



ISFAP

Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme

Press Release
Immediate Release

67% of ISFAP graduates are employed, ISFAP Alumni Employment Survey reveals

A further 17% are currently pursuing further studies, while 1% of alumni are self-employed

Sandton, South Africa – 10 April 2025 – The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) is pleased to announce the results of its 2024 Alumni Employment Survey, which revealed that 67% of participating alumni are currently employed.

This marks a significant improvement in graduate employment rates compared to previous years, highlighting the positive impact of ISFAP's initiatives on the career trajectories of its graduates. The survey, which saw participation from 401 alumni, indicates a growing trend in employment among graduates, with 39% holding permanent positions and 40% engaged in contracts lasting over 12 months.

Additionally, 33% of employed alumni earn over R300,000 per annum, particularly in high-demand fields such as Engineering and Health Sciences.

In alignment with qualifications for Occupations of High Demand (OHDs) across various industries, ISFAP is pleased to report that 48% of its employed graduates secured jobs within the first month of graduating, and 41% within 3, 6 and 12 months respectively. However, it is concerning that 10% of graduates took two years or more to secure employment. The organisation has indicated that it is actively exploring better ways to support these individuals through alumni interventions.

On an equally concerning note, the Alumni Employment Survey found that 13% of the alumni were unemployed at the time of conducting the survey, with the majority expressing a need for financial support to further their studies, indicating a growing interest in pursuing postgraduate qualifications.

Key Findings from the Alumni Employment Survey:

- Employment Status: 67% of alumni are employed, with 1% self-employed.
- Further Studies: 17% of alumni are pursuing further education, primarily in the Accounting field, with many aiming to enhance their qualifications to improve employability.
- Unemployment Rate: 13% of alumni reported being unemployed, a notable improvement from previous years, yet still a concern for the organisation.
- Geographical Distribution: The majority of employment opportunities are concentrated in the Gauteng province, where 57% of employed alumni found jobs.

The survey also highlighted the challenges faced by unemployed graduates, including geographical limitations and market saturation for generic qualifications. Many expressed a need for additional support from ISFAP to navigate these challenges and enhance their employability.

Martin Mukwevho, Chief Operations Officer at ISFAP, stated, "We are encouraged by the progress reflected in this year's survey. However, we recognise the ongoing challenges that some of our alumni face in securing employment. We are committed to enhancing our support systems to ensure that all graduates have the opportunity to succeed in their careers", he added.

The insights gathered from the 2024 Alumni Employment Survey were presented to the ISFAP Social, Ethics, and Transformation Committee (SETCO). The committee is currently engaged in finding ways to aid the challenges faced by graduates who are ready to take up employment opportunities.

"While we are pleased with the survey findings, we know that there is still much to be done in supporting students and graduates. To that end, we recognise that the path to academic success is not solely defined by financial support. It requires a more robust and holistic approach. That's why we aim to empower students to overcome challenges and achieve their educational goals," said Werner Abrahams, Chief Executive Officer at ISFAP, adding that "our investment into psycho-social support for our students is a

testament to our belief that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background.”

“Our efforts in helping deserving students achieve the goal of graduating from university and becoming economically active goes far beyond the financial aid we offer; we are committed to walking alongside our students throughout their journey. That's what we call our '*wrap-around*' support system, and that's what sets us apart. We offer holistic support to students, from mental health support to life skills training. Our goal is to ensure they have everything they need to succeed”, Abrahams continued.

The comprehensive wrap-around support system that ISFAP offers to its students encompasses the following offerings:

- Full Tuition Fees Coverage: Ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder access to education.
- Accommodation and Meal Allowances: Providing students with safe living conditions and nutrition to support their studies.
- Laptops for First-Year Students: Equipping students with the necessary technology to succeed in their academic pursuits.
- Psycho-Social Support and Counselling: Offering mental health resources and counselling services to support emotional well-being.
- Life Skills and Financial Literacy Training: Preparing students for life beyond academia by equipping them with essential skills for personal and professional success.

Since its inception in 2017, following the #FeesMustFall movement, ISFAP has invested over R2 billion into funding poor and missing middle students obtaining university qualifications in occupations in high demand. Of that amount, well over R200 million was specifically invested into the psycho-social support that was made available to students, what ISFAP calls '*wrap-around support*'. This offering is undoubtedly a key contributing factor to the almost 85% throughput rates among ISFAP students each year, and of course, the 67% employment rate among ISFAP graduates.

“Offering wrap-around support does make funding students more expensive but the return on investment is undeniable. We recognise the importance of offering holistic support to students, especially at a time such as now, when our country needs skilled, competent and well-equipped young professionals. We invite more businesses as well as other potential partners to join hands and help us invest in cultivating the skills our economy needs in order to flourish”, Abrahams concluded.

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About ISFAP:

The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme Foundation NPC (ISFAP) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to funding and supporting the higher education of South Africa's missing middle students. Established in 2017, ISFAP partners with various universities and private sector entities to ensure that students in need can access and succeed in higher education, contributing to the nation's economic development.

For more information about ISFAP please visit www.isfap.org.za