

Volume 1, Issue 4

24 April 2020

Academic Newsletter

Online Learning—A New Approach

Dates to look out for:

 Academic Program Recommencing — 4 May 2020*

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The novel coronavirus has completely changed our world. With it forcing us to put most of our lives on hold, and stay home, going to campus is no longer an option, for the time being.

That creates a problem. How do we continue learning without going to campus? Thankfully, the internet is here to save the day.

The University of Pretoria has adopted a fully online learning approach. Lecturers will be uploading slides and videos, in the place of our usual contact lectures.

Lecturers will also be using features such as Black-board Collaborate to host interactive classes with students.

Of course, our country faces very unique socio-

economic challenges. With that in mind the University has done a few things to ensure no student is left behind with this forced switch to online learning.



Firstly, students who are in financial need will soon receive internet enabled devices, which will allow them to access academic content, when the academic program resumes on May 4 2020.

Secondly, students will be able to access a zero-rated UP portal, UP Connect. Students who use MTN, Vodacom, Cell C and Telkom will be able to access the UP website, Clickup, Library services, Library Search, Library Guides as well as their Tuks Gmail accounts for free, with no data being used. Access the site by typing https://connect.up.ac.za into your device's internet browser, and choose which service you need to access.

This is a huge step forward, and will allow all students to remain on track to proceed with the 2020 academic program.

Follow us on our Social Media!!





@house_ca



HouseCAUP



houseca10@gmail.com



https://www.up.ac.za/house-ca



EMS 2.88

(next to Accounting One Stop)

Academic Newsletter Page 2

Articles in Banking — What you need to know

Traditionally, when students consider a training contract, or articles, an auditing and professional services firm is usually what comes to mind. In the past, the more popular route was to complete ones training contract by securing a place at the "Big 4" audit firms, Deloitte, PwC, EY or KPMG. But is that the only option? Banks have become a more popular route to complete ones articles, with the largest banks offering some of the most exclusive CA programs in the country. House CA interviewed two UP Accounting Sciences Alumni, Thato and Buhle, who are currently doing their articles at FirstRand, the largest banking and financial services company in Africa.



FIRSTRAND

Interviewee 1:

Name: Thato Moloi

Study: Bcom Accounting at the University of Pretoria Year: Graduated 2017 and Academic Trainee 2018

<u>Question:</u> What is the difference between working in a bank versus an accounting firm?

Answer: In South Africa, you can either do your articles through the TIPP (Training In Public Practice) which is the traditional accounting/audit firm route or you can do training through the TOPP (Training Outside Public Practice) route which will include training at banks, SARS, consulting firms and other commerce and industry companies. Working in a bank is industry driven and the scope of the work will be driven by the environment in which you work. As a bare minimum the scope of work covered in a banking CA program will involve:

Assisting in the compilation of financial statements and other equivalent financial reports.

Assisting in the compilation of regulatory reports to South African Reserve bank.

Assisting in the compilation of budgets and forecasting of various business units.

Assisting in other strategic projects such as assisting in the implementation of new accounting standards, strategic reviews of business units, performing industry research on new potential clients.

Assisting the internal audit function and risk functions of the bank in order to ensure that the risks of the bank are suitably

identified, ranked and mitigated. In addition, the internal audit function will regularly perform independent reviews of the various business units within the bank.

Filling tax returns to SARS and drafting tax opinions on group restructures, cross-border transactions, preference share transactions/equity transactions, leveraged buyout transactions etc.

Working as a credit analyst in which you manage a portfolio of clients by performing annual reviews, performing financial statement analyses and monitoring covenants. In addition, credit analysts will present credit papers to various credit committees in the bank.

Working as a deal maker (transactor) in the various front office (deal-making) teams in the bank. A deal-maker will typical perform industry and company analyses, financial modelling, pitching to clients, structuring transactions and identifying new clients.



Question: What are the advantages of working in finance, and a typical day in the life of a Chartered Accountant in finance?

