

School of Accounting



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First in South Africa to adopt Xero Learn, a cloud-based accounting software teaching platform that enables both teachers and students to get to grips with utilising cloud software.



Prof Amanda Dempsey
Senior Director

OVERVIEW

The Fourth Industrial Revolution, or 4IR, where digital technology influences so much of our daily lives, is here to stay. UJ prides itself on being the 4IR University and is leading the 4IR teaching revolution in Accounting. The School of Accounting has embraced this wave of development and is implementing pioneering digital teaching techniques to better prepare accounting graduates for a career in accounting in the 21st Century.

We aim to prepare students for the real-world experience of a global economy that puts digital first. As part of this dynamic approach, the University is the first in South Africa to adopt Xero Learn, a cloud-based accounting software teaching platform that enables both teachers and students to get to grips with utilising cloud software.

From 2021, undergraduate students are also exposed to #4IR in Accounting with the introduction of a new year module. Another offering is the online accounting degree that allows prospective students to work virtually, and to register for the different modules at different times of the year on a rotational basis, allowing a seven-week period for a single module before moving onto the next. We are incredibly proud of this revolutionary method of teaching. There is no other university in this country, and few in the world, that offer an accounting degree in this way.

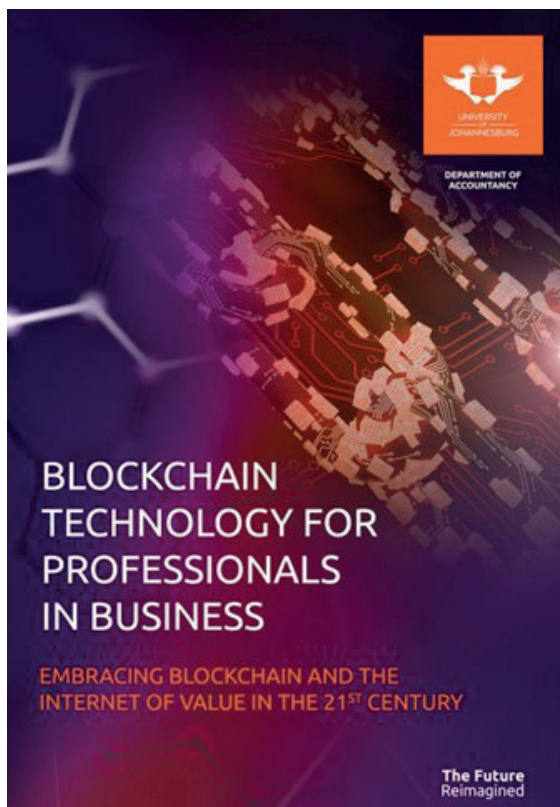
The school does not only offer programmes to students but also offers short learning programmes as CPD to members of professional bodies and business professionals. These are presented as 100% online where applicants can be admitted, pay and register within 10 minutes. The SLPs are offered in a flexible way in the sense that applicants are admitted and registration can happen 24/7/365 days per year. Modules can be completed at a flexible pace during the 8 weeks allowed. An e-certificate is issued after completion. Modules offered are 4IR Perspectives, Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence.

We are aware of the added pressure that technology and 4IR have on the job market, and that only highly skilled and adaptive graduates will

rise to the challenge. The School of Accounting at UJ, therefore, aims through our portfolio of accounting degrees, to create graduates that will go on to offer real value to the companies they work for, and to play a fundamental role in rebuilding and strengthening the South African economy.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS RECEIVED IN 2020:

- **SAICA UJ** continues to contribute towards the growth of the Accounting profession with a total number of 171 candidates passing the SAICA ITC exams in January 2020. This represents a 77% first-time pass rate compared to the national first-time pass rate of 68%. In line with our commitment to transformation, UJ is proud of the 124 black candidates who passed the ITC.
- UJ's pass rate for African candidates is 16% higher than the national pass rate for African candidates, which is a testament to the success of our support interventions.
- The University of Johannesburg has become the first South African university to add a cloud accounting platform to its syllabus. In a major boost for accountants of the future, the University of Johannesburg (UJ) has become the first tertiary education institution in South Africa to adopt Xero Learn.
- Based on the SAICA accreditation visits conducted to Accountancy@UJ in August 2020 and the evaluation of all of the information presented, the SAICA IPD Committee has resolved that the BCom Accounting and BCom Accounting Extended qualifications be accredited for purposes of the AGA(SA) designation. This accreditation is effective from the 2015 intake of students for the two qualifications.
- Launching of 2 new #4IR SLPs: Blockchain Technology and Artificial Intelligence.



STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Mr Muneer Hassan was appointed to the SAICA National Tax Committee (NTC) effective 8 May 2020.
- Mr Muneer Hassan was appointed to the SAIT External Integrated Summative Assessment Committee (EISA).
- Mr Muneer Hassan was the UJ representative on the Development Account Project. Hosted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition of South Africa. He was invited to participate in the National Workshop on the implementation of the Development Account 11th Tranche Project titled Enabling policy frameworks for enterprise sustainability and SDG reporting in Africa and Latin America.
- Mr Muneer Hassan was part of the SAICA Tax Panel Discussion as well as BDO Tax Budget Breakfast 2020.
- The Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB) announced on 31 March 2020, that Prof Linda de Beer was appointed Chair of the PIOB.
- Academic Trainee, Ms Hiresha Naidoo, was selected as one of the esteemed speakers for the

SAICA Women in Leadership Event 2020.

- Prof Grietjie Verhoef's Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Ebes Esho, won the Academy of Management - Best Reviewer Award. The Academy of Management is the leading international association for the Management discipline.
- Each year, the International Women's Forum invests in making women stronger, smarter, and more influential through the Fellows Program, a year-long, intensive leadership development experience. Among the newly announced cohort of Fellows are entrepreneurs, academics, government officials, non-profit leaders, and corporate executives, each chosen for their demonstrated leadership capacity. Congratulations to our very own Boniswa Madikizela announced by the IWF as part of their 2020-2021 Fellows Class. The 2020-2021 Class features 28 top-performing women leaders from 14 countries.
- Boniswa Madikizela was also a speaker at AWCA Womens Conference 2020.
- AccountancySA features articles by Mr Muneer Hassan, Ms Wadzanai Mabuto, Mr Garth Barnes, Ms Karlien Dempsey, Mr Dewald Joubert and Ms Stephanie Venter.



Muneer Hassan



Prof Linda de Beer



Prof Grietjie Verhoef



Boniswa Madikizela





Prof Ahmed
Mohammadali Haji



Dr Adele Oosthuizen



Prof Tankiso Moloi



Prof Amanda Dempsey

- Prof Ahmed Mohammadali Haji was appointed as the Chairman of the SAICA Accounting Practices Committee.
- We are extremely proud of Dr Adele Oosthuizen for winning the CIMA Teaching Excellence Award at the first-ever CIMA Excellence Awards virtual ceremony held on 11 December 2020.
- The CIMA Excellence Awards celebrate outstanding academic partners, tuition providers and students who have made significant contributions to the accounting profession and the Institute over the past year. These awards highlight the high quality of teaching, research, and learning in accounting education across the world.
- Thabiso Madiba was announced as one of the panellists for the SAICA 2020 Courageous Conversations.
- Prof Ahmed Haji was announced as a panellist for the SAICA Finance Leaders 2020 Webcast Series.
- Xero Advisor certification was achieved by Yusuf Ebrahim, Jurie Wessels and Nico Strydom.
- Prof Tankiso Moloi launches a new book: Enterprise Risk Management and Fraud Examination Processes.
- Prof Amanda Dempsey announced by SAICA as one of the “People who changed the accounting

profession” in the October 2020 edition of the prestigious AccountancySA magazine - <https://www.accountancysa.org.za/leaving-a-legacy/>

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- The Department of Commercial Accounting welcomed first year students who were excited to be part of the UJ community. Head of Department, Lulama Boyce and student mentors engaged with students on wellness promotion.
- In line with being agile in the face of COVID-19, online student engagements events included virtual career progress for senior students and an initiative with Allan Gray where students were advised on “Money Matters and Investing at a Young Age”.



