Registrations open for Explore Data Science Academy's 2021 learnership intake

Registrations are now open for Explore Data Science Academy's (EDSA) 2021 intake of its 12-month fully-sponsored data science learnerships, starting 11 January 2021.

For hundreds of successful candidates, this prized learnership is the ticket to a job in one of the most globally sought after careers, with an average starting salary of R400,000 a year.

There are no restrictions to entry for the learnership, nor are formal qualifications required. Applicants should be between 17 and 35 years of age and must pass a challenging aptitude test on the academy's website.

The EDSA has several hundred learnerships available at its campuses in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban.

"At Explore, we're reinventing education by teaching skills that are relevant, practical and highly employable," says Explore Group CEO Shaun Dippnall.

"Our learnerships are distinguished by their focus on solving real world business problems. We teach our learners to work in teams to solve problems using the latest data science and machine learning technologies that prepare them for the world of work. Our results so far speak for themselves,", says Dippnall.

The EDSA has a proud track record in terms of training and placing young data scientists. Of the 211 students that started

at the beginning of 2019, 93% completed the course successfully, while 77% have been placed in employment to date, even in a year that has been severely disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic that has severely curtailed business activity.

"We tracked 85 students who have secured permanent positions or contracts for 12 months or longer. Their current average annual salary is R408 000, while their combined annual salaries totalled to more than R35 million. And this is in a depressed economy," Dippnall says.

The EDSA is an extremely agile organisation. This was borne out early this year, when the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown hit South Africa. Despite the restrictions, Explore students were able to continue learning online within a matter of days, and are currently on track to complete their studies at the required quality level and within the prescribed academic timeframe.

"Given our experiences in 2020, Explore now offers robust, resilient and flexible teaching systems for virtual full-time study in the event that future restrictions prevent students from safely resuming on-campus studies," Dippnall says.

"Indeed, these very resources can be made available to students who may need them, even in non-lockdown situations. Basically, we are inviting the data scientists of the future to join us and Do Amazing Things!" he concludes.

To register to be considered for the 2021 cohort go to www.explore-datascience.net/register.