TAKING A LEAP OF FAITH AND LOVING IT

How a last-minute application and taking a chance on something set this UCT graduate on a path into the investment industry.

In her final year at the University of Cape Town, Thandeka Moyo was studying business science, majoring in finance and accounting – and feeling unsettled by the plan she'd mapped out for herself.

"There was always a plan," she says. "In my fourth year, I was doing honours in finance as well as my third year in accounting, and I thought the next year I could do my PGDA, my articles, and take that chartered accounting path," she says. The trouble was, accounting had never really challenged her. "There was just always that nagging feeling," she admits.

The nudge came in 2023, at a Women's Day conference hosted by Perpetua, where investment professionals spoke to university students from across Cape Town. Towards the end of the day, someone in the first year of the ASISA Academy's Fezeka graduate programme took the stage.

Thandeka Moyo – Investment Research Analyst at RisCura.

Thandeka already knew Fezeka existed – it had been marketed on UCT's careers portal – but she had talked herself out of applying. "I was very hesitant," she says. "I didn't see myself as an equity analyst. I was doubting myself a little bit."

Then came the line that changed her mind. The speaker said, "Don't worry about anything. Just apply and see what happens." Applications closed two days later. Thandeka applied the very next day.

On the programme, the lesson that stuck hardest wasn't technical. "Intentionality matters," she says. "Showing up matters, because that is how you grow in your career. People are always watching you, even if it doesn't seem like they are."

That same intentionality has carried into her studies. Thandeka has passed Level 1 of the Chartered Financial Analyst qualification and is determined to continue to Levels 2 and 3.

She is honest that committing fully wasn't easy – Level 1 asked more of her, mentally, than she expected – but something shifted once she stopped studying to please other people. "You need to want something for yourself," she says, "and not try to let others want things for you." Once she did, the qualification stopped feeling like an obligation. "This is actually such a great qualification – at the end of the day, I'll come out a better investment professional."

And that's where she finds herself today – working as an Investment Research Analyst at RisCura.

Asked what she'd say to students weighing up whether to apply, Thandeka doesn't hesitate. She would repeat the words that persuaded her: your marks don't need to be perfect, and neither does your confidence. “The industry can be an intimidating space, especially for women of colour,” she says. “It doesn't matter – you are in safe hands.”

Her other piece of advice is for students still deciding on a direction: talk to people already working in the industry before you rule anything out. “If I could go back to my third-year self, I’d say: go and talk to investment professionals, people in banking, people in investments – actually find out the experience,” she says.

Thandeka is candid that she still doesn’t have all the answers, but her message for anyone still finding their footing is simple: “It’s never too late to start.”