HOW TARRYN JULIES TURNED A TOUGH BURSARY DECISION INTO SIX YEARS AT PRESCIENT

How this IMACS@TSIBA alumna swapped one opportunity for another – and never looked back.

Tarryn Julies didn't set out to work in investment administration. At high school, introverted and already mapping out her future, she had settled on business studies and possibly a future MBA as the plan. It was only once she reached TSIBA Business School, studying towards her Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree in Finance and Investments, that a far wider range of corporate careers came into view.

In her second year, TSIBA introduced students to the Investment Management Administration & Client Servicing (IMACS) course for the first time – a limited opportunity, with only a small cohort, each one sponsored by a different investment manager. Taking it meant giving something up: Julies held a first-year bursary with the Lewis Group, and realised she couldn't keep it and pursue the course through a different sponsor at the same time. She let the bursary go – and was then selected as one of the students sponsored by Prescient.

"The course was a nice foundation for how the industry works," she says. "It gave me a good overview of how each part of the business fits into the next." That grounding has proved particularly useful at Prescient Fund Services, she adds, since the company isn't only a fund administrator – it's a third-party administrator for other investment managers too. The Prescient Group also has an investment management arm.



Tarryn Julies, Fund Accountant at Prescient Fund Services

Her internship began in one of the strangest years to start a new job: 2020, in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, when most of Prescient Group's staff were working from home and only a skeleton team came into the office. Julies was one of them.

She joined the transfer agency team, working directly with investors – processing unit trust transactions from the investor-facing side of the business – and was trained into the role by someone who was, at the same time, moving on to a position of their own.

The internship ran for three to four months before Julies moved into a permanent position at Prescient Fund Services, where she has remained ever since. She has moved on from transfer agency work into her current role as a Fund Accountant, however, but she says candidly that transfer agency was never where she wanted to build a long-term career.

Looking back, Julies describes the IMACS course as "a step in the right direction" – not because it handed her a finished career plan, but because "it put me in the right rooms". That, she says, has made all the difference. "Before you really experience the industry, there are so many other roles in corporate that you never knew existed – operations, leadership, accounting, business. I've grown a lot, and realised I'm only limited by what I limit myself to."

For Julies, swapping one opportunity for another – a bursary for a seat on the IMACS course – was the first of several decisions that opened doors she didn't know existed. Six years into her career at Prescient Fund Services, she has no regrets.