

Testimonials on SAP Africa Skills for Africa Initiative

Customer Testimonials

In this section, we hear about the benefits and rewards our customers and partners derive from the programme, in their own words

Naadira Lahri, Manager: Governance, Strategy, Planning, SAP Shared Services Centre, BMW Group South Africa

“We are proud to be part of the SAP skills for Africa programme. This is truly an excellent initiative. SAP have afforded young talent in the country a rare opportunity to kickstart their careers and at the same time create a sustainable model offering training and securing employment. This is what differentiates the SAP Skills For Africa programme from other skills development initiatives. “

Manoj Shanker, CEO, Techno Brain Group

“We take immense pleasure in informing you that the outcome of SAP Skill for Africa experience has been very productive to us. In the last two years we have on-boarded nine interns, who are taken the responsibility of being a part of one of our largest SAP implementations across our offices in 25 countries in their stride. This experience, the opportunity to learn the best SAP practices and contribute in building future SAP projects will set an example to the next set of SAP interns. The modules they are involved in BASIS, FICO, MM & SD. “

Their experience in general and some testimonials are reflected below:

“I came having done one project. I have recently completed another one here. I now have two full cycle projects. Number of projects completed is a KPI of career growth in SAP. TBL has been provided exposure, more responsibility and experience.” Kelvin Githinji

“Techno Brain noticed my skills and gave me the opportunity to utilize what I have learned in an in-house implementation. I have learnt enormously.” Washiali Benjamin

“I have gained extensive experience in a global project implementation covering three countries: - Kenya, Tanzania, and India. Consulting five independent legal entities.” Irenaeus Muoka

Mohammed Jebbar, General Manager, BC Skills

"BC Skills has been involved since the beginning with the SAP Skills for Africa programme, starting with the candidates' selection, participation in the official events and offering a workplace to the graduates. As per chance I was personally involved in the full process and was very impressed by the way the candidates I have met and interviewed during the selection phase have been transformed to junior consultants, able to discuss issues, advice and lead solutions. The expert touch of the SAP Skills Management team is clearly visible.

As a recruiter, BC Skills received six graduates that we empowered with coaching, complementary training, involvement in the real consulting world and participation to best of class projects.

We will definitely support any coming SAP Skills for Africa programme.

Thanks to the SAP Skills Management team for the great work and congratulations on your success."

Mala Bhatt, Managing Director, Bluekey Software Solutions (K) Ltd

"Our experience in recruiting and working with trainees from the Skills for Africa programme has been exceptionally successful. We have greatly reduced on the time taken to search for implementation and support consultants as they were locally available. The time taken to train recruits from this programme has also been minimal due to their vast knowledge on the product received during their training."

Themba Chakela, General Manager, Group Organisational Effectiveness, Britehouse

"After committing to the programme last year and fully immersing myself in the selection process I am happy to say that my expectations have been exceeded. The talent that joined us have proven themselves to be both technically sound for their level and a fit for our organisation. Feedback from business and clients alike has been positive and has laid the foundation for a good relationship with the programme going forward."

Driss Belhadj, Software Manager, CBI

"This programme was very successful and great initiative. It will be appropriate to reproduce it with many other SAP applications. I have appreciated the quality of the students: motivation, mobilization, serious, skills and their ability to be integrated in the team."

Student Testimonials

Thabani Magubane – BI South Africa

“This will change your life.”

These were the words spoken to me by the SAP talent recruiter. A part of me was intrigued. Another part of me thought, “how different could it be from other IT careers?” The answer: Worlds apart.

I specialised in Business Intelligence. The course seemed pretty straightforward before we went down the rabbit hole of universes, key figures, and characteristics.

You emerge out the other end of the academy dazed and confused, like you've been through a tumble dryer, but the SAP way of doing IT consulting is firmly entrenched in you.

What comes next is a whirlwind adventure: You're thrust into this whole new world where you interact with the best in the business, learn in a nurturing environment and grow in a way you wouldn't in any other ICT space. You sit at boardroom tables with CIOs, where they ask for your opinion. You're the SAP consultant in the room after all.

This was my journey and it's far from over. In fact, all I've described happened in the space of eight months.

I'm excited every day by the prospect of what comes next.

Mukovhe Nemakhavhani – ABAB South Africa

As an unemployed IT graduate, I was fortunate to be chosen among the 75 students to be part of SAP Skills for Africa 2015. I did not know what to expect or how it would be as it was all new to me. Having to study and understand the materials within a short time was not easy. It was like a full degree squashed into three months, but in the process I gained a lot of knowledge for my profession. The SAP training made me qualify for a broad range of employment and has made me more marketable to a much greater range of lucrative career options. The Academy prepared me both intellectually and socially for my future career. Although the journey was a bit tough for me in the beginning, I made it in the end. I am now a SAP ABAP developer, and I get a lot of pleasure from working in a technical profession. The knowledge I have gained makes me feel more independent and confident in my career. I now have an opportunity to work with some of the best SAP professionals in South Africa and I get to apply what I have learnt and see products come to life through the skills I have acquired. All thanks to SAP SKILLS FOR AFRICA for giving me such a great opportunity to expand my knowledge.

