzcamp
- Prescient: inhouse [Investment Sprints](#) for graduate employees on the following topics:
 - o Introduction to the SA savings and investment sector
 - o Investment management ethics
 - o The investments governance landscape
 - o Investment products and structures
 - o Investment management business overview

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