



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

POLICY FOR THE FUNDING OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

2019 – 2021 Academic Years

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| Purpose: This policy describes the conditions, criteria and parameters for the funding of students with disabilities, for both university and TVET colleges. | | | |
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1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This bursary programme is aimed at providing financial support for students with disabilities who are financially needy and academically able. It is intended to open opportunities for further study in further and higher education and provide the necessary additional teaching and learning (curriculum) support for students to overcome any barriers to learning. Such curriculum support should include registration in extended curriculum programmes, accessing of additional tutor and academic support programmes, and co-teaching.
- 1.2 The policy should be read as applicable to both students funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Disability funding programme, the National Skills Fund (NSF) Scarce Skills/Disability funding and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) disability bursaries where applicable. Neither the DHET Disability nor the NSF Scarce Skills funding is limited to specific programmes of study, but provides access to any accredited and funded undergraduate degree, diploma or national certificate programme at any one of the public institutions.
- 1.3 This policy must be reviewed every two years.

2 Who is eligible for this bursary?

New, continuing and returning students who have been accepted for admission at one of the public institutions may apply for the bursary, on the following conditions:

- 2.1 The student is enrolled for their first under-graduate degree or diploma or national certificate, or a post graduate professional qualification as recognized by NSFAS as a requirement for employment in a professional field.
- 2.2 Students who have been admitted to one of the Report 191 or National Certificate Vocational (NCV) and approved for funding on the basis of the TVET Bursary Rules and Guidelines are also eligible for this funding category. This bursary will be provided as a top-up to the TVET bursary provision for the purposes of Assistive Devices and Human Support allowances, where a college can provide proof that they have exhausted their ring-fenced disability grant allocation.
- 2.3 The student has applied for financial aid through the various NSFAS applications portals. In the case of a first-time application, this includes the completion of the Disability Annexure form (attached to this document as annexure A);
- 2.4 Only South African students with disabilities who are able to produce valid original ID documentation will be able to apply for financial aid;
- 2.5 The primary disability of the student must be regarded as an impairment which is **long-term, recurring** and **substantially limiting** (a more robust definition of disability will be provided in the bullet point below 3.1 of this document, and it is against this that the eligibility of students must be weighed). This will be done by the Disability Unit, with the relevant medical reports;

- 2.6 Students who are academically able (as defined both by NSFAS in the Handbook, and as per the institutions' academic admission requirements).
- 2.7 Students whose combined family income is **R600 000 per annum** or less need not be means-tested. If the combined family income exceeds R600 000 per annum, a recommendation to fund the student should be submitted by the Disability Unit and/or the Financial Aid Office to NSFAS, as other factors besides financial needness needs to be considered in certain circumstances. In order to assess financial eligibility, students applying for financial aid must be able to supply all relevant evidence required for assessing financial need. A motivation to this effect must be provided by the Financial Aid Office and/or the Disability Unit.
- 2.6 It is important for the Disability Units and the Financial Aid offices to work closely on the matter of financial needness especially if the student falls out of the means test net. The Disability Unit has to be very vigilant when motivating for students that fall out of the means test net. In some cases, additional documentation may be required to support the motivation from the Disability Unit.
- 2.7 However, where students with disabilities are concerned, the means test/income threshold cannot be the only means of assessing financial eligibility as there are many added costs related to supporting a student with a disability even for a family with an income that falls above the ceiling of the means test. In the latter case, the Disability Unit together with the financial aid office should be able to motivate for flexibility for financial support on behalf of the student.
- 2.8 In order for a student with a disability to be considered for this bursary, their disability must be disclosed on their application to NSFAS. The type of disability should be indicated, as per the HEDSA coding framework in this document (Annexure B).
- 2.9 When applying for the bursary to NSFAS, the student needs to provide, where necessary, a full medical report. However, in order not to delay the process, the Disability Unit can motivate and indicate the student's disability until the completion of the student information form, especially where the Disability Unit has a clear indication of the disability.
- 2.10 Students with disabilities that are receiving other public funds (e.g. sector education and training authorities, or other public entities/state owned enterprises) as a bursary for study can also be considered for this bursary, on condition that their funding does not cover their full cost of study as recommended in this policy. If another bursar is limiting their funding to the cost of tuition, residences and learning materials, then the student may be considered for bursary support for allowances, provided that they have applied for NSFAS funding and meet all the other requirements as detailed in this policy.
- 2.11 Likewise, a student with a disability receiving private funding for tuition and/or residence costs could be considered for funding for allowances, on condition that they have applied to NSFAS and meet the criteria for funding. In so doing, the full burden of covering the costs of study is shared between NSFAS and another funder. These students would need to be managed through the financial aid office to ensure that there is no double-dipping across different funding pools.
- 2.12 As part of NSFAS' progressive implementation of the student-centred model, the use of adaptive/assistive technologies for the online application platform and for the signing of bursary agreements will be explored and introduced.

