

Candidate membership of FISA

ESTATE PLANNING TRUSTS WILLS
ESTATES BENEFICIARY FUNDS

The Fiduciary Institute of Southern Africa (FISA) offers candidate membership for those wishing to enter the fiduciary field but who do not yet have the relevant work experience.

In particular we find that law and accounting graduates are increasingly interested in exploring careers in the fiduciary field. In addition, there are also post-graduates who have completed diplomas in estate planning or trust law, or who have earned the designation of CFP® and wish to broaden their work into the fiduciary field.

Candidate members can join FISA and enjoy all the benefits that membership brings with the exception of being allowed to vote at meetings. Candidate members will be listed in the members directory on the FISA website and, as for full members, are required to earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points.

Note that candidate membership must be converted to full membership once the candidate member has three years of applicable experience.

Why a career in fiduciary?

The fiduciary industry is ultimately about caring for others, assuming a position of trust and care and acting as a fiduciary for another. Our members uphold the highest ethical and professional standards and are subject to the FISA Code of Ethics.

The fiduciary industry is ever-lasting – people will always need the services offered by practitioners.

What exactly do fiduciary practitioners do?

They are involved in all aspects of estate planning, from “cradle to grave.” The first step is to have a robust estate plan, from which other actions follow, such as having your will drafted by a professional, using a trust in appropriate circumstances and ensuring tax efficiency. Then practitioners are involved in winding up estates and acting as executor and trustee, coming alongside the family once they have lost a loved one.

FISA has good working relationships with the Master’s Office and SARS, which often smooths processes when complying with legislation.

What are the benefits of FISA membership?

- Professional recognition
- Access to regional meetings, CPD points, and our annual conference
- A weekly newsletter covering industry news, technical fiduciary matters, court-case summaries and articles of interest
- Networking opportunities with other fiduciary professionals
- Regulatory engagement with bodies like the Master of the High Court, SARS and BASA
- Eligibility for the FPSA® designation after meeting experience and exam criteria

What is the typical career path for a candidate member?

Once you have three years of relevant experience, you need to convert candidate membership to full membership.

Then the ultimate aim is to apply to FISA for the fiduciary designation, Fiduciary Practitioner of South Africa® (FPSA®). As the FPSA® designation is proprietary to FISA, it is only awarded to FISA members.

For FPSA® status you will need:

- at least three years of practical experience in the fiduciary field, as stated above
- to comply with ethical requirements; and
- first to enter and successfully complete the Advanced Diploma in Estate and Trust Administration offered by The School of Financial Planning Law (SFPL) at the University of Free State;

following which you may apply to FISA for the FPSA® designation to be awarded to you.

 Please consider joining FISA now.

You will find an organisation of like-minded people who are professional yet bound together in a spirit of collegiality.