



# RMR - POF ACCENTURE SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEW AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

**Duration 8:30**

**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

Accenture, scholarship, students, honours, apply, qualification, programme, joining, education, work, year, business, create, 16th, engineering, technology, studies, funding, rand, mentorship

**Presenter 0:00**

RMR at 9.7 Fm 17 minutes past the hour, one o'clock. And we are now having an interview with Project Manager of Accenture Education Trust Fund Zanele Sekano, good afternoon.

**Zanele Sekano 0:15**

Good afternoon. How are you?

**Presenter 0:16**

I'm great. Thanks. How are you?

**Zanele Sekano 0:18**

I'm well, thank you.

**Presenter 0:19**

Thank you so much for joining us today, and Accenture, Education Trust Fund 2022 scholarship. And please tell us a bit more about yourself and your journey with Accenture.

**Zanele Sekano 0:34**

Great, thank you so much for having us. So I'm the Zanele Sekano. I am the project manager of the Accenture Education Trust, which I'll speak to you just now. But I joined Accenture through the Graduate Programme in 2016. And I joined after completing my BSc honours degree. And within the business, we have a number of functions, business functions, and I was aligned to help in public service. almost five years later, I am now a senior management consultant. And the clients that I've worked with span across health, education, supply chain, we get into NGO space as well, because that work is also very, very important. And essentially we deliver work that stretches across developing strategies, creating tech platforms, and generally just improving efficiencies across businesses, amongst other exciting pieces of work.

**Presenter 1:23**

All right, thank you so much. Could you tell us a bit more about the Accenture Education Trust, and why now?

**Zanele Sekano 1:30**

Great. So the trust was set up by a former Accenture managing director in 2001, so we've been running for a good 20 years. It aims to



provide mentorship, at the core of it is mentorship, but also provides funding to missing middle students. Now, missing middle students are those that come from households with an income of between 350 and 600,000 Rand, and your listeners are probably wondering why that group. So that group is currently the most indebted and underserved group of young people. They don't qualify for the National Student fund. So if you think about NSFAS, you apply for it if your household income is below 350,000. But what about the students that earn 2000 Rand more than that, they don't qualify, but their parents cannot afford a higher education for them. If they're paying a bond, or transport, just really trying to put food on the table. It also depends on how many children within the family there are. So the Accenture Education Trust is identified this group as a group that would like to focus on as we collectively work to build the skills needed for the future in South Africa.

**Presenter 2:41**

And what is included within the scholarship and is it for only one year?

**Zanele Sekano 2:46**

So so just touching back to to the to the focus on on tech. So as we look at the strong focus in the role of technology in the future, we identify excuse me, we identify the science, technology, engineering and maths are at the centre of it all. So if you think about, you know, the conversations we're hearing in the media about 4IR we're hearing robotics, and we're hearing a lot of artificial intelligence, all of those conversations are real right now, right? And we need to prepare our students for it. So the qualification covers a number of degrees, computer science, engineering, information systems, technology, statistics, data science, and I'll give you the link to see all the list of qualifications. And what the student needs to do is that if you're if you're going to be in second, third, fourth, or honours year in 2022, you can apply. We also need you to to have an average of 65%. So if you're in third year, over the three years, you should have an average of 65. If you're in first year, and we'll be

in second year next year, your marks until this point should be at least 65%. When it comes to honours students if you think about NSFAS, NSFAS only covers one degree. So usually it does not cover your honours. So we cover honours, regardless of how much income provided you're like under 600k. So we cover those as well because NSFAS does not cover. So those are the people we cover.

**Presenter 4:11**

And where can students find out more and also apply and when is the closing date?

**Zanele Sekano 4:15**

Great, so the closing date is the 16th of October. So we have a good five days. The application process really does not take more than 30 minutes provided you have all your documents. And you can apply at [accenture.com/sa-scholarship](https://accenture.com/sa-scholarship). So Accenture is spelled A double C E N T U R E .com. forward slash SA, dash scholarship.

**Presenter 4:43**

Alright, thank you so much. And do you have any success stories first?

**Zanele Sekano 4:47**

Great. So when you think about this is very, very important to emphasise. So when you think about Accenture Education Trust, it's more than funding. We think of it as an Academy where you begin to build a network with students across different institutions. So Rhodes Yes. But also University of Pretoria, UJ, Stellenbosch, UCT. And you start being exposed to people that are doing even different qualifications to you. What you also start getting as you join Accenture through a vacation programme, where for two weeks, you get into problem solving, understanding the different things, to do within the business, starting to create connections with people in the business. So those are the things that we really, really focus on.



And then our primary goal is for you to be ready to join Accenture, yes, but also for you to be exposed to other opportunities in the country, whether it's joining an organisation like ours, or creating employment for other people, through businesses. So when it comes to impact and the success stories we have, because the programme has been running for 20 years, we have supported students to complete their qualification. We've seen them gain entry into the market as engineers, data scientists, and consultants. And these are really, really great success stories that we've seen over the over the years. And we look forward to new people joining the cohort for 2022 so that we can continue to create such stories.

**Presenter 6:09**

I think this is extremely innovative, actually. And there's many students, like you said, who find themselves in this bracket of people and unable to actually find funding for their for their studies. So yes, and you said the closing date is?

**Zanele Sekano 6:26**

the closing date to the 16th of October. So this coming Saturday,

**Presenter 6:29**

okay, okay, and people can go to [accenture.com](https://www.accenture.com) to apply and look at the different the different scholarships that are there and yes,.

**Presenter 6:49**

Thank you so much for joining us. RMR, 89.7 FM, 24 minutes past the hour at one o'clock, and that was Zanele Sekano, who is the project manager of Accenture Education Trust. And she was speaking to us about the Education Trust scholarship, which invites students to form part of the missing middle income level of 350,000 to 600,000 per household per year to apply for bursaries.

And these are students who study in the science technology and engineering and mathematics field. So please do visit [accenture.com/sa-scholarship](https://www.accenture.com/sa-scholarship) and follow the prompts to apply. And for more information. The closing date is 16th of October 2021.

**Advertisement 7:42**

Oh my god is the baseline, the baseline. I think that this is your way of telling me something. Presenter 2 7:49 Application for Accenture Education Trust 2022 scholarships are now open. Are you currently studying towards a technology aligned degree and worried about how your studies will be funded next year? Are you above the NSFAS threshold and from the household with an annual income of 350,000 to 600,000? Apply today for Accenture 2022 scholarships. Successful candidates will receive full scholarships backed by ongoing mentorship. Apply for the Accenture Education Trust scholarship 2022 before the 16th of October 2021 visit [accenture.com/sa-scholarship](https://www.accenture.com/sa-scholarship) or our Facebook page on RMR89.7 FM for more info

Copyright © 2021 Accenture  
All rights reserved.  
Accenture and its logo  
are registered trademarks  
of Accenture.