3 Defining disability for the purposes of this bursary program

- 3.1 The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2007) recognises that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers. It recognises persons with disabilities as those persons who have **long-term** or **recurring** physical, mental (psychosocial), intellectual or sensory **impairments** which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
- “Long-term” means the impairment has lasted, or is likely to persist, for at least twelve months;
 - A short-term or temporary illness or injury is not an impairment which gives rise to a disability;
 - A “recurring” impairment is one that is likely to occur again. A “progressive condition” is one that is likely to develop or change or recur. People living with progressive conditions or illnesses are considered as people with disabilities once the impairment starts to be substantially limiting;
 - An “Impairment” may be physical or mental. A “physical” impairment implies a partial or total loss of a bodily function or part of the body. It includes sensory impairments such as being Deaf, hearing-impaired, and blind, etc. “Mental” (Psychosocial) impairment refers to a clinically recognised condition or illness that affects a person’s thought processes, judgment or emotions; and
 - An impairment is “substantially limiting” if it imposes considerable difficulty on the person performing the essential functions of a job and this is determined by considering the extent, duration and impact of the impairment. If a person has several conditions, these should be considered together to assess if their effect is substantially limiting.
- 3.2 In addition, within the higher education sector, psychosocial, neurological and Specific Learning Disabilities which impact on the teaching and learning process of the student need to be taken into account.

Chronic illness

- 3.3 For the purposes of this bursary programme, the definition of a primary disability may be read to include chronic illness or other chronic medical conditions, where this condition manifests itself as a physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment (as above) and limits the student’s daily functioning, severely impacting on the teaching and learning process of the student. This will be considered only on the recommendation of the Disability Unit, in consultation with the Financial Aid Office.
- 3.4 A detailed medical report is required to support this recommendation. Chronic illness may be read to include chronic diabetes, chronic epilepsy, chronic heart conditions. Any other chronic diseases or medical conditions can only be considered on the basis of a full medical evaluation, and a detailed report outlining how the condition is manifesting in the students’ difficulties in accessing teaching and learning, with or without support.
- 3.5 Funding for students with chronic illness or a chronic medical condition or a neurological disability will be done on a case by case basis and only where it severely impacts on the teaching and learning process of the student.

4 Critical partnerships in the administration of this bursary

- 4.1 In the student-centred model, NSFAS is dependent on a close working relationship between both the Financial Aid Office and the Disability Unit, not only in the identification and referral of students with disabilities to the financial aid office, but also in building links and relationships with service providers and suppliers of assistive devices, and with owners/managers of private accommodation sites for students with disabilities.

- 4.2 The Disability Unit should work closely with the Academic Development Unit or Student Support Services to direct students with disabilities who may require additional learning support, tutoring or mentoring. Ongoing monitoring of academic results and performance and of the social integration of students with disabilities should be a core part of the service offerings to the students receiving this funding.
- 4.3 In order to strengthen the partnerships noted above, NSFAS has to play a critical role in continuously engaging the relevant stakeholders. An annual workshop should be held with the relevant stakeholders to discuss issues of concern around the bursary implementation with the view to reviewing the guidelines in accordance with the needs of students and institutions.

