

UJFM - POF ACCENTURE SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEW

AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

Presenter 0:10

You still tuned into the UJFM breakfast with myself, Bulela Polisa, Nokulunga Ncaba, as well as Hope Tabs. We're with you all the way through to nine officially into the third and final hour for this morning. So applications 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 NSFAS threshold and from a household with an annual income of 350,000 Rands to 600,000 Rands. So apply today for Accenture's 2022 scholarship. Successful candidates will receive a scholarship backed by ongoing mentorship. How cool is that? So apply for the Accenture Education Trust scholarship 2020 before the 16th of October 2021. And joining us on the line this morning to talk more about this is Zanele Sekano who is from Accenture. She is the project manager for the Accenture Education Trust. Zanele welcome to the UJFM breakfast.

Zanele Sekano 1:19

Good morning Bulela and good morning to your listeners.

Presenter 1:22

Are you well this morning?

Zanele Sekano 1:24

Um, well, thank you. Thank you played one of my favourite tracks just before I joined

Presenter 1:30

How did I know it's your favourite. So let's talk

about let's talk about you and your journey within Accenture. Can you tell us more about that before we talk about the scholarships that you guys are giving out?

Zanele Sekano 1:43

Oh, fantastic. Happy to. So I joined Accenture through the Graduate Programme. So this is another initiative outside of the AET scholarship. And and I joined after completing BSc honours degree in genetics. And when I joined Accenture, I was aligned to the health and public service practice. So within Accenture, you have different functions of the business. And since then I've worked with clients that span across health, education, supply chain, NGOs, you name it, delivering strategies, tech platforms, and improving efficiencies, amongst many other exciting pieces of work.

Presenter 2:19

Oh, that's absolutely amazing. So can you then tell us a bit more about the Accenture Education Trust and why now?

Zanele Sekano 2:28

Great. So the the trust was set up by a former Accenture managing director in 2001. And it means it really aims to provide mentorship as the main thing, and funding to missing middle students, right. Because we understand it's not just enough to give funding, you need to take the students through a holistic offering and giving them funding and not giving them mentorship to back it up is not the best way to position students. So we are targeting the



missing middle students. And these are the missing middle students, we're seeing the students that come from households with an income annual income of 350 to 600,000 Rand. And you might be asking why. So through research, we've seen that this is the currently most indebted and underserved group of young people. If you think about if you think about the National Student fund, right, they have a cap of 350,000 Rand so they cover students below that. But remember, there's students who even though their parents work after paying everything they don't have enough funds to take a student for higher education. So we identified this group as as the group would like to collectively work with to build skills needed for the future.

Presenter 3:36

Love, love, love, love love that, like you said, you know, um, they they're often just you know, neglected because everyone is under the assumption that no man they can they can manage their parents will manage or they'll find a way, one way or another, as opposed to the other groups that are being catered for with regards to funding. But you also mentioned something that's very fantastic, which is mentorship, which is something that not a lot of people actually consider, right? What kind of mentorship will you then be giving to those that qualify for the scholarship?

Zanele Sekano 4:05

Great, great question. So when we think about mentorship, sometimes we go straight to skills, right? We think of students that that's doing Information Technology, when we think about a mentor we're thinking, let's pair them with someone who's already in IT, so they know, the skill, they know the tools. But really, let's step back, let's understand that when a student joins University in first year, they're joining from high school where there was structure now they're put in a place where there's no structure, they need to create their own structure. They need to learn how to budget they faced some of them doing last year during a pandemic and everyone was confused, right. So all of that instability and understanding you know, you get into things about gender based violence or so many other things that our students go through on an on on a day to day basis. So yes, we give the funding but the mentorship is around the

softer stuff. Let's get emotional, get people to support you through the journey so you feel not alone. And then there's an element around as you go through the university then the academics comes into play. Are you able to learn on your own because you no longer have a teacher in front of the class that we expect students to have, but really, realistically practically, sometimes are challenging. So our mentorship is around that when you join the Accenture Education Trust, we have like a two week fully immersed vacation programme. We bring the students into Accenture, we take them through our lab, we take them, we bring people from different parts of the business to explain how we go from identifying a problem to building a strategy to building a platform, to teaching people how to use it, collectively to solve for community challenges. So really not around school only we start bridging the gap between school and university.

