

**ESSENTIAL FOR ALL BUSINESS:**

Accounting technicians are qualified professionals who work at all levels of finance, in all types of organisations – be it the public sector, industry and commerce, or in private accountancy practices.



The Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) programme provides real-world knowledge and in-depth work experience, and is a qualification that helps graduates enter a career in finance and accounting.

**BANKSETA**

**W**HEN the company that receptionist Belinda Mokoena

worked for closed its doors in 2010, she felt she had let her family down.

Despite working hard to achieve a good set of matric results and a Financial Management N6 qualification, she could not find another job to help her mother support their family.

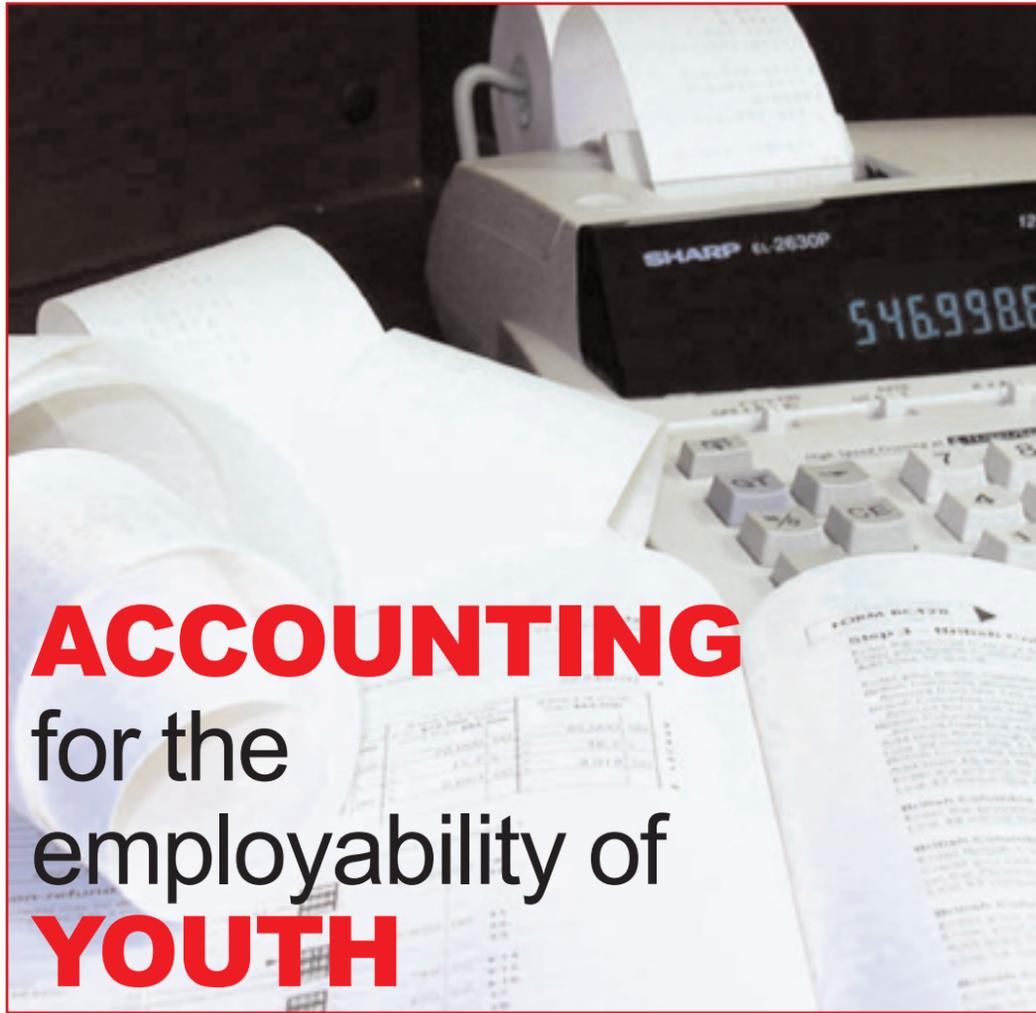
Just when Belinda had given up hope, her persistence and prayer paid off. The opportunity to be part of the accounting profession presented itself.

In 2015, the Motheo Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College in Bloemfontein called and offered her a place in the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) programme.

As this is a qualification that could help her enter a career in finance and accounting, she knew it was her chance to gain real-world knowledge and in-depth work experience.