5 What does the bursary cover?

- 5.1 The following costs of study must make up the minimum package awarded to any one student. The allowable costs are detailed in the table overleaf:
- Registration fees, tuition and examination fees (“the tuition costs”) payable to the institution, and as charged to the student fee account. **This is a full cost bursary, and the NSFAS annual caps do not apply** to the costs of tuition and/or residence for these students. This is for students funded both with DHET Disability and NSF Scarce Skills/Disabilities;
 - Costs of books and other study materials prescribed by the Institution in relation to the qualification (“the learning materials costs”). This is subject to an annual cap as recommended by NSFAS in consultation with the institutions. Where the cost of learning materials exceeds the cap, this must be motivated in writing via the Financial Aid office;
 - Student’s university or college accommodation / private accommodation and meal costs, where these are indicated on the registration template from the university/college. Where applicable, meals will be paid as an allowance via the NSFAS student allowance system;
 - **Accommodation cost of a carer of a student living at a university/college residence**, where this is included in the registration template from the institution, and on the basis of a recommendation from the Disability Unit. Students staying in off-campus accommodation, not administered by the university, will not be eligible for a private accommodation allowance for the accommodation cost of the carer, unless a full determination of the need for these students to be assisted with a carer off-campus has been undertaken and approved by the Disability Unit and the Student Housing/Residence Office. This is to ensure that the cost of the bursary is not inflated beyond reasonable requirements for ensuring that the student has access to teaching and learning facilities and activities, but to provide for the event where the only suitable accommodation for the student is in private accommodation facilities;
 - The costs of providing an assistive device and/or human support to the student is determined annually by NSFAS (refer to section 6 below). While this is an allowance, this will be paid as a cost direct to the university via the Financial Aid Office and the Disability Unit; and
 - Student transportation allowances may be payable while in private accommodation (read under “the accommodation costs”). Special provision is made for transportation cost for work related placements.
- 5.2 Where the number of students with disabilities eligible for funding exceeds the allocation given to the university, NSFAS will need to engage the Financial Aid Office and the Disability Unit in order to re-assess the value of the bursary offer to any one student to ensure that all students with disabilities who meet the criteria listed in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.7 receive funding for their full cost of study (paragraph 5.1). Wherever

possible, a minimum of 5% of the NSF Scarce Skills funding allocation must be used to support students with disabilities.

- 5.3 This bursary includes the cost of assistive devices up to a maximum value as determined by NSFAS on an annual basis and communicated via a Circular (with an up-to 10% annual increase on this allowance to be determined in relation to the inflation index). It is important to note that this amount cannot be claimed annually, but is in place for the duration of the qualification. See the table for more details on the assistive devices that will be funded by this bursary. The amount to be paid for the assistive device in any one given year must be determined by the Disability Unit, and the Financial Aid Office is required to include this cost on the registration template to be paid direct to the university.
- 5.4 The maximum cost for human support will be pegged to the value of the maximum assistive device cost, as a contribution towards the cost of a sign language interpreter, carer or any allowable expense as per **Section 10.2** below. This money must be paid over to the department paying for the human costs services at the relevant Institution. This, however, requires a motivation from the university's Disability Unit and Financial Aid Office to NSFAS. The Disability Unit should bill the student account with the cost for the human support and this must be recorded on the registration template for funding.
- 5.5 The amount for Human Support can be claimed annually and students requesting funding for Human Support can also access funding for assistive devices.
- 5.6 It is important to note and recognise that in cases or examples where this policy is silent, that NSFAS Handbook serves as the base reference and guideline.

6 Key parameters for the bursary

The following key parameters for the awarding of the bursary must be considered:

- 6.1 The minimum time of completion for undergraduate studies remains as the number of years for completion of the qualification (as determined by the institution's academic faculties) plus an additional three years (N+3) for all students. In exceptional circumstances, consideration may be given to an application for N+4, when submitted through the NSFAS appeal process. The Disability Unit/Financial Aid Office/Student Support Services Unit at the university or college must outline the interventions that are in place to support the student and must detail the circumstances under which the student has not been able to complete within N+3. Students should be encouraged to access academic and social integration support as early as possible, so that they are able to progress and complete within minimum time. Students with disabilities will be advised to register for extended curriculum programmes where available so that additional time to complete is provided, where necessary and recommended.
- 6.2 Beneficiaries of the bursary are required to work in South Africa for a specified period after completion of their studies. Should the beneficiary of the bursary be unable to find employment in South Africa post completion, the student will be required to apply in writing to NSFAS for a fair exit clause/buy-out clause to be considered. Students will need to work-back one year for each year funded.

