



Transport Education Training Authority

Driven by Vision

TETA's Postgraduate Scholarship Recipient's journey at World Maritime University

Meet Zamangwane Hlongwane a recipient of the TETA Postgraduate Scholarship at World Maritime University, a seasoned shipping and logistics specialist from KwaZulu Natal, Empangeni. She's amongst South African women who are making a name for themselves in the maritime sector.

Please share a brief background of your academics, and work experience.

I first became acquainted with the maritime industry in 2001, when I enrolled in Maritime Studies (both shore-based and sea-going) at Tisand Technical High School. I officially entered the profession in 2003, after obtaining a National Certificate in Freight Forwarding NQF Level 3 at Global Trade Training (GTT), a TETA-accredited provider. In 2004, a year after graduating from high school, I began working for Maritime Services as a tally clerk at the port of Richards Bay. I formally entered the profession on a permanent basis after I completed my learnership in 2007 at Safcor Panalphina.

I am now a seasoned shipping and logistics specialist with over 15 years of import and export expertise in the manufacturing, freight forwarding, and logistics industries. This TETA scholarship was my biggest breakthrough.

What are your academic and professional goals?

In 10 years' time I plan to be amongst the pioneers of the expansion of global trade in South Africa and the continent of Africa by assisting in the transformation of the shipping and logistics industry into one that is more digital, flexible & adaptive. Academically, I plan to pursue a PHD in maritime studies.

What do you consider to be one of your greatest successes within the Maritime sector?

My greatest accomplishment to date is graduating from the World Maritime University which allowed me to be in class with different maritime professionals from 54 countries around the world and being accepted into the second cohort of the Sheo Leadership Program, which is sponsored by the International Maritime Organization.

Challenges encountered and how those were overcome?

The first challenge I encountered was leaving my permanent position to devote all my time to my studies. It was a brave move on my part to spend more than a year away from my family, especially my 9-year-old

daughter Samkelisiwe and my sister Fanelesibonge and I also had to deal with the loss of beloved family members while studying abroad. I overcame these challenges because of my love and enthusiasm for the maritime sector and most importantly it was my late grandmother's wish to see me complete my master's degree.

How did you learn about the TETA Postgraduate Scholarship? And how has it aided your career or professional development?

As a professional member of the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) South Africa, I received an email about studies at WMU, which is how I learned about their Master of Science programme in Maritime Affairs. I then submitted my application in April 2022 and a few days later my application was cleared.

The World Maritime University alluded that South African students have their own sponsor, and that everything will be taken care of from there. The next step was to consult with my employer "Indian Ocean Export Company (IOEC)" who was very supportive of my studies and career ambitions. TETA sent me an email on July 31, 2021, informing me that I had been awarded a Full United Nations Student Fellowship of USD 58700.00 to study abroad for 14 months.

On the 31st of October 2022, my grandmother's prayers were answered. I graduated from the World Maritime University

What new skills or experience have you acquired during your studies at World Maritime University?

Participating in the WMU programme opens a world of possibilities and instantly integrated me into the global community where I was networking with prominent business leaders from different organisations within the maritime sector. Also, I acquired travel experience by going on field trip studies to Singapore, Germany, and Hamburg.

What is your message to a young person who wants to follow in your footsteps professionally?

Change starts from within. If you can feel it, you will see it. You can prepare to receive it too and trust the process in the meantime.