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Actuarial Society Update – March 2021

ASSA 2021 Calendar

There have been changes to the event calendar since the February update was released. The most significant change is the decision to keep **events virtual**. With the relatively slow vaccine rollout and the anticipated third wave during the second quarter, this has been a necessary precaution. Unfortunately, the return to the in-person networking elements of our events has needed to be further delayed. Event fees will be the same as in 2020. All changes are reflected on the calendar on the ASSA website as soon as they are confirmed (https://www.actuarialsociety.org.za/calendar/) and reported in future Updates.

Event	Date	Venue
Seminars		
Life	7, 12 & 18 May	Virtual
Health	12 & 13 April[1]	Virtual
Investments	27 & 30 July	Virtual
Retirement	5 July	Virtual
Short term	2 September	Virtual
Risk Mgt	TBC August	Virtual
Banking	18 August	Virtual
Education	30 March	Virtual
Wider fields	15, 23 & 29[2] June	Virtual
Alternative investments	25 August	Virtual
Public interest	TBC June	Virtual
Insurance data science	TBC September	Virtual
Systems & technology	25 May[3]	Virtual
IAA meetings	May 11 – 15 October	Virtual Seoul, South Korea (TBC)
AGM	23 June	
Convention	19 – 22 October	
Africa seminar	18 October	
A1/A2 & F106 exams	**12 – 23 April** 13 – 28 September	

[1] 12th – 8am to 12pm; 13th 1 pm to 5pm
[2] 9am to 11 am each day
[3] 12pm to 3pm

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PRESIDENT: LUSANI MULAUDZI • EMAIL: president@actuarialsociety.org.za

Event	Date	Venue
A311 exams	06 & 07 May 11 & 12 October	
N211 exam	11 May TBC	
F2 exams	20 (F202) & 21 May 18 (F202) & 19 Oct	
F1 exams (excl F106)	02 – 11 June TBC	

CPD Certification

A reminder to members who have not certified their CPD for the 2019-2020 CPD year, the deadline for certification is **31 March 2021**. (https://login.actuarialsociety.org.za/account/login.)

Member services

Yandisa Soko who has been a key member of our member services team has left ASSA. We are in the process of appointing a successor. I apologise for and ask for your understanding for any service delays during the transition period.

Members in good standing

ASSA has implemented a self-help capability for you to download membership letters of good standing through your member profile. There is therefore no longer a need to contact the office to issue these letters.

Good standing considers the aging of your financial account, timeous renewal of membership and declaration of CPD compliance where this applies. As part of this roll-out we have also made available to you invoices and statements from 1 January 2020 that you can access from your member profile in addition to the e-mail you receive. We believe this will assist you with your administration in maintaining good standing. We are working on reminders to members in advance of good standing being compromised and plan to roll this our mid-April 2021.

We would like to thank members who worked with us in addressing their good standing when we rolled out this solution in February 2021. In most instances good standing was compromised as a result of arrear accounts dating to 2020. If your employer is making payment on your behalf, please make sure that you forward the invoice and get the necessary approvals timeously for payment to avoid not being able to register for events.

Recommending individuals for membership or certificates

The public perception of the actuarial profession and ASSA is influenced by perceptions of the competence and professionalism of our weakest members.

ASSA has the responsibility of delivering pre- and post-qualification education and development material to allow members to retain appropriate levels of technical competence. ASSA also has the responsibility of providing professional education, professional guidance, and a professional complaints management process to retain the professional standing of members of the Society.

However, the first point of entry is the acceptance to membership of the profession. Universities and the A211 exam provide a filter that primarily tests members technical potential to succeed in the profession. An equally important filter is the recommendation for membership signed by Fellow members of the Society. This is a key risk management point for the Society to ensure that only individuals who have the appropriate character and integrity are accepted into the profession. Members are requested to apply their minds when recommending individuals for membership of ASSA as either a student member, affiliate member or through a MRA transfer. Please only recommend individuals that you are confident have the integrity and strength of character to be members of ASSA.

Similarly, when recommending an individual for a practicing certificate, please only recommend individuals that you are confident have the necessary skills and experience. Individuals may tick the appropriate boxes on an assessment rubric, but if you have knowledge of their recent work not meeting the required standards or reflecting the required expertise, do not sign the recommendation.

Professional conduct discussions

The Society's Code of Conduct was published in 2012 and reviewed in 2015. Recent disciplinary investigations suggested that some aspects of the Code may require clarification or rephrasing. To determine whether this is the case, and to ensure the Code reflects the values members of the Society aspire to, a series of sessional meetings will be hosted under the auspices of the Professional Matters Board. Feedback obtained from these meetings will be taken into consideration in further discussions on the Code. The intention is to provide comprehensive feedback, including any amendments to the Code that may be required, at the Convention. You are therefore encouraged to participate in these sessions. Contact Wim Els (wels@actuarialsociety.org.za) if you need more information.

I wish all members a safe, restful and healthy long weekend whether you are travelling or staying at home.

Regards

Mike McDougall

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