7 Allowable Cost of Study Table

7.1 Increases to these values will be communicated annually by NSFAS.

| Cost Category | Description | Annual Values ¹ |
|---|--|---|
| Tuition Cost | Actual cost of the bursary will be in respect of courses prescribed by the Institution as compulsory requirement for the Degree/ Diploma. Tuition cost for optional or additional subjects will be paid by the student. | No annual cap for tuition. Charged to fee account. |
| Accommodation cost (including meals) | The bursary will be used to pay for the student's actual cost even if they reside in off-campus accommodation, as approved and managed by the university (including meals) during academic terms only if the applicant is approved for accommodation at the university/college. | No annual cap for accommodation. Charged to fee account. |
| Private Accommodation | <p>If the student resides in private rental accommodation, the student will be responsible for all the costs associated with such accommodation, unless s/he furnishes the university/college with a certified copy of a written lease agreement in respect of that accommodation. NSFAS will pay a maximum amount equivalent to the cost of university residence per annum towards the applicant's private accommodation costs.</p> <p>In exceptional cases, NSFAS will pay for private accommodation whose costs exceeds the university/college accommodation equivalent, where such private accommodation is the only one that can accommodate the student's disability. This will need to be supported by the Disability Unit at the university or college.</p> <p>Students with disabilities will only be offered private accommodation allowances in the event that they would have qualified for university accommodation, but there are no beds available.</p> <p>As far as possible, students with disabilities should be prioritised for university accommodation so as to limit their dependency on transport services and to give them greater access to facilities on campus.</p> | Allowance for private accommodation pegged to cost of university residence. |

¹ The annual values for these allowances will be determined by NSFAS, to a maximum increase of 10% per year. Allowance values will be communicated to institutions via Circular issued by NSFAS annually.

| Cost Category | Description | Annual Values¹ |
|--|--|---|
| Meal allowances | <p>Students with disabilities residing in self-catering on-campus, off-campus and private accommodation facilities are eligible for a meals allowance.</p> <p>Meals allowances will not be provided for the human support personnel, as their costs are subsidised by the allowances provided by NSFAS.</p> | As determined annually by NSFAS |
| Transportation Costs while in Private Accommodation | <p>For those applicants residing in private accommodation (as above), NSFAS will pay a contribution towards the transportation costs to travel to/ from campus.</p> <p>This transport allocation can only be used for work placement (work-integrated learning)/community service where it is a requirement of the degree/diploma and at the motivation from the Disability Unit and the department concerned.</p> | As determined by NSFAS, paid per month for 10 months. This is higher than the allowance recommended for other students, due to the cost of transporting students with disabilities being higher than the average. |
| Learning Materials Costs | The Bursary will be used to pay material costs in respect of books, e-books, e-learning materials and other learning support materials required for the purposes of the chosen qualification, such as art equipment, laboratory equipment/coats etc. | As determined annually by NSFAS. |
| Assessment Costs | Limited to one assessment for the duration of the qualification (psychological, medical, rehabilitative including vision and hearing), AND on request by the Disability Unit/Student Support services (reference 8.7) for the purposes of determining teaching and learning support requirements such as assistive devices. | As determined annually by NSFAS |

8 Assistive Devices and Human/Other Support

8.1 The main purpose of assistive devices and human/other support is to enable a teaching and learning environment that is conducive to the holistic development and success of students with disabilities. Assistive devices and human/other support are the additional provisions and support, as outlined below, that make various living and learning environments accessible to students with disabilities. Access and support within the daily living environment, be that by way of a Carer, is another kind of additional support. With support of this nature in higher education, the student is enabled and empowered to gain a university and further education qualification that will foster a successful transition into the workplace and society.

