

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme

Who is NSFAS?

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is a public entity reporting to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). It provides financial assistance in the form of study bursaries to qualifying students who plan to study at Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and public universities.

This is what the scheme does:

- Supports access to, and success in, higher education and training for students from poor and working-class families who would otherwise not be able to afford the cost of studying at a TVET college or university.
- Provides bursaries to qualifying students at TVET colleges and public universities.

What does the NSFAS bursary cover?

To ensure that students get the most out of their studies, NSFAS makes their educational journey enjoyable and free of any financial burden by providing all necessary support from registration until graduation.

Students who are approved for NSFAS funding are covered for the following:

- Registration fees
- Tuition fees

They also receive allowances for the following:

- Food
- Personal care
- Learning Material
- Accommodation or transport

Extra support is provided to students living with disabilities, such as:

- Medical assessments: The assessment is limited to one assessment for the duration of the qualification and on request by the Disability Unit/Student Support
- Assistive devices: Limited to one assistive device for the duration of the qualification.
- Human support: To cover for the cost of human support such as a caregiver, guide-dog, scribe, tutor, or sign language interpreter.

Who qualifies for NSFAS funding?

You qualify for a NSFAS bursary if you are a South African citizen who plans to study at a public university or TVET college and you fall within one or more of the below categories:

- All SASSA grant recipients
- Applicants whose combined household income is not more than R350 000 per year

- Persons with disabilities combined household income must not be more than R600 000 per year.
- Students who started studying before 2018 and whose household income is not more than R122 000 per year.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Do I need to apply for NSFAS funding again if I am currently funded by NSFAS?

No. Once you are approved for NSFAS funding, the funding covers you until you complete your qualification; provided you continue to meet the academic progression criteria. You just need to focus on studying and passing your modules to secure your continued funding.

I plan to register for two qualifications at the same time. Can I receive funding for both qualifications?

A student can only be funded for one qualification at one institution at any one time.

I was approved for NSFAS funding before, but never registered for that academic year; do I need to re-apply?

Yes, to receive NSFAS funding you will be required to apply again. Applications are currently closed, keep checking our website and social media for application dates.

I am an orphan (vulnerable child), how and where do I get hold of a social worker in order to complete a NSFAS application?

You may speak to a Life Orientation educator or principal to direct you to your nearest Department of Social Development (DSD) within the area.

Where can I study if I am approved for NSFAS funding?

Applicants who are approved for NSFAS funding must register to study at the following universities

List of universities

Cape Peninsula University of Technology
 Central University of Technology
 Durban University of Technology
 Mangosuthu University of Technology
 Nelson Mandela University
 North-West University
 Rhodes University
 Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
 Sol Plaatje University
 Tshwane University of Technology

University of Cape Town
University of Fort Hare
University of Johannesburg
University of KwaZulu-Natal
University of Limpopo
University of Mpumalanga
University of Pretoria
University of South Africa (UNISA)
University of Stellenbosch
University of the Free State
University of the Western Cape
University of the Witwatersrand
University of Venda
University of Zululand
Vaal University of Technology
Walter Sisulu University

For more information on NSFAS funding go to:

Facebook: National Student Financial Aid Scheme

Twitter page: @myNSFAS

Instagram: @myNSFAS

You can also visit the NSFAS website on www.nsfas.org.za for more information and frequently asked questions.