Mathematics and Science Teacher Intern Programme (SAMSTIP)

PO Box 87430, Houghton 2041

16 St David Road, Houghton 2198

Tel: +27 11 648 1331

Fax: +27 11 648 1467

Email: slindiles@isasa.org

Most Frequently Asked Questions by ISASA (SAMSTIP) Internship Applicants

1. **May I apply for a B.Ed. or PGCE in other phases or for other subjects?**
   In the past, the programme had limited spaces for alternative phases and subjects, however, the recently-refined focus is on Mathematics and the Sciences (Life Sciences & Physical Sciences) for the Senior/FET phase exclusively.

2. **May I apply even if I did not do Mathematics?**
   Answer: No, mathematics is the core subject and a candidate will then choose between Life Science and Physical Sciences.

3. **May I apply if I only did Mathematical Literacy?**
   Answer: No.

4. **May those who are not South African citizens apply?**
   Answer: No (please note that you must have been born in South Africa to qualify).

5. **What is the age range for applicants?**
   Answer: You must be between 18 and 26 years old.

6. **May I choose the ISASA School at which I will be based for the period of my internship?**
   Answer: You may request a school; but there is no guarantee of placement until you have been for an interview with the school. Furthermore, not all ISASA schools host interns.

   NB: Both PGCE and B.Ed. students are placed immediately at an ISASA school.

7. **May I attend a different university other than UNISA?**
   Answer: No, you must study through UNISA. Please note that if you are currently pursuing a teaching degree at another university, you are still eligible to apply for the bursary, however, as you are required to transfer to UNISA, the issue of crediting your existing modules is one of which you should be aware. It is not advisable to change universities if you are more than half-way through as you will not receive full credit and will, in effect, delay your graduation.

8. **Am I guaranteed a job at an ISASA school after completing my internship?**
   Answer: No, you are required to teach at a public school and would be guaranteed a position in a public school. The mandatory period to be served in that position will depend on the number of years you spent in the programme at an equal time ratio. One year on the programme would equal one year contracted to teach at a public school.

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9. **If I fail one module, will ISASA continue to fund me?**

   Answer: Should you fail a particular module, you will have to pay for the module; but your remaining funding will not be forfeited. Please note that you are required to pass at least two thirds of your modules yearly including priority modules and you must complete your degree within the stipulated time or you risk being expelled from the programme.

10. **How is the stipend calculated and how much is it?**

    Answer: The stipend is calculated by the funder and is a small amount which will not be enough to support a family but will be enough to pay small student needs while you are on the programme.

11. **May I apply if I'm in matric?**

    Answer: Yes, if your grades are good enough. You need a minimum of 60% for Mathematics, English and either (Life Science or Physical Sciences).

12. **Where can I get an application form?**

    Answer: The **preferred application method** is to complete the on-line application form found on the ISASA SAMSTIP website: www.samstip.org.

    A link to this site can also be found on the ISASA website: www.isasa.org.

    A printable version of this form is also available, should it be absolutely necessary to complete a postal application. Please contact Slindile Shelembe at the ISASA offices (slindiles@isasa.org) for a copy of this form. Postal Applications must be sent to: 16 St David Road, Houghton, 2198.

13. **How and when will I be contacted and informed whether my application has been successful?**

    Answer: Irrespective of the outcome, you will be contacted as each stage of the selection process is concluded to advise you of the status of your application.

14. **Is this application open in all South African provinces?**

    Answer: Yes.

15. **May I apply again if my previous attempts were unsuccessful?**

    Answer: You may apply if you have reason to believe that you will achieve a better result or if you have subsequently upgraded your results or qualification.

16. **What is the selection process for the internship?**

    Answer: Your application will be processed and you may be invited to complete tests in Mathematics and English. Should you pass these tests well, you will be invited for an interview. Those who are selected from the internal interview phase will then be interviewed by a host School and provisionally placed. In addition, all shortlisted applicants will then apply online to UNISA for

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admission. The list of those accepted into UNISA will then be reviewed and a final selection made. At this point the successful applicants will be formally notified in writing and instructed to report for duty at their Professional Development Host School.

17. **Do you offer the same internship in any other field of study?**
Answer: No.

18. **Whom may I contact for feedback should I not receive a response?**
Answer: Please be patient and await our response. All applicants will be contacted.

19. **May teachers who would like to improve their skills apply for this programme? (i.e. those with no degree or teachers who have completed a diploma)**
Answer: This programme is not designed to assist with up-skilling existing teachers. It is an internship-based model which requires full-time study and long-term placement at a participating Professional Development Host School (which may require an inter-provincial move) for the duration of the period of study and without receiving a salary. Applicants must be able to fulfil all these requirements.