- 8.2** The Bursary Amount will be used to assist in meeting the cost of assistive devices only if the student does not already own or enjoy the use of the assistive devices, whether obtained with NSFAS funds under a prior bursary agreement and obtained within the course of study, or from accessing these devices through other government departments (school, health clinic, social services, labour office). **A student qualifies for one assistive device for the duration of their qualification, and NSFAS will pay for maintenance and repair costs of the device.**
- 8.3 The student, upon his/her first application for assistance, must provide NSFAS with a certified copy of the Disability Annexure, signed by a certified, professionally registered medical doctor or other appropriately qualified professional, which states what the Student requires and would benefit from the support proposed. The Disability Units input in this process can also be accepted regarding the additional support needed as the professionals do not always have full knowledge of the range of support available for students during their course of study.
- 8.4 Students applying for first-time entry into university/college can complete this form prior to their admission and submit it to NSFAS, or wait until they have been admitted to the university/college, and are then assisted by the Disability Unit. However, no allowances for assistive devices or human support will be paid without first having received the Disability Annexure. At any point in the duration of the qualification, should the needs of the student change, a new Disability Annexure form may be completed and a student may then be eligible for these allowances.
- 8.5 A claim in respect of a particular assistive device must be relevant to the student's disability and a suitable motivation needs to be submitted by the Disability Unit with the required documentation which certifies that the applicant requires such a device in order to study for the qualification. Under no circumstances should this contradict what the medical doctor or qualified professional or the Disability Unit has recommended and certified.
- 8.6 A Laptop is not an assistive device but will be funded in certain circumstances where specialized software/hardware devices specific to that disability are required (e.g. where specialized software is required, for Visually Impaired or Blind students or in circumstances where, without the laptop, the student will not be able to perform the day to day academic requirements related to his/her degree). The student will need to motivate to the Disability Unit for the purchase of this equipment.
- 8.7 Claims for assistive devices must be in respect to devices that are required to facilitate access to teaching and learning resources (e.g. books, assignments, lectures etc.) and are linked to the type of disability that a student has. As such, consultations with psychiatrists, occupational therapists, audiologists, speech therapists, physiotherapists, optometrists and ophthalmologists cannot be considered as an assistive device. Where required, an allowance for consultations with specialists is available, on the recommendation of the Disability Unit, Financial Aid Office or Student Support Office.
- 8.8 Students with disabilities at TVET colleges will be able to access these allowances, through their Student Support Services office, subject to the availability of ring-fenced funding to be made available for this purpose. This will be awarded as a top-up to the TVET bursary funding for tuition, accommodation, books and transport. This policy must be read in conjunction with the TVET Bursary programme guidelines as published annually by the DHET.

8.9 The table below details the allowance cost category and the annual threshold values:

| Cost Category | Description | Value |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Assistive Device | <p>The Bursary amount will be used to assist in meeting the costs of one Assistive Device to a maximum amount to be determined annually (which will be adjusted annually to account for inflation) for the duration of the studies (with the provision that upgrades, repairs, replacements are payable on an annual basis where required).</p> <p>NB: Please note that replacements will only be considered where an assistive device is damaged by circumstances beyond user's control e.g. acts of God. Processes and parameters for the provision of assistive devices will strictly apply.</p> | As determined by NSFAS (adjusted annually). Charged to student's fee account. |
| Human Support | <p>The bursary amount will be used in meeting the costs of Human Support to the maximum amount determined by NSFAS annually. This money must be paid over to the department paying for the human cost services at the relevant institution.</p> <p>A claim can also be made for the accommodation cost of a Carer of a student living at a university residence.</p> <p>NB: Student requesting funding for Human Support can also access funding for Assistive Devices.</p> <p>Students may only claim for the cost of one human support person. It is recommended that the Disability Unit complete a contract agreement between the student with the disability and the human support person to ensure that there is full understanding of the roles and responsibilities.</p> | As determined by NSFAS (adjusted annually). Charged to student's fee account |

9 Processes and parameters for the provision of assistive devices

- 9.1 Set out in the Allowable Table below is a list of allowable devices which may be purchased for the student through this allowance.
- 9.2 The maximum amount of the allowance which is available for expenditure on this provision must be noted. **This is a once off payment for entire study period.**

