

Lesley Lonely Shiri

MBA Candidate | Business Analytics | Finance & Strategy

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Summary

Analytical finance and operations professional with 10 years of experience in accounting, payroll, and revenue analysis. I am skilled in data analysis, financial planning, and business process improvement, with knowledge of automating workflows using Tableau and business intelligence (BI) tools to enhance operational efficiency. MBA candidate specializing in business analytics, experienced in trend analysis, data governance, and translating complex metrics into actionable insights that support strategic reporting and continuous improvement.

Skills

Data Analytics & Reporting: Data Analysis, KPI Reporting, SQL, Python, Data Visualization (Business Intelligence (BI), Tableau, Dashboard Development)

Financial Analysis & Planning: Financial Modeling, Budgeting & Forecasting, Variance Analysis, Reconciliation, Payroll Compliance, Cost Optimization

Process Improvement & Systems: Process Automation, Workflow Optimization, Data Governance, Continuous Improvement, Cross-Functional Collaboration

Experience

Revenue Analyst | May 2022 – Dec 2024

Korridor Pvt Ltd | Beitbridge, Zimbabwe

- Performed monthly revenue forecasting and variance analysis to improve cash flow visibility and guide executive decision-making.
- Increased forecast accuracy by 12% through advanced Excel modeling, trend analysis, and data validation techniques.
- Led workflow redesign initiatives that cut processing time by 35%, boosting operational efficiency and reporting turnaround.
- Partnered with IT and Finance teams to automate recurring reports, reducing preparation time by 40% and strengthening data governance.
- **Relocated to the United States in December 2024 to advance education and career development through an MBA in Business Analytics at Clarkson University.**

Payroll Accountant | Jan 2019 – May 2022

Midlands State University | Gweru, Zimbabwe

- Managed payroll processing, reconciliations, and statutory remittances for 2,000+ employees, maintaining 100% compliance with labor and tax regulations.
- Developed advanced Excel templates with built-in validation and error-checking, cutting processing time by 20% and improving risk analysis precision.
- Conducted payroll variance analyses and produced strategic reports that informed executive staffing, workforce planning, and annual budgeting decisions.

Senior Financial Analyst | Jul 2014 – Jan 2019

Salvado Projects | Zvishavane, Zimbabwe

- Designed and implemented Excel-based budgeting and forecasting models that improved cost tracking and contributed to a 15% reduction in annual expenses.

- Standardized month-end close and reconciliation procedures, reducing reporting cycle time by 25% and enhancing data accuracy.
- Supported performance measurement initiatives across three business units, ensuring data integrity and actionable insights for management.

Accounts Clerk | Jan 2012 – Jul 2014

Salvado Projects | Zvishavane, Zimbabwe

- Performed monthly variance analysis that identified reporting discrepancies, improving the reliability of financial statements and reducing closing time by 20%.
- Supported annual audits by compiling documentation and resolving findings proactively, resulting in zero compliance issues across two fiscal years.
- Processed high-volume supplier invoices and customer receipts with 99% accuracy, reducing posting errors and rework in the monthly close.

Education

Clarkson University | Potsdam, New York

MBA in Business Analytics (2025 - Present)

Midlands State University | Gweru, Zimbabwe

Master of Commerce Degree in Accounting (2019 - 2021)

Bachelor of Commerce Honors Degree in Accounting (2015 - 2017)

Masvingo Polytechnic College | Masvingo, Zimbabwe

National Diploma in Accounting (2010 - 2013)

Academic Projects

Diabetes Prediction with Machine Learning | Clarkson University | May 2025 – Jul 2025

- Built and optimized six predictive models using Python and SQL on a dataset of 100,000+ medical records, achieving 76% accuracy through advanced feature engineering and data normalization.
- Designed and deployed interactive dashboards to visualize patient risk trends, transforming healthcare data into actionable insights for early diagnosis strategies and clinical decision support.

Graduate Data Analyst Assistant | New York State Association of Rural Health

Clarkson University | Aug 2025 – Oct 2025

- Led data collection and validation for multi-phase rural health studies, managing 2,000+ survey responses with Excel and Google Forms to ensure data integrity and consistency across research stages.
- Conducted advanced qualitative and quantitative analyses using SPSS and Excel, generating insights that informed disability policy recommendations and improved program evaluation accuracy by 18%.

Training & Awards

- Leadership Certification Program | Clarkson University
- I-Corps / NSF Research Participation | National Science Foundation
- Valid Class D Driver's License | State of New York