

Alumnus





Saara Hamunyela

PGDip and MPhil in Development Finance alumnus

With a background in human resources, Saara Hamunyela decided she wanted to explore the unknown territory of development finance. After initially struggling with economic terms and corporate finance during her PGDip in Development Finance, she became the Top Achiever in the MPhil in Development Finance class. She is currently admitted as a PhD candidate for 2019. Here she shares her journey:

The PGDip – an eye-opener that changed my thinking

When I matriculated in Windhoek, Namibia, my marks were not good enough to study what I wanted to, so I ended up doing a diploma in human resources development (HRD). After completing my internship, I landed my first job at the young age of 19, but it was not in the HRD field. The job was part of a project commissioned for a United Nations Environment Programme and it was based in the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development of Namibia. After working on this project for five years, I became interested in economics and went on to study a BTech degree in Economics. I then realised that I wanted to further my studies in Development Finance. My mentor recommended USB because he is an alumnus of the business school.

It opened me up to really see opportunities ...

The PGDip in Development Finance was an eye-opener that changed the way I think. It opened me up to criticise the status quo and to really see opportunities that I would not have been able to identify in the past. I really enjoyed it despite it being a very dense programme over a short period of time. My main challenges were finding balance between my studies and still doing consultations back home, as well as the Corporate Finance Module! I sat in class asking myself how on earth I was going to pass. After discussing some of the challenges with a mentor and reading through all the course material, I did an assignment and ended up getting 86%! That is when I realised I can now do anything if I set my mind to it and if I seek assistance from those who can help me. It was also the moment I realised that I wanted to do my MPhil in Development Finance.