

Career Profile: Investment Manager

Investment managers carry out functions closely related to those of financial managers and these positions are often combined in smaller companies. Investment managers work out how much capital a company requires for both the short term (working capital) and long-term (fixed capital). Through proper forecasting and planning they determine the best means of investing material and financial resources in order to make a profit. They consider the risk of various investment media such as shares, property, deposits, and international currencies. Risk and the need for extra care in securing profitable and sustainable returns on investment become even more important during an economic downturn.

Typical duties of an investment manager include:

- forecasting and planning finance
- managing assets
- analysing the flow of funds
- raising and allocating capital
- valuating the company
- ensuring the supply of funds to all parts of the company
- negotiating with banks, financial institutions and other suppliers of credit
- keeping track of stock exchange quotations and the behaviour of stock prices.

Investment and satisfactory return on investment are fundamental not only to commercial and industrial organisations but also feature prominently in the banking and insurance industries.

Education Requirements

National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in investment management students are advised to select English, Mathematics, and Accounting and to add to this a selection from the designated subjects. These are subjects that are particularly suitable for tertiary study.

Bachelor Degree

Bachelor of Commerce Finance BCom (Finance) (3 years)

A three year degree programme that focuses on developing knowledge and skills for entry into careers in the investment management. It can be followed with an Honours degree in investment management. The various universities name their qualifications differently.

Offered at:

- [North-West University](#)¹ (BCom)
- [University of Johannesburg](#)² (BCom Finance and BCom Honours [Investment Management])
- [University of Pretoria](#)³ (BCom Investment Management)
- [University of South Africa](#)⁴ (UNISA) (BCom Financial Management)
- [University of Venda](#)⁵ (BCom [Business Management])
- [University of the Witwatersrand](#)⁶ (BCom in Business Sciences, which can be followed with BCom Hons in Business Science [Finance option])

Possible Employers

- Banks, e.g. ABSA, First National, Nedbank, Standard Bank Corporate and Investment Banking, Rand Merchant Bank, Investec
- Insurance companies, e.g. Old Mutual, Sanlam Investments, Liberty Life
- BoE (Board of Executors)
- Commercial and industrial companies

Find out more

Find out more about careers in investment management:

- [University of Johannesburg brochure](#)⁷ outlines a number of related careers in finance and investment.
- The [CFA \(Chartered Financial Analyst\) Institute](#)⁸ is an international non-profit association of over 50,000 financial analysts, portfolio managers, and other investment professionals.
- Overview of the scale and diversity of [Sanlam Investments](#)⁹ business and of possible careers in the sector.
- This [career guide for the insurance industry](#)¹⁰ includes descriptions of financial and investments advisors, financial investment managers and fund administrators. It provides detailed information on these and related careers.
- [Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa](#)¹¹ To become a certified financial planner you need registration with the Financial Services Board Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act 37 of 2000.
- [Useful information](#)¹² on financial careers, particularly the relationship between financial and investment management.
- [The Investment Analysts Society of Southern Africa](#)¹³

¹ http://www.puk.ac.za/fakulteite/ekon/index_e.html

² <http://www.uj.ac.za/Home/tabid/1497/Default.aspx>

³ <http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=40>

⁴ http://brochure.unisa.ac.za/brochure/showprev.aspx?d=l_3_2&f=p_02011FIM

⁵ http://www.univen.ac.za/management_sciences/bis_management_programmes.html

⁷ <http://www.uj.ac.za/Portals/42/BCom%20Finance%20A5%20Brochure-Eng.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.cfa.ac.za/>

⁹ http://www.sanlam.co.za/wps/wcm/connect/Sanlam_Investments_EN/sanlaminvestments/our+businesses/sanlam+investment+management+%28sim%29

¹⁰ http://www.inseta.org.za/downloads/Skills_career_guide.pdf

¹¹ <http://www.fpi.co.za/>

¹² <http://www.gostudy.mobi/Careers/View.aspx?oid=420>

Are you suited to this career?

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this career.

Quiz	Yes	No
Are you interested in and good at mathematics and accounting?		
Do you work accurately and pay attention to detail?		
Do you enjoy analyzing and considering alternatives carefully?		
Can you make recommendations clearly and accurately?		
Do people regard you as a person of integrity who can be trusted?		
Do you pay attention to the bigger picture and consider strategic options?		
Do you communicate well with other people?		
Are you comfortable being part of a team?		
Do you follow projects through to completion and on deadline?		
Can you cope with high pressure demands?		

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is an occupation to consider.

¹³ <http://www.iassa.co.za/>