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FASSET Internship Programme Opens Opportunities to Strengthen South Africa's Finance and Accounting Talent Pipeline

South Africa's finance and accounting sector continues to face a critical challenge: ensuring that qualified graduates gain the workplace experience required to transition successfully into professional careers.

The Finance and Accounting Services Sector Education and Training Authority (FASSET) has opened applications for its 2025/2026 Internship Programme, providing employers with an opportunity to invest in future accountancy professionals while contributing to the development of a skilled and sustainable workforce.

Although many graduates complete their academic studies each year, access to practical workplace experience remains a significant barrier to entering the profession. Without exposure to real-world working environments, many aspiring professionals struggle to develop the technical competence, professional judgement and workplace skills required by employers.

The FASSET Internship Programme seeks to address this challenge by supporting employers that provide structured workplace learning opportunities. The initiative is open to levy-paying employers, registered non-levy-paying employers, and public TVET and Community Education and Training (CET) colleges operating within the FASSET sector.

According to the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA), workplace-based learning remains one of the most effective ways to prepare graduates for the realities of professional practice.

"Developing future professionals requires more than academic achievement. Graduates need opportunities to apply their knowledge, gain practical experience and build the professional skills that will enable them to contribute meaningfully to organisations and the economy," Bashi Mofokeng, Training and Assessment Manager of SAIPA.

Beyond supporting individual career development, internship programmes play an important role in strengthening the long-term sustainability of the finance and accountancy professions. They help organisations build future talent pipelines while advancing broader national priorities related to skills development, youth employment and economic growth.

South Africa's unemployment crisis continues to place significant pressure on young people entering the labour market. With youth unemployment among individuals aged 15 to 34 remaining above 45%, creating pathways from education to meaningful employment has become increasingly important. Internship programmes provide a critical bridge between academic achievement and professional practice, equipping graduates with the experience needed to enter the workforce. By participating in the programme, employers can contribute to developing the next generation of finance and accountancy professionals while helping to build a more resilient and inclusive profession.

SAIPA encourages eligible organisations to take advantage of the funding opportunity and play an active role in shaping the future of the profession.

Applications for the FASSET 2025/2026 Internship Programme close on 24 July 2026.

Employers can download application forms from FASSET's website and submit completed applications to internship@fasset.org.za.

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