Answer: In addition, to the core competencies covered in the banking environment (as mentioned above), working in finance provides a trainee with the platform to harness their professional skills such as communicating effectively, being a key partner in delivering significant projects for the bank, been given huge responsibilities at a relatively early stage in one's career and adopting an owner-manager mindset (i.e. taking responsibility for one's own career). A trainee in finance will also be exposed to a good overview of the financial services sector which will enable a trainee to work in any function of the financial services sector which includes insurance, transacting, lending, asset management amongst others. In addition, due to the small number of trainees that are recruited in finance related training programmes, an individu-

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al will be exposed to leading corporate social initiatives, recruitment initiatives for the programme, running vac-work programmes and leading social activities for trainees.

A typical day in the life of a CA finance will typically depend on the function that CA operates in and will typically cover any of the activities identified above. In addition, the finance sector is dynamic and the work required on each day will also depend on stakeholder demands, client engagements and the economic cycle that the CA operates in.

A little bit of background information to the FirstRand CA training program;

FirstRand's CA(SA) training programme started in 1998 with one trainee and was initially designed to assist existing employees in qualifying as CA(SA)'s. To date more than 100 CA (SA)'s have qualified with FirstRand, many of whom have gone on to have highly successful careers inside and outside of the FirstRand group. FirstRand looks for well-rounded individuals that seek an innovative owner-manager culture, and while great academic results will always be important, leadership qualities, other interests and achievements are also considered.

Interviewee 2:



Name: Buhle Tshasilanye

Study: Bcom Accounting at the University of Pretoria

Year: Graduated 2018

Question: What is the difference between working in a bank versus an accounting firm?

Answer: Working in a bank differs in the sense that Part C of the Code of Professional Conduct is applicable, therefore you work as CA in business. A CA in business is more involved in the business in various aspects. A simple way to break down the roles in finance is by categorizing them into back office, middle office and front office.

Back office provides a supporting finance function to busi-

ness through monthly reporting, preparation of financial statements and providing accounting considerations to business regarding potential transactions and products. Front office has a more client facing role as they are responsible for bringing new business to the bank. Middle office maintains sight of all the risks the entity is exposed to and ensures that risks taken are tolerable and within the agreed risk limits.

It is important to highlight that banking is an aspect of financial services as the offering of financial services is much wider than banking therefore the exposure is also quite wide. There is also a great exposure to various industries and sectors because financial services are a function of the economy.

<u>Question:</u> What are the advantages of working in finance, and a typical day in the life of a Chartered Accountant in finance?

Answer: Working in finance is advantageous as the various teams are smaller and allow for focused and accelerated career development and growth which is important if you consider that you career will span over decades therefore that individualised attention to your development is key. The team dynamics, skill and knowledge sharing across business units within the finance industry also exposes you to the strategic considerations involved in the decision making that will later filter into the content of the financial statements. It is a great space to be in if you have an entrepreneurial spirit and want to attain professional, strategic and personal skills to run your own company.

A typical day in the life of a CA in finance is difficult to answer as no day is the same as the other and it depends where you are in finance. The finance space is very dynamic and requires you to be open to it. It challenges you in the most rewarding way. Your expertise and opinions are also valued and it is important to be in an environment that recognises the efforts of the employees.

My favourite part of my days in finance are the meetings I get invited to where strategic discussions are had - to have insights to such conversations in a room full of people with a wealth of knowledge and experience is something I value immensely.

FirstRand Bank Limited — Opportunities for Students

Talented individuals who love challenges, are motivated to add value and have innovative ideas will always find a home at FirstRand.

FirstRand is a leading African financial services business with brands well known for their entrepreneurship and innovation: FNB, RMB, WesBank and Ashburton Investments. Each of the brands is united by a shared philosophy and a unique owner manager culture that empowers and mandates teams to make a serious impact in the financial services field – and on the world.

