

COMMUNICATION ON STUDENT FUNDING MATTERS

This communique seeks to clarify the following student funding matters:

A. THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING FEE ADJUSTMENT GRANT – 2017

Government will pay the fee increase capped at 8% for all qualifying registered students with a gross combined family income **up to R600 000 per annum** in 2017. This is a **grant** and will not have to be repaid by qualifying students. The grant will **only** cover tuition fees and accommodation provided by universities.

Who qualifies?

- Only South African citizens and citizens with permanent South African residence studying towards an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in 2017.
- The applicant and direct family (mother, father, spouse or legal guardians) must have a **GROSS** combined family income of **R600 000 or less** per annum before tax deductions.

How to apply?

Some students will not have to apply for the grant, they will automatically be considered:

- Applicants who applied for NSFAS funding.
- All students who attended Quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools in Grade 12.

All other students will have to apply for the fee adjustment grant at registration:

- All applications will have to be submitted on the relevant application form obtainable from universities or their websites.
- All applications **must** include certified copies of IDs of the parents/spouse and/or legal guardians. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**
- Parents, spouses and legal guardians will be requested to acknowledge that they understand that personal information will be requested and provided to third parties who will assist the University with verifying income and that their signature to the application constitutes express written consent.
- All parties (father / mother / spouse / legal guardians / student) must complete and sign the application.
- Students who are unsuccessful in their application may appeal **within 14 days** of the outcome of the decision by completing an Appeals Form which will be loaded onto the University's website.

B. STUDENT DEBT

- The financial sustainability of universities is at risk if students do not pay their fees and outstanding debt.
- Students, who are academically deserving and struggling financially to pay their registration fees and/or outstanding debt, must engage the university's finance office to agree upon a repayment plan.
- Universities have been requested to manage student debt through fair and transparent debt management policies and processes in order to ensure that all outstanding student debt is recovered within a reasonable and acceptable period.

For more information contact your Financial Aid Office