

# Money matters

## *Bursary and Scholarship Fund reaches out to financially needy students*

The escalating cost of higher education in South Africa cannot become a source of exclusion for the poor and vulnerable. With this in mind, the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) launched a novel Bursary and Scholarship Fund, specifically aimed at alleviating insufficient funding available for students to access and complete their studies.



Due to an annual shortfall in National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) funding for undergraduate students at TUT, the University has no other option than to turn to Government for additional funding every year.

This is no longer sustainable and, therefore, it wholeheartedly accepts Government's challenge for it to bolster third-stream income.

### **HIGH DROPOUT RATE**

Despite a huge increase in NSFAS funding to address the funding deficit, research indicates that insufficient funding remains the primary driver of the high dropout rate.

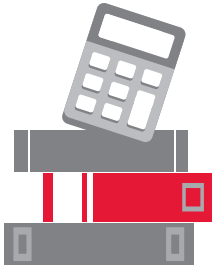
TUT engaged in two in-house research studies (in 2007 and 2009) to determine the reasons behind the high dropout rate. These studies also identified other obstacles such as insufficient funding for accommodation, study materials, food/meals and transport.



**± 7 000  
STUDENTS**

Insufficient NSFAS funding in 2016

---



**ANNUAL STUDY  
FEES PER STUDENT**

Residence included:

**R41 000**

Residence excluded:

**R22 000**

---



**18 000 - 20 000  
STUDENTS**

Qualifying for NSFAS  
support annually

---

#### WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND?

- Corporate Donors
- Council
- Staff
- Students
- Alumni
- Individuals

#### NSFAS IN PERSPECTIVE

TUT is the biggest recipient of NSFAS funding. In 2015, the University received R550 million for allocation.

Annually, TUT has between 18 000 and 20 000 students qualifying for NSFAS support. The majority of these students are returning students (approximately 15 000) and the rest first-years (roughly 5 000).

In 2014, TUT managed to support 18 720 students with NSFAS funding. In order to assist all qualifying students, TUT needed a further R76 million.

The focus remains on supporting returning students. But, it places enormous challenges on NSFAS allocations by limiting support for new entering students.

Thus, the University had to channel earmarked funding for merit bursaries and other available funds to the NSFAS qualifying students. This is simply not maintainable.

It is believed that the Bursary and Scholarship Fund can over time assist in alleviating the acute student finance deficit.

#### WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE

In addition to external donors, all members of the University community, including Council, staff, students and alumni, are encouraged to contribute to the Fund.

In view of the Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET's) benchmark for the University to enrol 65 000 students annually by 2019, TUT aims to assist approximately 7 000 students in 2016.