We select exceptional students for our unique programme that gives them hands on, on the job experience in all aspects of banking, investments, finance and financial services: A 4-in-1 experience for exposure, experience, skills and knowledge.



CA Training Programme

Self-starters who appreciate substance over form and take pride in going beyond expectations and pushing the limits of personal potential – take note.

You've heard all the spin... you've heard what is expected of you. But for some, just going with the flow is just not good enough. How about a diverse and comprehensive programme that gives you wide exposure, experience, contacts and dedicated training in all SAICA specified competencies (with specific focus on Financial Management, Tax and Management Decision Making).

Submission Requirements: Applicants are required to attach a Motivation letter, CV and Academic Transcript.

Our website details: www.my4in1.com

CA Bursary: We offer bursaries to students from final year to Honours in BCom Accountancy, BusSci Accounting, CTA & PDGA programme. Applications are opened throughout the year





Monetary Stimulus and the effect of Repo Rate cuts.

On Friday the 17th of April we discussed the two options of increasing monetary flow through monetary policy. These options include Quantitative Easing or Reducing the Repurchase Rate (Repo rate) of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB). This discussion was sparked by the recent further repo rate cut of 100bps after significant economic contraction was projected by the SARB.



Ep 1: Private Equity in South Africa with Thomas Prins





By Joshua Prins

Technical Explanations:

Monetary Stimulus: Process of increasing monetary flow in the economy by boosting borrowings to stimulate economic activity and improve economic growth. It is also used as a countermeasure to economic contraction.

Quantitative easing: The process of the SARB printing money and buying government bonds from the secondary market (like the JSE) with the printed money, and thereby injecting money into the economy to increase monetary flow.

Repo Cut: The reduction in the repurchase rate that results in a reduced borrowing rate for the economic participants. It is done with the goal to increase borrowings, which would, as a result of the multiplier effect of debt, inject more money into the economy.

Consensus

The suggestion Quantitative Easing (QE) is the last resort of monetary stimulus. The South African Rand is flimsy as it is and the introduction of QE would severely deteriorate the standing of the Rand in the foreign exchange market which could result in a severe

devaluation of the Rand and into hyper-inflation. This could be extremely detrimental to the large poor population of South Africa. If the SARB gets to the last resort po protect the consumer from hyperinflation, price regulation would need to be introduced which could further demotivate foreign direct investment.

The consensus, therefore, is that economic stimulus should only be done through the use of interest rate cuts. When the repo rate is cut, it reduces the prime lending rate, which is the rate that the general public borrow at. The rate cut would also reduce the rate that corporate companies borrow at, namely Jibar. The expected result from a rate cut is the increase in borrowing activity which would facilitate the multiplier effect of debt to introduce money in the market.

The multiplier effect could be explained through the following example:

Depositor A deposits R100 in Bank A. Bank A then takes the R100 and borrows R90 of it to Depositor B, who invests the R90 into a fixed deposit in Bank B. Bank B then takes the R90 and borrows out R81 of the fixed deposit to Depositor C, and so forth. Now from the initial R100 deposit, R271 (R100 + R90 + R81) is employed in the market, i.e. the increase in monetary flow. Over time these monies get paid back when interest rates increase and borrowing activity decreases.

Therefore interest rate cuts could result in a quick injection of monetary flow into the market that reduces over time again, curbing the risk of hyperinflation.

The negatives of a rate cut include:

- 1. Immediate devaluation of the Rand, this is a result of foreign investors that often invest in Rand based debt as assets to receive interest as a return and come to emerging markets such as South Africa to receive higher interest rate, so naturally, when interest rates are cut, foreign investors sell their rand based investments and sell their Rand for their own local currency which creates an over-supply of the Rand in the foreign exchange markets and ultimately the devaluation of the Rand. Over the long term, the Rand would strengthen due to interest rate parity through arbitrage in the international borrowing market.
- 2. Reduction in return made by financial institutions such as Banks and Assets managers which could result in the reduction in the available financing to be employed in the market to assist companies in distress due to COVID-19.
- 3. A fall in financial asset prices on the JSE.