Today, Belinda is proud to be one of four graduates from the AAT Programme who are now employed by Motheo TVET College in the Finance Department.

Speaking at one of the College's recent learner motivation events, Belinda explained that she was one of the 300 learners from around the country who were given the opportunity to participate in the AAT pilot project – a



collaboration between the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), the Association of Accounting Technicians South Africa (AATSA) and BANKSETA.

She revealed, first hand, just how many doors hard work, determination and the right

qualification opened for her. It is a widely known fact that companies like Vodafone, Telkom and Toyota actively seek to employ AAT-qualified staff.

These organisations know that the practical and competency-based nature of the qualification ensures that

graduates know exactly how to actively apply their skills to make a meaningful contribution within a finance team.

What is an accounting technician?

Accounting technicians are qualified professionals who work at all levels of finance, in all

types of organisations – be it the public sector, industry and commerce, or in private accountancy practices.

They are involved in the day-to-day practical work of accountancy such as financial accounting and budgeting, costing and credit control, payroll administration and tax returns.

In a small company, an accounting technician may be the only employee qualified to look after the company's finances. In a larger company, they may work as part of a team alongside accountants and administrative staff.

"Hiring the right accounting staff is an essential ingredient for any successful business," says Nadine Kater, General Manager of AAT(SA).

"What this type of qualification does is to give companies peace of mind that there are skilled finance and accounting people out there like Belinda, with the skills and the practical work experience to look after an organisation's finances confidently and competently."

BANKSETA agrees that Work integrated Learning (WiL) is integral to all BANKSETA's programmes to improve the employability of unemployed youth.

This is one of the reasons why BANKSETA was so pleased when AAT(SA)-accredited Motheo TVET college to offers its suite of accounting technician qualifications.

*For more information on AAT (SA) visit [www.aatsa.org.za](http://www.aatsa.org.za). BANKSETA is the banking Sector Education and Training Authority*

**TAKING LEARNING TO THE NEXT LEVEL:**

False Bay TVET College is now able to offer electrical engineering and motor mechanics through distance learning.



Distance learning is especially attractive to individuals who are employed full-time, have demanding family priorities, and are geographically limited.

**ROSHIN SCHMIDT**

**D**UE to increased access to the internet and improving bandwidth speeds, distance learning opportunities are on the rise.

"This option is especially attractive to individuals who are employed full-time, have demanding family priorities, and are geographically limited," says Marian Theron, Programme Manager for Distance Learning at False Bay TVET College.

The White Paper on Further Education and Training highlights distance learning as an additional mode of delivery to increase access.

The high demand for higher education also adds pressure on the existing infrastructure, which is insufficient to meet the demand.

As a result, False Bay college is tracking market gaps and increasingly expanding its service offerings to meet the growing demand for educational opportunities.

Traditional students as well as transitioning adults need new ways to gain knowledge and training in order to be competitive in the workforce when competing for jobs.

Findings have demonstrated that typical subject areas of greatest interest for distance learning are business oriented.

The college has, however, taken



**DISTANCE LEARNING options for ARTISANS**

it to the next level and is now able to offer electrical engineering and motor mechanics through distance learning, which empowers

individuals already employed in these fields to up-skill. The college launched its distance learning initiative in 2015 and

enrolled approximately 300 students in the N1 to N3 and N4 to N6 courses. Impressive final examination

results included many students who received a distinction in more than one subject.

"We want all our students to be successful. To that end we have developed a list of criteria to be taken into consideration when applying for distance learning," says Ms Theron.

Learning tests and assignments are made available on the college learning management system. However, examinations need to be written on a specific campus, at a predetermined date.

Distance learning has been put in place to help students conclude and achieve their aspirations.

Previous experiences with distance learning opportunities have demonstrated a very high incompleteness rate, and the college therefore insists on a face-to-face introductory session, to raise the success rate of these courses.

"Distance learning is not for everyone, and to improve the success rate of individuals pursuing this learning mode, it is vital to build a relationship with the designated distance learning tutors.

"This relationship is necessary not only for the success of course tutoring, but to keep you motivated says," Ms Theron.

The college offers quality, accredited, vocational, occupational, and skills programmes in a range of fields, designed with Industry to meet the skills shortages of South Africa.

*Ms R Schmidt is the Marketing Officer, False Bay TVET College*