

# UCT RADIO - POF ACCENTURE SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEW PART 1 AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Joining, students, accenture, cover, programme, honours, uct, rand, technology, scholarship, offering, education, clients, include, organisation, apply, understand, bsc honours, duration, group

### **Presenter 1:03**

Hello listeners you are tuning into the Crossover show at UCT radio the number one soundtrack to your campus life, I am to see Sisipho Luhlele. And as I have promised you this interview today we do have in studio with us we do have project manager Zanele Sekano, who will be telling us a bit more about the Accenture Education Trust. The scholarship for 2022. She's going to basically tell us why now. She's going to give us information about who qualifies for this scholarship, how to apply, and also give us some success stories. Hi Zanele. Thanks for tuning in. Thanks for joining us in studio. How are you today?

### **Zanele Sekano 1:55**

I'm great. Thank you. Thank you for having us.

### **Presenter 1:57**

That's beautiful. So once again, thank you so much for joining us and sharing this huge opportunity with us. Are you able to please tell us a bit more about yourself, and your journey in Accenture.

### **Zanele Sekano 2:15**

Okay, so my name is Zanele Sekano, I joined Accenture through a graduate programme, which is another offering of getting new talent new young talent into the organisation now joined in 2016, after completing my BSc honours, and I was aligned to a part of the business that was most aligned to what I wanted for my future and my academic past was aligned to health and public service. It's been almost six years now and I'm a senior management consultant. And I've worked across clients in healthcare, education, supply chain, we also have an offering for the NGO space, because we understand that NGOs also need the level of support and consultancy, and technologies that we provide our private clients. So the works we've done straight across strategies, development of tech platforms, essentially improving efficiencies for our clients.



**Presenter 3:11**

Oh, wow. Wow. That's that's, that's absolutely. Wonderful. And could you also tell us a bit more about, you know, about the Accenture Trust in terms of why right now, why are you hosting this opportunity right now.

**Zanele Sekano 3:28**

Great. So the Accenture Education Trust was founded in 2001. So we've been 20 years in the running. And it was founded by an ex, retired Managing Director, who really understood what organisations need, who really understood the support students need just really based on our history as a country. And so the Accenture Education Trust is, is, is structured and designed for students that form part of the missing middle. And when we say the missing middle, it's students that come from households that earn an annual income of between 350 and 600,000 Rand and one may ask themselves why that group now, that is the most indebted and and most under represented group of young people, right? If you think about the National Aids Fund, the limit, they have there is 350,000 Rand. So if your household has an income of 360,000, or even 600,000, Rand, they may not the most likely not able to afford higher education and think about in cases where you have three students within the home that need to get higher education, they're probably not going to afford it, right. So we've chosen to target that group because they are really the forgotten, and one really doesn't sometimes think about them, because they don't expect them to be in the need, but they really are. So we've identified this group to focus on as we collectively build the skills needed for the future.

**Presenter 4:56**

Wow. Well, yeah, that's absolutely that's great as well, especially because you know, as a student myself, these are cases, these are things that you witness, whereby you have children or students that fall under that category, you know, who are either have four or five other siblings and they cannot, you know, for tertiary. So this is absolutely great. And also what I wanted to know is what is how does one qualify for the Accenture Education Trust scholarship?

**Zanele Sekano 5:30**

Yeah, and I want to maybe start here we spoke about technology and the importance of STEM right. So as we look at the strong focus and the role of technology in the future, really, that's what we're really speaking about, you have these conversations about 4IR, we have conversations about robotics, and data analytics, STEM, which is science, technology, engineering, and math is really at the core of that. And therefore the scholarship covers a number of qualifications, which I'll ask our listeners to go check on our website, but they include computer science, engineering, information systems, technology, stats, and many others. And we cover students from second year to their honours year. So if you're in first year this year, and will be in second year in 2022, you're the one we're looking for, if you're completing your final year, getting into honours, next year we're looking for you, you might be covered by NSFAS for your undergrad. But because NSFAS only covers one degree, and you want to continue with your honours, we cover you as well provided you meet the requirements. And one of those requirements is having an average of 65% throughout that degree. So if you're in first year, and the marks you have to date are 65% in those fields, please apply. If you've been there for three years, and your average is 65%. We're looking for you.

**Presenter 6:46**

Right, that's absolutely great as well, thank you so much for filling us with that information. And I also want to know as well as to what exactly is included within the scholarship, and is it for only one year?

**Zanele Sekano 7:01**

So the scholarship covers expenses that include the registration, fees, accommodation books, laptops meals, for the duration of your studies. Now the duration of your studies is provided, you still perform within what is expected of you



to maintain your academic performance within the degrees that you registered with and applied with and will cover you for the duration of that. And if you choose to go into your honours, we'll cover that. So it will be a rollover, you will not need to reapply. In terms of offering for the education trust, it's more than funding, right? So we've covered what it covers. But essentially, the first thing is that see it as an academy. So this is where you begin to create a network with students from UCT, Stellenbosch, UP, UJ and other institutions, but also create networks with people within the qualification you're getting into, but also others as well so that you can get a broader understanding of what is out there. What you also get when you join the Accenture Education Trust is you you get entry into Accenture. So you start getting exposed to the type of work we do the type of technologies we've developed, how we've supported clients, you start getting that view, we have an annual vacation programme for two weeks. And in those two weeks, you get into case studies get into the depth of solving case studies, getting to understand how to solve problems, and so forth. So that is another offering, you get mentorship, really understanding that our students need more than academic and financial support. We're all facing things, we're all facing challenges and you shouldn't have to go through that alone. So we see this programme as a holistic Academy that does more than fees and that and you have someone to speak to and we connect you to people that you feel you feel you can connect to and can open to so that you don't go through certain things alone. That the intention, the primary intention at the end of this programme is to get you closer to joining Accenture ideally, but we also start exposing you to other opportunities that lie out there which can include joining an organisation such as ours, but also include, you know, support to to start your own business if you choose to go that route and hire people and train people. So in terms of the applications have been open for about two months. We close on the 16th of October which is this coming Saturday. And the application process is really simple. It's all online. If you dedicate between 30 and 45 minutes of your time, provided you have all the requirements and all the documents needed you

should be done. You can apply through the following link [accenture.com/sa-scholarship](https://www.accenture.com/sa-scholarship). Accenture is spelled A double C E N T U R E.com. forward slash S A dash scholarship.

**Presenter 9:55**

That's absolutely perfect. So there you have it applications do close at 16th

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