

STUDENT FUNDING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NSFAS

1. WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA TO QUALIFY FOR NSFAS FUNDING?

The applicant must be:

- A South African citizen
- From a family with a gross annual income below R350 000, 00 per annum.
- Offered or accepted a place to study at the university.

2. HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR NSFAS FUNDING?

Applicants must log onto the NSFAS website www.nsfas.org.za and create a profile (MyNSFAS) and apply online.

3. HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR NSFAS FUNDING?

Logon to your profile on MyNSFAS to check your funding status.

4. WHICH COURSES ARE FUNDED BY NSFAS?

Undergraduate degrees and diplomas

Post graduate certificates and diplomas which are essential in order to enter specific professions – example PGCE and PG Diploma Accounting. See the NSFAS website for more details

NSFAS DOES NOT fund Honours degrees and higher qualifications.

5. WHAT STUDY COSTS DOES NSFAS FUNDING COVER

- Tuition Fees
- Residence Fees
- Private Accommodation – when residences are full
- Travel allowance – if living at home
- Learning materials/ Book allowance

6. HOW ARE ALLOWANCES PAID

- Allowances are transferred to the bank account of the student.
- Students must collect the bank details form from the Student Fees Office in order to submit their bank details.
- Book Allowances are paid per semester – 50% in first semester and 50% in second semester for NSFAS DHET Funded students.
- Meal, travel or private accommodation allowances are spread over 10 months from the start of first semester lectures the second semester final examination period.

7. IS NSFAS FUNDING REPAYABLE

With the implementation of the free education program in 2018, NSFAS funding awarded from 2018 onwards is not repayable.

8. WHAT ARE THE RENEWAL CRITERIA FOR NSFAS FUNDING?

To qualify for renewal of funding, NSFAS recipients must:

- Pass at least 50% of modules registered in the preceding year.
- Be within the minimum period of study plus one year.

9. CAN YOU HOLD NSFAS FUNDING WITH OTHER FUNDING?

- NSFAS is last resort funding and will be reduced by the amount of any other funding that the student receives.
- Students who have full funding bursaries from other funders will not be allowed to retain NSFAS funding.

10. DO NSFAS FUNDED STUDENTS NEED TO PAY A REGISTRATION DEPOSIT

- No, they will be cleared for registration provided they do not have any arrears fees owing. Students who owe arrears fees need to sign an Acknowledgement of Debt (AOD) and if approved by the Student Fees Office, registration clearance will then be granted.

11. HOW DO I SUBMIT A NSFAS APPEAL IF MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN DECLINED OR FUNDING WITHDRAWN?

- New students or students who applied directly to NSFAS for funding for a particular year may submit appeals directly to NSFAS by going onto the NSFAS website – www.nsfas.org.za
- Students who were funded by NSFAS in the previous year may submit appeal forms to their Financial Aid Advisors.

12. IF I HAD NSFAS FUNDING FOR 2020, IS THERE A NEED TO APPLY AGAIN FOR NSFAS 2021 FUNDING?

NSFAS will fund you until the completion of your degree provided:

- You have passed more than 50% of your registered modules in 2020
- Also, if you do not exceed N+2

13. WHEN ARE THE NSFAS LATE APPLICATIONS GOING TO OPEN FOR 2021?

Firstly, you should have applied in 2020 for NSFAS Funding Online during the application season between 1 Sept 2020 and 1 Dec 2020.

Secondly, we have not received any instruction/communication from NSFAS advising us regarding the opening of Late Applications.

14. IF MY NSFAS FUNDING FOR 2021 IS APPROVED, BUT I HAVE OUTSTANDING FEES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS, CAN I GET FINANCIAL CLEARANCE?

NSFAS is funding you for the current year and this funding does not cover the previous year's debt.

15. DOES NSFAS COVER NON-DEGREE PURPOSE QUALIFICATIONS AS I WAS ADVISED BY THE COLLEGE THAT I NEED TO TAKE SOME MODULES THAT WILL QUALIFY ME FOR MY PG STUDIES?

NSFAS does not cover students registered for NDP irrespective of the School/College Requirements

16. DOES NSFAS COVER POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATION?

NSFAS does not cover Honours and master's Funding, you have to apply for Scholarships and other sources of funding.

17. I HAVE AN OUTSTANDING DEBT, BUT I AM FUNDED BY NSFAS. I AM CONCERNED THAT I WILL NOT BE CLEARED TO REGISTER.

Please be on the lookout for a University Communique regarding Registration Concessions that will guide you in terms of your Family Annual Income and how to proceed with your registration.

18. I APPLIED FOR NSFAS FUNDING, BUT I DID NOT RECEIVE A RESPONSE YET. WILL I RECEIVE A RESPONSE BEFORE REGISTRATION CLOSURES?

NSFAS will notify you via SMS and will also send the funded list to all the institutions to advise which students have been approved for NSFAS Funding.

19. WHEN WILL NSFAS NOTIFY ME IF I AM FUNDED OR NOT?

All applications have to go through NSFAS stages; Application Received, Assessment etc. until the final stage Eligible (Successful or Unsuccessful) then communication will be sent to you.

20. WILL NSFAS FUND ME IF I AM REGISTERED FOR ONE MODULE?

No

21. WHY HAS NSFAS NOT FINISHED PAYING FOR PREVIOUS YEAR FEES, SINCE I AM ON NSFAS BURSARY?

NSFAS is paying institutions part-payments for all the students each year, sometimes the fees are settled in the following year.

22. WHEN IS THE APPEAL PROCESS OPENING?

NSFAS will upload the NSFAS Appeal Form Online and also notify the institutions when the Appeals process opens.

