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11 January 2018

Dear prospective Stellenbosch Student

REGISTRATION, STUDENT FEES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We look forward to you becoming part of the Stellenbosch University (SU) community! 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.

The first few days on campus can be hectic and I would like to encourage you to please take note of the important information below.

The **welcoming event** for newcomers and their parents or guardians takes place at 18:00 in the Danie Craven stadium at Coetzenburg in Stellenbosch on Thursday 25 January. Information on this event is available at www.sun.ac.za/welcome. Click [here](#) for an electronic version of the [Guide for Newcomers 2018](#). You will receive a printed copy of the full welcoming programme upon your arrival on campus.

You are now also able to view your final **admission status** at www.mymaties.com and successful candidates may **register online** as of 12 January 2018 (see more details below).

There has been much debate regarding student fees and registration in various media since last year. We would like to highlight some pertinent matters to help you understand the administrative and financial support available, as well as 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 agents available at universities to handle appeals.

- **First-time entering (FTEN) students who have received a provisional NSFAS funding offer** for 2018 will now qualify for the DHET Bursary Scheme and will be able to register without having to pay the compulsory first instalment for tuition fees.

saam vorentoe • masiye phambili • forward together

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- **First-time entering (FTEN) students who have been awarded bursaries or scholarships from other funders, and who meet the DHET Bursary Scheme eligibility criteria**, will not qualify for full DHET bursaries. NSFAS will only consider financial aid to these students on a 'top-up' basis if they are not fully funded through their bursary or scholarship. NSFAS will work with universities to ensure that there is no "double dipping".
- Note that NSFAS will not re-open applications for first-time entering (FTEN) students that missed the 30 November 2017 deadline. However, NSFAS recognizes that there are **matriculants that have been admitted for their first year, but have not applied to NSFAS**, and whose households have a combined gross income of R350 000 or less. The University will assist NSFAS, in identifying the students that need assistance, obtaining consent for NSFAS to validate identity documents against the Department of Home Affairs, and obtaining income information from third party sources. For this purpose the NSFAS consent form is available [here](#).
- If you have been admitted to SU, fall in the combined household income category of R350 000 or less, and have not applied to NSFAS yet, please complete the [consent form](#) and submit it with supporting documents to info@sun.ac.za or, alternatively, in hard-copy format to the Centre for Bursaries and Loans, Admin A on the Stellenbosch campus or the Bursaries and Loans Office, Room 1043 in the Clinical Building on the Tygerberg campus, no later than 15 February 2018. SU will then send the application information to NSFAS.
- **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

- First-year students from families with a gross income of more than R350 000 up to R600 000 per annum – the so-called missing middle –will need to apply for the 8% Fee Adjustment Grant (so-called gap funding). These students will still be required to pay the compulsory first instalment at registration, 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.
- First years from quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools (as determined by the Department of Basic Education), and those who will be funded through the DHET Bursary Scheme in 2018, will automatically qualify for the 8% Fee Adjustment Grant and need not apply.
- 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 on the Stellenbosch campus or the Bursaries and Loans Office, Room 1043 in the Clinical Building on 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

- Applicants may now view their final admission status at www.mymatrics.com.
- Online registration for 2018 will open on 12 January at my.sun.ac.za (>>undergraduate >>administration >>e-Registration). Students who register online will avoid queues. Students who are unable to register online will be assisted by our administrative staff during the registration period on the dates as indicated in the *Guide for Newcomers 2018*.
- Stellenbosch University will not be able to process any walk-in applicants as applications already closed at the end of June 2017 and we anticipate an increase in registrations of successful applicants due to the new funding possibilities available to them. Matriculants of 2017 who have not been accepted at Stellenbosch University or who have not applied at any university, but wish to be considered for higher education, should submit their details online to the Department of Higher Education's Central Applications Clearing House (CACH): cach.dhet.gov.za.

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 on the Stellenbosch campus or the Bursaries and Loans Office, Room 1043 in the Clinical Building on the Tygerberg campus
- To make arrangements for paying off the compulsory first instalment of your 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 office in the Clinical Building on the Tygerberg campus.
- To access the Department of Higher Education's Central Applications Clearing House (CACH): cach.dhet.gov.za.

Wishing you all a successful academic year!

Ronel Retief
Registrar