Gopolang Mokalaka – HCM South Africa

I was really unsure of what to expect today, it's almost like watching the Proteas (South African national cricket team), it could go either way in half a day.

Only when the Academy finally began, did I realise the extent of Chris' words. Shoo! The programme challenged me mentally, physically and emotionally. We literally ate, drank and dreamt SAP or should I say nightmares. It was the toughest academic period in my life. It made university

look like a walk in the park. I don't think I want to go through another episode like that anytime soon!

Despite the challenges and hard work, we had support from family members and friends. I had crazy classmates but we worked as a team and there was never a dull moment.

All I can say is that it was worth it. Today I am employed by City of Johannesburg. Let me make it clear as it makes me very proud to say I am a certified SAP consultant. I'm sure my mother's thinking it's time for her investment in me to start paying off. Thank you Ma for everything. I promise it will.

People come from different backgrounds and different circumstances. Be it good or bad, all should be encouraged and afforded the opportunities regardless of the challenges. We should not focus on barriers but rather the positives so that lives can be changed for the better, just as mine was.

In conclusion, despite poverty and the other challenges I've faced, I've always told myself that no matter how hard it is, there is someone in the world out there that is going through a much more difficult time than me and that keeps me going. So no matter your background or your challenges, pick yourself up, never give in, never give up, keep working hard, be persistent and be consistent.

Angela Sifuna – FI - Kenya

My name is Angela Sifuna and I am grateful to have been one of the beneficiaries of the 2014 Skills for Africa Financial Accounting Class. I credit my experience in the program for adequately equipping me with the necessary skills for the consulting world. The program was well structured with focus both on the content of the training and the development of the individual. This proved to be helpful to me as I was able to build my confidence throughout the program due to the many presentations we had to do. Besides, I also got to learn about business etiquette, team work, effective communication skills and how to present myself in interviews. It was a bonus that the instructor was fun and thus there was no dull moment during the entire program. I was also impressed by the involvement of the sponsors of the program, especially Meena and Chris. Their presence was felt throughout the entire program and this made me feel they wanted all of us to win which was a great source of motivation.

As an employee of EOH SEAL, one of the partners of SAP, I have come to fully appreciate the importance of practical training. I commend SAP for providing us with an exceptional trainer that understood the system in and out. This, coupled with the various exercises in the SAP FI manuals, equipped me with the necessary technical skills needed in the FI consulting. I found it easier to navigate through the various responsibilities that were assigned to me. I am a valuable member of my project team because I carry out my duties well and on time. In addition, I relate well with my colleagues, a trait that my manager once commended me on. I am also more confident while doing presentations to either clients or my project team members.

SAP Skills for Africa Scholarship Program provided a unique opportunity for me to build a career and pursue my passion. Though am relatively new in this field, I have learnt a lot. The number of projects that I have been exposed to have had different challenges that called for research and analytical thinking. This makes the job enjoyable as I am always engaged.

I enjoy travelling to new places, interacting with people from different places and learning their culture. In a span of one year, my job has taken me to South Africa and Zimbabwe. I have been privileged to work in these places and thus gotten exposed to the different work ethics. Aside from the exposure, I have come to appreciate the diversity that I have been exposed to as I now work in a global company. There is also the fun side of visiting their recreational areas, making new friends and learning new languages. I am grateful to SAP for making me a skilled and confident SAP FI consultant.

Saad Bahri - Morocco

The Skills for Africa Program had opened me the door to a World I didn't know existed. During 9 weeks, I had access to an extensive learning experience to which I entered as a fresh graduate and finished as a young professional. Getting a job was not the most important aspect of the program as we thought then, it was indeed the skills we were learning, which would allow anyone of us to get a chance in the job market sooner or later.

Thanks again for everything you've done to make the success of the program, and I hope to see you very soon.

EL AMRANI Fatima Zahra – BI Morocco

So for me SAP Skills for Africa was one priceless experience I got the opportunity to have in my life, I know the world is awash with good opportunities, but I couldn't ask for one better than Sap skills for Africa, because obviously for me that was what I needed and what I wished to find my way to success and to shine by being part of sap big family.

During the training, we boosted not only our technical knowledge concerning sap BI tools such as: SAP BO , SAP BW etc, but also we were prepared to be successful consultant by having coaching sessions which improved our communication abilities and helped us to manage easily our relationships. All this helped me as my friends (for sure) to continue performing well once we had job and to sing our way to success.