



SRC Statement Student Financial Access in 2021

At an emergency meeting on 11 March, the SRC heard students' voices on matters of financial exclusion and inability to register for 2021 at Stellenbosch University.

The SRC remained committed to offering financial support throughout registration, by:

- Successfully running its RegisterAll campaign, which helped more than 30 students with registration fees.
- Representing students on the Student Debt Working Group.
- Supporting the #Action4Inclusion campaign to raise funds for settling student debt.
- Sponsoring 40 students for a leadership short course at the Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute.
- Securing assistance for student who need temporary accommodation, residence placement, financial support, or registration guidance.
- Creating the Financial Assistance committee, which considers individual requests for financial assistance from the SRC.
- Offering transportation to campus for newcomers.

In social media yesterday, the University also mentioned that: “[It] takes note of the urgent concerns of students regarding their NSFAS funding for 2021. All first-time entry students (FTEN) who have received confirmation of their NSFAS funding will be able to register. Returning students with confirmation of funding in the form of a bursary or loan will also be allowed to register if their confirmed funding exceeds their debt of the previous year. The media statement by the Minister has just been released indicating “that Cabinet agreed that funding should be reprioritised from the budget of the Department of Higher Education and Training in order to ensure that all deserving NSFAS-qualifying students are able to receive funding support for the 2021 academic year and NSFAS will now be able to release funds for new students qualifying for NSFAS bursary support”.

Please note the following:

- The Bursary & Loans Office:
 - Committing to respond to student emails as soon as possible.

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

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- Have paid R43.2m to 2577 returning NSFAS students up till yesterday at 12:00. They are continuing to do so against an upfront facility of the University.
- Communicated that “the SRC can assist to provide the names of those students who approach the SRC and indicate that they cannot register because their accounts have been blocked”. Please send your email to sr@sun.ac.za with subject line: NSFAS Student Debt.
- Final Registration deadline for undergraduate students is 26 March 2021.
- The SRC will articulate students’ concerns at the meeting with the South African Union of Students (SAUS) and the Minister of DHET this weekend (13 & 14 March) in Pretoria and will provide feedback accordingly.

The SRC will keep students informed via statements and posts on its website and social media pages, and will respond to every student query received at sr@sun.ac.za individually.

Sincerely,

Xola Njengele

Chairperson: SU Students’ Representative Council 2020/21