



# TUKS FM - POF ACCENTURE SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEW AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

**Duration 15:15**

## **SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

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## **Presenter 0:03**

So welcome to the tax FM drive show. If you just tuned in, we're here with you all the way till six o'clock. And right now we're going to be having a conversation with Zanele Sekano, the Project Manager for Accenture Education Trust. Now, Accenture is a really great company. And they believe that the lockdown has amplified, I guess the need for working online. And we've seen this firsthand in our very own lives. And here to talk to us more about this. Like I mentioned Zanele Sekano how are you doing, Zanele?

## **Zanele Sekano 0:34**

Hi to your listeners, I'm well how are you?

## **Presenter 0:36**

I'm doing fantastic. So I think without further ado, let's jump right into it. Could you tell us more about yourself and your journey within Accenture?

## **Zanele Sekano 0:45**

Great happy to. So I joined Accenture to a graduate programme. This is another offering in empowering our youth. But I joined in 2016, I joined right after completing my BSc honours degree. And within the business, I was aligned to the health and public service. So as you say, within Accenture, we have different functions of the business. And we try and align our people closer to what they're passionate about, and also closest to what our clients are looking to solve. So since I joined them now a senior management consultant, and the clients I've worked with span across health, education supply chain, and deliver great work around strategy, tech platforms, and improving efficiencies, right. And so these efficiencies are tied to what you just discussed now around new ways of working right. In the studio, you have less students on campus, or whatever the case is with different dynamics. So we've also been been addressing such cases. But there's some of the work that we do at Accenture. so you can create a night out at home.

## **Presenter 1:42**

That sounds fantastic. And I mean, there seems to be a great emphasis on education. And could you tell us I mean, we now we know that you're a part of Accenture's Education Trust.



Tell us more about that trust as a whole. And why now why is it so relevant to have such, an initiative like that at this point in time.

**Zanele Sekano 2:06**

So the exchange Education Trust was started in 2001. And was founded by one of our former managing directors. So this is a person within Accenture, who identified the need for funding opportunities for young people in our country just based on our history, just based on you know, what is happening in the market but also him understanding within the business, and across our clients, the type of talent we're looking for, right? So it's really around reaching out to the university and helping students up their journey so that they don't end up with degrees, for instance, where the market has no need for, but also for, for organisations to shape the people that they want to work with in the future. So the programme is really focused and I know there's an element of funding that can very strongly and that is something we cover. But the core of this is mentorship, right? So we understand the importance of mentorship. And when you think about mentorship, it's mostly about saying you're doing an IT degree, therefore, let's pair you with someone who works in IT. It's much softer than that it's understanding that students come from high school where there is structure. And they're thrown into university where they have to create their own structure, where they have to prioritise and need to learn how to budget, they need to learn how to not get into unnecessary debt or debt at all right. So we come in from a mentorship perspective, give them that support. So that's what we offer. In terms of the scholarship itself. We're really targeting the missing middle students. And when we think about a missing middle students, this is a student who comes from a household that makes an annual income of between 350,000, Rand and 600,000. And you might be asking, why that group? Well, we found that that is the most indebted and undeserved group of people. This isn't about the National Student fund, right? It covers students until 350, anyone above that they don't cover and that's just really based on their budget, right? But then that doesn't mean that my family can afford my

higher education, right? If you think about there's a bond, they need to get to work, whatever, whatever. At the end of the day, there's no money for me to go to varsity. So those are the students who are looking to target.

**Presenter 4:11**

Sure, I think that's absolutely fantastic. Targeting a group of people that I guess, have been clusters vase, they seemingly can't afford that. But really, they can't. And that's it's really such an amazing thing that that you're doing with Accenture. Now, how does one qualify for this scholarship?

**Zanele Sekano 4:30**

Great. So as we look at the strong focus on the role of technology in the future, right, that is I know it's there, it's in our face. So science, technology, engineering and math is at the centre of it all. So the scholarship covers qualifications that include computer science, engineering information systems, and I advise your listeners to go into our sites and look at the list of other qualifications. But so, you need to be as a student you need to be going into your second year, third year, fourth year or honours year in 2022 - so if you are that group we're looking for you. And your average needs to be 65% throughout throughout your schooling career. Because those are the ones you're looking for also if you think about NSFAS for instance, NSFAS doesn't your second degree. So if you're in your final year this year and you're looking to do your honours next year and you meet this requirement, you can also apply so we covered that as well.

