



ASISA Academy Newsflash – February 2023

Dear Stakeholder

In mathematics, the number 13 is special. Not only is it a prime number made up of the first two odd numbers, one and three, but it is also a Wilson prime. Named after mathematician John Wilson, there are only three known Wilson primes: five, 13 and 563.

For the ASISA Academy, however, number 13 is extra special this year because we get to welcome the 13th intake of TSiBA Business School students to the [IMACS@TSiBA Internship](mailto:IMACS@TSiBA) in July 2023. This internship is our longest-standing [graduate programme](#).

Currently, we have seven companies signed up to fund nine TSiBA students, but we would like to reach (or even surpass) at least the magical number 13. We urge ASISA members willing to sponsor a student to sign up [here](#) by the latest Wednesday, 15 March 2023. Sponsorship requires a financial commitment of R55 570 (excl. VAT) and hosting the student for a 16-week internship from July to November 2024. This programme forms part of TSiBA's Bachelor in Business Administration degree and aligns with categories B & D on the Learning Programme Matrix.

The relationship with TSiBA, a Cape Town-based not-for-profit higher education institution, was formed in 2011 and is the ASISA Academy's longest university partnership. Together, we identify and develop talented and ambitious students in their second year of study who want to build careers in the savings and investment industry.

Designed by our industry and delivered by expert practitioners, the IMACS@TSiBA Internship creates a pipeline of work-ready graduates with a practical understanding of the investment administration environment and its systems.

Since inception in 2011, 133 students have enrolled in the programme. Around 75% of the graduates have been permanently employed by ASISA member companies following their internships.

OTHER GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

IFA Internship

Our eighth ASISA Academy [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#) kicked off in the middle of February with 32 interns participating in two-week work readiness courses in Cape Town and Johannesburg. The interns, mostly BCom Financial Planning graduates from around the country, joined their host practices on 1 March 2023 in Cape Town, Durban, East London, Gqeberha and Johannesburg.



The 2023/24 IFA interns who attended the work readiness courses in Johannesburg (top) and Cape Town (bottom).

The 2022/23 IFA Internship drew to a close at the end of February, with 35 interns completing the programme. This brings the total number of graduates entering the independent financial advice space via the IFA Internship to 253 since the programme's inception.

Fezeka Graduate Programme

This new industry collaboration aimed at helping the South African asset management industry improve the representation of Black women on investment teams got underway on Monday, 6 February, with an orientation week hosted by Joint Prosperity.

The eight participating Black female graduates also met their managers and mentors during this week. The mentors are senior women in the asset management industry who are happy to volunteer their time to guide these young women and also share their experiences.

The graduates started their first work rotation on Monday, 13 February. Hopefully, this number will be etched into their memories as the launch date for successful and rewarding careers in the asset management industry. Over the next 15 months, the graduates will work at various host companies, receiving competitive remuneration while at the same time participating in the ASISA Academy's [Financial Markets Practitioner \(FMP\) Learnership](#).

The FMP Learnership is a Fasset-registered NQF Level 7 learnership, meaning that the Fezeka programme's lead employers must be Fasset registered. We thank the following asset managers for signing up as lead employers on the 2023/24 Fezeka programme: Anchor Securities, Counterpoint Asset Management, Granate Asset Management, and Terebinth Capital.



The eight female graduates who are participating in the Fezeka Graduate Programme.

COURSES PRESENTED IN FEBRUARY

- We presented a total of 14 [Retirement Fund Trustee Education \(RFTE\)](#) workshops to 125 trustees and principal officers. All workshops were funded by the ASISA Foundation.
- A bespoke Investment Induction course was presented to Sanlam Investments.
- Digiata employees attended a bespoke online Financial Services Overview Blitzcamp and an Investment Management Business Overview Blitzcamp.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- On Thursday, 2 March, we kicked off our inaugural ASISA Academy [Compliance Masterclass](#), developed for experienced compliance professionals interested in sharpening their skills. The programme comprises seven engaging three-hour online masterclasses for senior compliance professionals. Each masterclass runs independently of the other, so feel free to sign up [here](#) for the remaining masterclasses.
 - The following [RFTE workshops](#) are lined up for March:
 - Fund Annual Financial Statement Analysis – 6 March 2023
 - Private Equity – 10 March 2023
 - CRISA 2 – 16 March 2023
 - Responsible Investing – 23 & 24 March 2023

For a complete overview of learning opportunities lined up for 2023, please visit the [ASISA Academy Learning Calendar](#).

LEARN WITH US IN 2023

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 employers can claim 135% of their skills development spend with the ASISA Academy. Please [get in touch](#) with us to discuss how we can support your skills development requirements.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information on our many learning opportunities. We also invite you to interact with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Best wishes
Alicia Davids

ASISA Academy CEO