Presenter 5:40

Oh my gosh, I love that. Absolutely love that it makes me actually want to go back to school now.

Because you know, we we often you know, just get thrust into it. And we don't really get that support that we need. And you speaking about this mentorship and it's like life mentorship that a lot of people yearn for a lot is absolutely amazing. But how then does one qualify for an Accenture Education Trust scholarship.

Zanele Sekano 6:05

Great Bulelwa, and I think what you'll do on your side is you will share your link with with, but I'll speak through it right. So our our strong focus is around the role of technology in the future, if you think about STEM, your science, technology, engineering, maths, that's at the centre of it.

The scholarship covers qualifications that include but are not limited to computer science and engineering, Information Systems, Technology. So please have a look at the list that we'll share with you to see whether you qualify. And it's really for students who will be in their second year, third, fourth, and honours year in 2022. So we cover from second to fourth to honours year. And what you need to have is an overall average of 65. And one of the questions we get a lot is, is it a once off



funding? No. Provided you continue to perform the way you're supposed to the 65 average year, we can take you through your second to third, automatically you roll over. So we won't just cover you for one year, the next year you need to be applying, provided you perform you will be covered.

Presenter 7:02

Absolutely. I love that. So within the scholarship, you've made mention of the fact that, um, it's mentorship, right? You've also made mention of the fact that you know, you will be covering studies from second year to post grad, but what other things will be implemented because we have people that struggle with maybe putting food on the table or accommodation, what else is included in the scholarship?

Zanele Sekano 7:26

Great. So the scholarship covers expenses from registration to the actual fees, books, laptops, meals, the grant for the duration of your study. So you're covered fully and you can really focus on, on on developing yourself academically.

Presenter 7:42

I absolutely love that. So where then can students find out more and also apply?

Zanele Sekano 7:47

Great. So you can find the link to apply for you apply online, no physical anything. So everything online, and the link is accenture.com/sa-scholarship. Accenture is spelled A double C E N T U R.com forward slash S A dash scholarship. So we are open until the 16th of October. Dedicate 30 minutes to this, apply, and let's see how it goes.

Presenter 8:18

Absolutely love that. So is this the first time that you hand out a scholarship such as this one? Or do you have people that have gone through this that you can share any success stories about?

Zanele Sekano 8:30

Yes, so the scholarship trust was set up in 2001. Right? We've taken students through the journey and really supported them to complete their qualification. And through this programme

because we speak about it being really holistic, we support them gain entry into the market as engineers, data scientists, consultants. And as you go through the sites with the link I just said you actually get to see a video of the students and how, you know really understand from them, how they how this scholarship has supported them through their journey so we have great success stories yes.

Presenter 9:01

I absolutely love that. Zanele thank you so much like I said for me this makes me want to go back to school really because it's so fantastic.

Zanele Sekano 9:13

In designing this programme you know when you design programmes like this by people who've gone through the system, so when I when we're designing this project and really identifying where we're not able to attract certain students, it's really great because we've been through the system right? We know what type of support we need. We know that it's difficult to connect our parents like a peer to how do we design our mentorship it's really great when we design solutions for ourselves as young people.

Presenter 9:38

I absolutely love that and I absolutely look forward to those that are going to take this opportunity and do the most with it. Thank you so so so much for actually you know being at the core of the needs of the students and putting something so fantastic together.

Zanele Sekano 9:51

Thank you very much for having us.

Presenter 9:53

Absolutely love that. That was an Zanele Sekano who is the project manager at Accenture Education Trust. Remember, they are giving away scholarships for you to apply just visit accenture.com/sa-scholarship. That's accenture.com/sa-scholarship. Or just follow us on our social media pages our Facebook page to be precise at UJFM has the details on our Facebook page. To find out more, this is an opportunity of a lifetime please take advantage of it. We're finding ourselves in dire times where we actually need all the support that we can get



it's 26 minutes past eight o'clock. Let's get back into some jams. And on the other side of that we'll jump straight into new sports and traffic, wrap things up and close things off with your last mix for this morning.

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