- 4. The increase in monetary flow due to borrowing activity could result in accelerated inflation.
- 5. There is a possibility that interest rates could move closer to the 0% mark which would mean money is borrowed for free, however, the risk of hyperinflation is very high in these circumstances.

Conclusion

Therefore repo rate cuts are the only option for the SARB to increase monetary flow in the market. It will take more than monetary policy to manage South Africa out of this dire economic environment; however, we have full confidence in Mr. Kganyago, the governor of the SARB, to implement sound monetary policy.

Back An Accounting Buddy

A fellow Accounting Sciences student, Kudzai Charangwa, who is currently completing his CTA, is requesting financial assistance. Due to the current economic situation in Zimbabwe, it has become difficult for his family to pay for his tuition.

Please visit the BackABuddy page, at https:// www.backabuddy.co.za/kudzai-charangwa, to find out more and to donate.

Any amount would be appreciated. A big thank you for your help.



The Hoodies — An Update

Thank you for ordering a CA hoodie.

Unfortunately with the Coronavirus outbreak, our supplier could not finish our hoodie order in time. With the uncertainty going forward, we do not know when the hoodies will be ready for collection. We will inform you when they are ready, hopefully in about 2 weeks from the end of the lock down.

Stay safe and thank you for your patience.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.





Lockdown Alert Levels

Following the address by President Ramaphosa on the 23rd of April, a new revised set of regulations have been announced.

Starting Friday, 1 May 2020, the country will adopt a dynamic lockdown system, which consists of 5 levels, with varying degrees of mobility and activity being allowed in each level. Level 5 is the hard lockdown which we have experienced, and we will move to level 4 from Friday, 1 May 2020. Each province, district and municipality will be able to adopt a different level, depending on various circumstances.

With that in mind, it is important to continue observing social distancing, and to wash your hands regularly. Wear a face mask when leaving home. For more info please go to www.stateofthenation.gov.za. Stay safe.



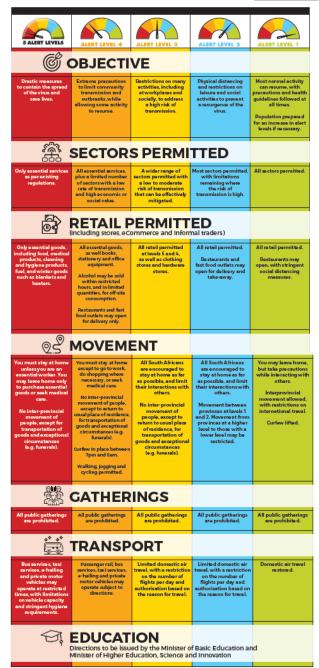








SUMMARY OF ALERT LEVELS



WHATSAPP SUPPORT 0600 123 456 EMERGENCY NUMBER 0800 029 999 Sacoronavirus co.za













Updated University of Pretoria Calendar

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S0004/19 nded April 2020)

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA Explanation of lecture days for 2020 (Amended April 2020)

Start 4 May 2020 (Complete Q1)

Semester 1: 03 February - 29 June

Quarter 1: 03 February – 8 May

Mo = 8*, Tu = 7, We = 7, Th = 7, Fr = 7 (36 lecture days) *Monday 4 May repeating Monday 16 March

11 May - 29 June

Mo = 8 Tu = 6, We = 7, Th = 7, Fr = 7 (35 lecture days)

29 June Tuesday timetable is followed Monday

Semester 2: 3 August – 13 November

3 August – 21 September Quarter 3:

Mo = 7 Tu = 7, We = 7, Th = 7, Fr = 7 (35 lecture days)

28 September – 13 November

Mo = 7, Tu = 7, We = 7, Th = 7, Fr = 7 (35 lecture days)

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

CALENDAR 2020 MAIN DATES (Amended April 2020) Start 4 May (Complete Q1 – July/Sept short Recess)

Disclaimer: This calendar contains information relating to the academic activities of the University applicable at the time of publishing. Amendments to, or updating of the information contained in this calendar may be made from time to time without prior ortification. The accuracy, correctness, or validity of the information contained in this calendar is not guaranteed by the University at any given time and is always subject to verification. All staff and students are kindly requested to, at all times; verify the correctness of the published information with the University. Failure to do so will not give rise to any claim or action of any nature against the University by any party whatsoever.

