



Dilshaad Samsodien

Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Planning alumnus

As an attorney who started working at a big financial services company, Dilshaad Samsodien wanted to broaden her knowledge of this industry. She applied for the PGDip in Financial Planning and graduated as the top student in her class. She is now preparing for the intense CFP® Professional Competency Examination. Here she shares her story:

It started out with the need to know more

I am an admitted attorney and I have practiced as such before moving to Sanlam Life Insurance as a legal advisor in the Dispute Resolution Department. During 2017, I was interested in furthering my studies but I wasn't sure which path to pursue. As I was feeling new to the financial services industry, I wanted to find something that would cover various fields, including the insurance industry. A colleague referred me to the PGDip in Financial Planning offered at USB. After doing research, and with great courage after being warned that it would not be an easy ride, I applied and was accepted.

What set aside USB for me was the interactive classes presented by brilliant lecturers who went over and above to assist you to get through the programme.

I was quite surprised in what the programme brought out in me personally. Everything – tax, investment and anything related – scared me at first because I had no experience or background in these fields. I had a mental block but I soon came to realise that it wasn't so bad and we (financial planning and I) actually became friends!

I was quite surprised in what the programme brought out in me personally. Everything scared me at first ... but soon financial planning and I actually became friends!





Dilshaad Samsodien

Seeing the bigger picture

The best feeling was the light bulb moment when I started to realise why and how everything fits in together. I began to appreciate the importance and need for proper and sound financial planning for every individual.

How can I describe the year? Whoa, it was quite challenging having to balance my work life, studies and family time. It required a good amount of diligence, sacrifice and hard work. But through prayers and the support of my husband and family, I got through it. I even passed cum laude and was the top student in my class! It was a gratifying experience and made it all worthwhile.

While I am not currently practising as a financial planner, I am applying the knowledge that I have attained to matters that come before me as a legal advisor as well as in my personal life. Next, I will be writing my CFP® Professional Competency Examination and thereafter, in due course, I would like to apply to become a professional member of the Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa.

It required a good amount of
diligence, sacrifice and hard work
... and I was even the top student
in my class! It made
it all worthwhile.