**Presenter 5:26**

That's fantastic Listen, I'm absolutely loving this and it's, it's it's really great to hear what you're doing and we're gonna be continuing with this conversation on the other side of some music, but please, if you've got any questions to ask Zanele send them through to the WhatsApp line 0617201072 and tag us on the socials at TUX Fm 107 to music from sho madjozi on the way.



### **Advertisement 5:46**

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### **Presenter 8:53**

We continuing our conversation. On the she's joining us on the line with Zanele Sekano the project manager at Accenture Education Trust, and we're talking about this amazing initiative that seeks to I guess, bridge that gap between those who are not able to qualify for these scholarships in any other method, I guess and taking us into the new future into the new world where it's like 4IR get thrown around. And really we're moving into a technologically advanced world and how you study. What do you study is super important. And that's what Accenture really wants to do they want to help you get through that Zanele let's let's continue the conversation around this. We've mentioned the fact that there is a really great scholarship that Accenture provides it comes through with a lot of mentorship. And what is included in this scholarship and I we're under the impression because you mentioned the different stages that it's only available for a year to students. Why is that the case?

### **Zanele Sekano 9:57**

Sure, and I'll correct that. If we can start with what the funding covers, right, so it covered expenses that cover your registration, your actual fees, accommodation, your books, a laptop, meals, and runs for the duration of your studies to your honours level. So if you're in first year now, and you apply for next year 2022 you qualify your cover and provided your marks remain the same and obviously you stay registered at the university and continue by default, you roll into second year you cover your third year your fourth, your honours, you do so.

So it's not a matter of it's just one year No. So remember, we are looking to cover students holistically cover you in the knees, you know. So that's the financial part. But what I really want you to really focus on is the other offerings of the scholarship, right? Think about it Accenture Education Trust is an Academy, where you begin to build a network with students across, UP and other institutions, because we cover a number of institutions. Think about creating a network with people that are doing different qualifications. So you can get exposed to experts. You know, we bring our students into Accenture where they're immersed through a two week vacation programme, where they connect with leaders in the business on a on a quarterly basis where you can go and bounce off ideas, you can refine your CV, you can, you know, get questions around your assignment and get the support you need. So it's not just financial. And the main thing is like the primary intention is for you to get closer to joining the organisation. Now, at the end of the day, when you finish your honours, we would love you to join Accenture will also help you identify the opportunities, whether it's to join an organisation, whether it's to identify a need in the market and for you to be an entrepreneur. And it's really about bridging the university and industry career like you said.

### **Presenter 11:42**

make sure that's really fantastic. I mean, the fact that you emphasise that it's not just the financial elements, but really seeking to take care of that student, even after they've graduated. It's an absolutely amazing initiative. Now, where can students find out more about this, and where can they apply? And when does when does the application? When did the applications close?

### **Zanele Sekano 12:05**

Alright, great. I'll start with a closing date. So the chosen date is a 16th of October. So we have



eight days until closing the application provided you have all your documents ready should take about 20 to 30 minutes, so dedicate that time fill in the application online. You can find it on the following link [accenture.com/sa-scholarship](https://accenture.com/sa-scholarship). Accenture is spelled A double C E N T U R E .com. forward slash S A dash scholarship.

**Presenter 12:37**

Thank you so much for that. Now, before we go. I just want to find out you know, I mean, because this sounds so great. And really, I think many people have been listening to this and going oh, my goodness, I would like to do that. And there's some that might be a bit hesitant, are there some stories that you can share of um, some success stories that have come out of this programme with Accenture.

**Zanele Sekano 12:58**

Great, I'm happy to do that. It's an exciting thing. And this morning, I was speaking to someone and they think this makes me want to go back to school. And that's just right. Yeah. When you when you have people like our programme, we designed this with students that are currently on the programme and coming beneficiaries so that the programme can actually be catered to the people to the actual students, not just like you're designing a programme where people can't relate.

This programme has been running since 2001. Right. And in that time, that's 10 years. No that's 20 years, we've support the students to complete their qualification. We supported them to gain entry into the market. We've seen them become engineers, data scientists, consultants, with some further their studies into their post grads and some of them start businesses. So as you go through our slides, which are shared, you will see a video where the students actually tell you how the programme has benefited them right from right from them. So hear it from them get on ou site, apply applications close on the 16th of October.

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