STUDENT AWARDS

- Accountancy@UJ student Bonginkosi Kalipa's farming project clinches top spot at 2019 SAICA Student Leadership Summit.
- Claire Harcourt-Cooke announced as the winner of the UJ Visualise Your Thesis (VYT 2020) competition.
- EY chose the top 5 YTPY (Young Tax Professional of the Year) finalists for the local competition. The following Accountancy@UJ students secured their spots in the top 5: Rodney Banganga and Thabo Sithole, with Rodney Banganga, announced as the ultimate winner. The Top 3 students per Faculty was announced at a UJenius Club 2020 Welcome Event. The Top 3 students for 2019 in the College of Business and Economics (CBE) are all Accountancy@UJ students: Inge Marx (BAcc), Sumayya Patel (BCom Acc) and Chevonne Maré (BAcc).
- Thabo Masuku was announced as one of the 10 of The Finest at the GradStarSA Awards 2020.
- UJAccountancy student Siphamandla Lifa Dlamini published and released his first book called Fill Up Your Calabash.
- Gift Somakwabe was announced as Top 10 finalist for Miss Career Africa.
- The Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences (CTA) 4IR Project saw the CTA students addressing the role of artificial intelligence, big data, and blockchain technology in the accounting profession. Particularly, the opportunities and threats of these on both the profession and the accountant, in preparing future accountants to be beneficiaries of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).
- The annual Department of Commercial Accounting Student Merit Awards, supported by various industry partners and stakeholders, recognises excellent student performance. The sponsors included professional body ACCA, our book publishers and other industry partners.



Bonginkosi Kalipa



Claire Harcourt-Cooke



Rodney Banganga



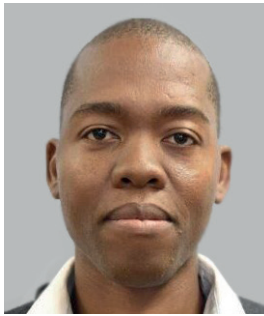
Thabo Masuku



Siphamandla Lifa Dlamini



Department of Commercial Accounting
Student Merit Awards



Prof Tankiso Moloi



Ignatius Sehoole

PUBLIC LECTURES AND EVENTS

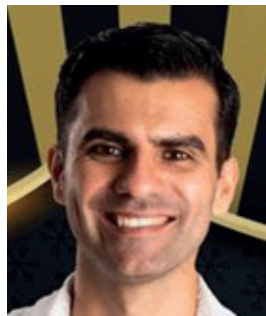
- In March 2020, the School of Accounting hosted a Public Lecture in collaboration with the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA). Ms Sibongile Lubambo, Corporate Executive at the AGSA presented on the Audit Outcomes and its importance in ensuring Transparency and Accountability in Uncertain Economic Times. The event was well attended by stakeholders and industry professionals.
- Prof Tankiso Moloi - Talking '4IR in the post COVID19 Era' at Covenant University on 7 Nov 2020.
- Prof Tankiso Moloi – Guest speaker at SAIPA Accounting Indaba 2020 on 4 November 2020.
- Motivation session with Mr Ignatius Sehoole (CEO of KPMG South Africa) – 22 June 2020.
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Sibongile Lubambo, Corporate Executive at the AGSA presented on the Audit Outcomes



Sicelo Joja



Manuel Rodriques

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES 2020

- Two Accountancy@UJ alumni, Mr Simon Basson and Ms Mari-Louise Boshoff, are listed among the twelve candidates who earned a place on the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) prestigious Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) Honours Roll. They were also Accountancy@UJ Academic Trainees from 2018.
- Motivation session with Mr Sicelo Joja from Investec held on 12 August 2020.
- The winner of the SAICA Top-35-under-35 competition for 2021 is Mr Manuel Rodriques – Proud Accountancy@UJ Alumni.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2020

In February 2020, staff and students from the Department of Commercial Accounting shared Valentine's Day with the children at Ekukhanyeni Creche. Due to the lockdown and COVID-19 restrictions the 2020 Mandela Day and Spring Day initiatives were conducted virtually. Much-needed food products were delivered via courier services.