1 January		New Year's Day
3 January		Academic year commences
6 January		Commencement of online registration for senior
		students
6-17 January		Summer School
13 January		Commencement of online registration for first year
-		students
13-25 January		Assisted online registration for first year students at
		Hillcrest campus
24-26 January		Special orientation for non-RSA students
25 January		Welcome Day
27-31 January	1.	Orientation programme for new first year students at
-		Hatfield campus
	2.	Assisted online registration of senior students at
		Hillcrest campus
30 January		Closing date: Submission of final marks for Autumn
		Graduation
		(Students will receive degrees in absentia on the official
		graduation dates announced earlier)
1 February		INSYNC first year concert
3 February		Lectures commence for quarter 1 and semester 1
8 February		Rag
10 February		Anniversary of the University's founding
17 February		Closing date for amendments or cancellation of
3		modules (quarter 1, 2 and semester 1)
17 March-3 May		University closed for face-to-face lectures and
•		assessments due to the Coronavirus pandemic
21 March		Human Rights Day
10 April		Good Friday
13 April		Family Day
27 April		Freedom Day
1 May		Workers' Day
4 May	1.	Lectures commence online after recess for quarter 1
	1 40	and semester 1
8 May		Lectures end for quarter 1
11 May		Lectures commence online for quarter 2
16 June		Youth Day
29 June	1.	Tuesday timetable is followed
20 54110	2.	Lectures end for quarter 2 and semester 1
	3.	Last day for discontinuation of modules
15 June-30 July	3.	Cooling off period for all non-academic student activitie
15 Julie-50 July		before and during the examination period
1-21 July		Examinations of first-quarter, second-quarter and first-
1-21 July		semester modules
		Semester modules S0004/19

		S0004/19
22-28 July	Т	Supplementary examinations of first-quarter, second-
		quarter and first-semester modules
30 July		Last day of submitting supplementary examination
		marks of first-quarter, second-quarter and first-semester
		modules
31 July		Closing date: Submission of final marks for spring
		graduation
29 July-2 August		July short recess due to COVID-19
3 August		Lectures commence for quarter 3 and semester 2
9 August		National Women's Day
10 August		Public Holiday in terms of legislation
15 August		# Choose UP day
18 August		Closing date for amendments or cancellation of
		modules (quarter 3, 4 and semester 2)
18 September		International Students Day
21 September		Lectures end for quarter 3
22 September		Spring day
23-27 September		September short recess due to COVID-19
24 September		Heritage Day
28 September		Lectures commence for quarter 4
2 November-12 December		Cooling off period for all non-academic student activities
		before and during the examination period
13 November	1	Lectures end for quarter 4 and semester 2
	2.	Last day for discontinuation of modules
16 November-5 December		Examination of third-quarter, fourth-quarter, second-
		semester and year modules
7-12 December		Supplementary examinations of third-quarter, fourth-
		quarter second-semester and year modules
12 December		Academic year ends
15 December		Last day for submission of supplementary examination
		marks of third-quarter, fourth- quarter, second-semester
		and year modules
16 December		Day of Reconciliation
23 December		University closes at 10:00
25 December		Christmas Day
26 December		Day of Goodwill
4 January 2021		Academic year commences

GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2020

28 September – 2 October 10 December

Spring Graduation Ceremonies Graduation Ceremony for LLM in Human Rights