

Brandon Michael Hughes CA(SA)

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PROFILE

Finance professional with experience across strategic finance, business partnering, and corporate finance in startup, SME, and private equity-backed global environments. Proven comfort working with C-suite and senior leadership teams, applying financial analysis, legal insight, and commercial judgement to complex strategic and investment decisions. Experience spans M&A integration, operating model design, and performance optimisation within multi-regional organisations. Chartered Accountant (SA) and Law Graduate, combining financial rigour with legal and commercial judgement to operate effectively in complex, high-stakes environments.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Apex Group Ltd | London | Jan 2025 – Present

Finance Business Partner & Corporate Finance (AVP)

- Business partner within a private equity-backed global financial services group, supporting strategic finance, planning, and value-creation initiatives across multiple regions.
- Led a core workstream within the global budgeting and forecasting cycle, advising senior leadership on investment trade-offs, cost initiatives, and structural decisions under challenging market conditions.
- Delivered consolidated planning outputs across the Americas, Europe, APAC, and Africa, aligning regional strategies with group objectives.
- Supported strategic workforce restructuring, operating model changes, and cost optimisation initiatives linked to consolidation and growth priorities.
- Contributed to post-acquisition integration and value-creation programmes, including synergy modelling, tracking, and execution support.
- Built and maintained financial models and scenario analyses to inform capital allocation, transformation initiatives, and strategic decision-making.
- Supported monthly performance analysis, trading updates, and flash results for management and private equity stakeholders.
- Led global offshoring performance and efficiency analysis and advanced improvements in reporting, automation, and decision-support materials.
- Co-led and mentored an offshore finance team, embedding analytical standards and effective stakeholder engagement.

WTax | London | Nov 2023 – Jan 2025

Finance Business Analyst

- Partnered with the Managing Director on strategic growth initiatives for pension, hedge fund, and asset management clients.
- Designed and implemented financial analyses of pension, hedge fund and asset management clients, whilst introducing dashboards improving performance tracking for sales and service teams.
- Contributed to the restructuring of the North American client team, developed KPIs, and implemented process improvements enhancing client outcomes.

VAT IT | London | Mar 2023 – Nov 2023

Strategy Analyst – Central Operations & Client Strategy

- Supported the creation of a centralised global client operations department, aligning best practices across regions.
- Coordinated roadmap planning, system testing, and rollout of a new global online client platform that revolutionized client engagement and interaction models. Led training and stakeholder reporting to strengthen operational efficiency and drive adoption.

VAT IT | London | Jan 2022 – Mar 2023

Financial Strategy & Treasury Analyst

- Consolidated global bank accounts and co-led the establishment of a new treasury entity.
- Developed automation of month-end processes, significantly reducing cycle times and operational bottlenecks.
- Partnered with external vendors to implement innovative financial solutions.

VAT IT – CA TOPP Entrepreneurship Programme | London | Jan 2022 – Jan 2025

CA(SA) Article Clerk

- Completed the three-year South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) accredited CA(SA) articles under the CA TOPP Entrepreneurship Programme.
- Rotated across finance, accounting, and business strategy divisions, developing expertise in financial reporting, treasury, strategic analysis, and client solutions.
- Contributed to cross-functional projects that improved operational efficiency, supported strategic planning, and enhanced financial performance.
- Partnered with senior management to evaluate business performance, identify opportunities, and implement improvements across global operations.

Stellenbosch University | South Africa | Jan 2020 – Nov 2021

Alumni Development & Strategy Associate

- Organised and executed alumni engagement events, strengthening relationships and fostering long-term support for the university.
- Helped identify and cultivate potential bursary donors, contributing to targeted fundraising initiatives.
- Focused on expanding the Maties Sports alumni network and enhancing the university's brand within the athletic and wider community.
- Developed and maintained a targeted alumni database to optimise outreach, engagement, and donor pipelines.

EDUCATION

- Advanced Professional Competence (APC) and Initial Test of Competence (ITC) – South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) | First attempt passes
- Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting (PGDA – Master's Degree Equivalent) – Stellenbosch University
- Bachelor of Accounting and Law (BAccLLB) – Stellenbosch University (double degree completed over 5 years)
- National Senior Certificate (IEB accredited) – Kearsney College, South Africa (6 Distinctions)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

MS Excel, PowerPoint & Full MS Office Suite | Salesforce | Workday | Adaptive Planning | Sage X3 | Power BI