23. IS NSFAS OPENING A NEW APPLICATION PROCESS IN THE CURRENT YEAR, SINCE I COULD NOT APPLY LAST YEAR.

If approved, NSFAS will notify the institutions and this will be communicated on electronic notice boards to students and NSFAS always communicates the opening of Late Applications in the media.

24. WHY ARE MY ALLOWANCES ARE NOT THE SAME AS OTHER DISABILITY STUDENTS?

To be approved for a Disability Bursary you need to complete the Annexure A Disability Medical form and submit it to NSFAS with your NSFAS application.

BURSARIES

1. HOW DO STUDENTS APPLY FOR EXTERNAL BURSARIES?

- Information on bursary sponsors is available on the Student Funding website – www.ukzn.ac.za/studentfund/
- Bursary opportunities are also advertised on the UKZN electronic notice board.
- You can also visit the websites of sponsors.
- You can also obtain the “Bursary Register” from local libraries.

2. WHAT COSTS DO BURSARY SPONSORS COVER?

- This varies from sponsor to sponsor as some sponsors cover full costs while others only cover specific costs.
- Full funding sponsors may link a contract to the bursary which may require the recipient to work back the bursary in service to the company.

3. HOW DO STUDENTS APPLY FOR INTERNAL BURSARIES?

When internal bursary opportunities become available these will be advertised and students invited to apply depending on the criteria of the bursary.

4. HOW ARE BURSARY STUDENTS CLEARED FOR REGISTRATION?

Your sponsor must email your bursary funding letter to your your Financial Aid Advisor in your College.

Student Funding will then check your bursary letter and if it is in order we will code your Bursary funding on the Student Funding System and the Student Fees System will process registration clearance for the student provided he or she does not have any fees owing for the previous year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

1. WHAT IS A SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship is an award given to students with outstanding academic performance. It is not based on financial need. Academic merit is the only criteria.

2. HOW DOES ONE APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

Scholarships are usually done automatically, unless there is a call for a specific application.

E.g. NRF, Rick Turner, Archbishop Hurley, Abe Bailey, Mandela Rhodes, etc. These are advertised on the UKZN electronic notice board ahead of the various closing dates.

3. WHAT IS THE AVERAGE PERCENTAGE THAT IS REQUIRED FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

The average percentage is 80% and above for undergraduates on a full credit load and 75 % and above for postgraduates on a full credit load considering that the student must show consistency in their performance.

4. ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO HIGH SCHOOL LEAVERS

Yes, entrant merit scholarships of R25 000 and R20 000 are available to top achievers with Level 7 or greater NSC results in at least six academic subjects (R25 000) or in at least five academic subjects (R20 000). This excludes Life Orientation and Maths Literacy.

Entrant scholarships are not available to learners who join UKZN from other institutions of Higher Learning.

Entrant Scholarships may be retained into the next year of under graduate study at R25 0000 if the recipient scores at least 80% on a weighted average basis on a normal full year subject load (depending on degree and College requirements).

5. HOW DO I APPLY FOR NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (NRF) SCHOLARSHIPS?

The NRF will advertise a call for the various scholarship applications. They will also be advertised on the UKZN electronic notice board. The student is required to fill out an online application and await the conclusion of the NRF process. The NRF will advise successful applicants of the outcome. UKZN will advise unsuccessful applicants.

6. WHAT IS A GRANT HOLDER BURSARY?

A grant holder bursary is a bursary awarded to a student through the student's supervisor who is usually an academic undertaking research and who is an NRF grant holder. Students should enquire from their research supervisors regarding grant holder bursary opportunities.

7. WHAT IS A NRF FREESTANDING SCHOLARSHIP

A NRF freestanding scholarship is awarded to a student where a student makes an individual application to the NRF – see point 4 above.

8. HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP?

The advert for the sports scholarships opens in September of each year and closes at the end of October of that year. A student must complete an application form. This is available on the Student Funding website or the UKZN Sports Department offices. The student must have played sport at a national or provincial level to be considered for the sports scholarship. The sports scholarship covers tuition fees only and in some instances accommodation. A limited number of sports scholarships are awarded each year.

9. WHO QUALIFIES FOR POST GRADUATE FEE REMISSION

Fee remission is only for full time Masters and Doctoral studies. For Masters it is for 2 semesters and for Doctoral it is for 6 semesters only. Fee remission only covers tuition fees. It cannot be held concurrently with a Staff Fee Remission bursary.

10. HOW DO I APPLY FOR POST GRADUATE FEE REMISSION?

When you apply for a Research Masters or a PHD you will receive a notification on the Student I-enabler inviting you to apply for Fee Remission as well when you receive your offer of a place.

11. HOW IS REGISTRATION CLEARANCE PROCESSED FOR STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS?

Student Funding will code your scholarship on the Student Funding System and the Student Fees System will process registration clearance for new students or Post Graduates who have accepted their offers of a place or returning students who have met the renewal criteria for the scholarship.

12. HOW IS REGISTRATION CLEARANCE PROCESSED FOR STUDENTS AWARDED FEE REMISSION FUNDING?

New students who have applied for Fee Remission on the Student I-enabler and accepted the conditions for Fee Remission funding will be automatically cleared for registration provided they have no fees outstanding.

Renewals are also coded on the Student Funding system prior to registration and the Student Fees System will process registration clearance for the student provided he or she does not have any fees owing for the previous year.

13. HOW IS REGISTRATION CLEARANCE PROCESSED FOR STUDENTS AWARDED NRF FUNDING?

Student Funding will code your NRF funding on the Student Funding System and the Student Fees System will process registration clearance for the student provided he or she does not have any fees owing for the previous year.