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11 January 2018

Dear Stellenbosch University Student

REGISTRATION, STUDENT FEES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

I trust that you have enjoyed a well-deserved break from your studies. We look forward to welcoming you back soon.

All our campus activities will soon be in full swing for the 2018 academic year – a special year in which the University commemorates its centenary.

Please take note of the important information below and do remember that you will be able to register online for the current academic year as of Friday 12 January 2018.

There has been much debate regarding student fees and registration in various media since last year and I would therefore like to highlight some pertinent matters to help you understand the administrative and financial support available and the related processes.

Presidential Pronouncement – free higher education for poor and working class students

Following the Presidential Pronouncement on “fully subsidised free higher education and training for poor and working class South Africans” starting in 2018, the definition of poor and working class students has been extended to first-time entering students to a public university from South African households with a combined annual income of up to R350 000 for the 2018 academic year.

The Pronouncement has resulted in the establishment of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Bursary Scheme for poor and working class students to access studies at a public university.

NSFAS (the National Student Financial Aid Scheme) has been actively engaging with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and Universities South Africa (USAf) on the impact of this on the 2018 academic year with the aim of establishing a process to ensure smooth registration. NSFAS will augment their Contact Centre capacity to cater for the expected volumes and make available agents at universities to handle appeals.

- **Students already in the system and funded through NSFAS** under current criteria, will continue to be funded in 2018 in the form of bursaries. These allocations will not have to be repaid. NSFAS qualifying returning students will be able to register for the 2018 academic year without having to pay the compulsory first instalment of their student fees.

saam vorentoe • masiye phambili • forward together

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- **Continuing students who applied to NSFAS for the first time** by the closing date of the 30 November 2017, will be considered for funding. The criteria that will be applied for returning students' eligibility for funding will be in terms of the pre 2018 DHET General Fund criteria (i.e. utilising the gross household income threshold of R122 000 per annum). The reason for applying these criteria is that the new DHET Bursary Scheme is being phased in over a period of five years, starting with 2018 first time entrants (FTEN).
- **Continuing students**, whose combined annual household income does not exceed R350 000 **and who have not applied for financial assistance to NSFAS, nor the University**, may contact info@sun.ac.za or visit the information desk at the Centre for Bursaries and Loans in Admin A, or the Bursaries and Loans Office, Room 1043 in the Clinical Building at the Tygerberg campus, for information on institutional funding opportunities, no later than 15 February 2018.
- **Frequently Asked Questions** on the changes to DHET funding for poor and working class students in public higher education institutions as published by the DHET may be accessed [here](#).
- **Enquiries** concerning the Presidential Pronouncement on free higher education may be addressed to info@sun.ac.za.

DHET 2018 Fee Adjustment Grant

- Students who received the 8% Fee Adjustment Grant (so-called gap funding) in 2017, will receive this rebate in 2018 and do not have to apply for this funding again.
- Students from families with a combined gross household income of up to R600 000 per annum and who had not received the Fee Adjustment Grant in 2017, will need to apply for the grant. These students will still be required to pay the compulsory first instalment at registration as in the past, but will receive a credit of 8% on their student accounts if they are deemed eligible for this funding by the DHET, and once the state funds have been received by the University.
- The DHET application form is available [here](#). Completed application forms with supporting documents may be sent to gapfunding@sun.ac.za or, alternatively, submitted in hard-copy format to the Centre for Bursaries and Loans, Admin A or the Bursaries and Loans Office, Room 1043 in the Clinical Building at the Tygerberg campus for processing. Please ensure that all the required documents accompany your application for gap funding. Incomplete applications will result in unnecessary delays.

Registration at SU

- Online registration for 2018 will open on 12 January 2018 at my.sun.ac.za (>>undergraduate >>administration >>e-Registration). Students who register online will avoid queues. As always, students who are unable to register online will be assisted by our administrative staff during the registration period.
- Returning students who may continue with their studies and are receiving NSFAS funding for 2018 will be allowed to register without having to pay the compulsory first instalment.
- As in previous years, students receiving bursaries/loans for 2018, but still have outstanding debt from 2017, will be allowed to register for 2018 if the bursary/loan covers the outstanding amount plus the compulsory first instalment for 2018.
- Students who do not have outstanding debt, but cannot afford the compulsory first instalment of the 2018 fees, can, as in the past, make arrangements with the Student Fees office in Admin A on the Stellenbosch campus or the Student Fees office in the Clinical Building on the Tygerberg campus or by emailing studentaccounts@sun.ac.za to pay off the compulsory first instalment over three months.

Enquiries

If you have further enquiries regarding financial assistance and payments, or registration after having consulted the website (www.sun.ac.za), the following options are available:

- General enquiries: info@sun.ac.za or 021 808 9111
- NSFAS-related information is available at www.nsfas.org.za

- FAQs regarding the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Bursary Scheme for first-time entering (FTEN) students and NSFAS funding for continuing students: Click [here](#).
- Enquiries related to the DHET 2018 Fee Adjustment Grant: gapfunding@sun.ac.za
- Enquiries related to financial assistance: Information Office at the Centre for Bursaries and Loans in the Admin A building or the Bursaries and Loans Office, Room 1043 in the Clinical Building at the Tygerberg campus
- To make arrangements for paying off the compulsory first instalment of student fees for 2018 over three months: studentaccounts@sun.ac.za or the Student Fees office in Admin A on the Stellenbosch campus or the Student Fees office in the Clinical Building on the Tygerberg campus.

Wishing you a successful academic year!

Ronel Retief
Registrar