| Disability | Assistive Device |
|--|---|
| <p>Physical Disability Impairment (movement, mobility, locomotor)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheel chairs (Category 1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor/low active basic folding chairs, • Urban active chairs • Hybrid active chairs • Rural active chairs • Adjustable posture support chairs • Motorized chairs • Base seating systems: Lap belts • Seating cushions • Tension adjustable backrest • Computer (Tetra and Quadriplegic) • Recorder (Tetra & Quadriplegic) • Boots (footwear) • Special chair (Commode) • Walking stick • Crutches, callipers, ferrules, • Walking frame • Writing splint • Ankle Brace and splints • Foot and leg orthotics • And any other as required or recommended by the Disability Unit |
| <p>Visual impairment or disability (blind and partially-sighted)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perkins Braille • Tape Recorder/digital recorder tapes • Personal Computer (NB: only if specialized software/related hardware devices specific to that disability are required e.g. large print keyboard, handheld magnifier) • Calculator, • Travelling alarm clock • Spectacles/magnifiers: Refraction only single vision, bifocals fixed tints • And any other as required or recommended by the Disability Unit |
| <p>Hearing impairment or disability (hearing loss/impairment and/or Deafness)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing aids and ear moulds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body aids complete with cord and receiver • Behind-the-ear (BTE) analogue hearing aids for mild hearing loss • BTE analogue hearing aids for moderate hearing loss • BTE analogue hearing aids for severe hearing loss • BTE analogue hearing aids for profound hearing loss • Canal (in-the-ear-ITE) hearing aids (mild to severe hearing loss - analogue) • Ear level (BTE/ITE) programmable digital hearing aids • Tapes & Recorder • Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FM (frequency modulated) systems - receiver, transmitter • Batteries for hearing aid |

| Disability | Assistive Device |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And any other as required or recommended by the Disability Unit |
| <p>Learning disability and/or other communication disorders (ADD, ADHD, spectrum disorders, dyslexia dyspraxia, dysphasia)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital voice recorders • Fluency device • Autistic Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices (AAC Devices) 7 such as: • Dedicated computer systems • Software for non-dedicated computers • Computer access devices, including specially designed keyboards and voice recognition systems • Other peripherals that provide adapted access to computers • Computer output devices adapted for monitors and printers • Software systems specific to AAC systems • Switching devices • Non-electronic AAC devices and system • And any other as required or recommended by the Disability Unit |

9.3 The cost of an assistive device will be paid by NSFAS out of the Bursary Amount to the institution only on receipt of a registration template which specifies the amount of the device claimed for, based on a quotation and/or invoice from an accredited supplier approved by the institution, which is to be retained by the Disability Unit/Financial Aid Office.

9.4 Service providers/suppliers must be paid directly by the institution once the claim has been approved by NSFAS. Claims for assistive devices must be accompanied by corresponding quotation... A list of possible service providers, as recommended by HEDSA, has been included as Annexure C.

9.5 It is the responsibility of the student to look after the assistive device issued to him/her, and to ensure that it is used for the purposes that it was intended for. Irresponsibility or negligence on behalf of the student will be dealt with by the institution and NSFAS, and will not be tolerated. When on campus, the student must ensure that the device is not left unattended and when off campus, the device must be properly secured.

9.6 Only products from an accredited supplier will be approved by the institution and NSFAS. The student must liaise with the Disability Unit regarding accredited suppliers.

9.7 If students transfer from one university to another, the annual threshold limit as determined by NSFAS for the duration of the study period still applies, and the purchase of duplicate devices will not be permitted.

10 Human support parameters

10.1 This category will cover all non-assistive devices as support.

10.2 These could be scribes, note takers, carers, individual reading support, tutors, Sign Language Interpreters.

- 10.3 Note that the costs for Sign Language Interpreters and Carers is provided as a subsidy contribution towards the cost of these services, given their high cost.

11 Other considerations

- 11.1 Students who are currently funded by a NSFAS loan funding programme will be eligible for this bursary funding, if during the course of their studies, they become permanently disabled due to trauma, chronic disease or late onset of a disabling condition. In this event, the existing loan will be written off (as provided for in the Student Funding Policy) as irrecoverable, and a new bursary will be created for the student, on condition that he/she meets the criteria as specified in this policy.
- 11.2 The Student Funding Policy provides for the following: “irrecoverable loans relating to death or permanent disability are written off completely. All outstanding principal and interest balances are calculated up to the event and written off to nil.” Therefore, if a student completes his/her studies and was funded by NSFAS loan funding, this bursary fund will not be used to clear that debt, as the debt will be written off.
- 11.3 In the event that a student has been selected by a private (non-NSFAS) donor for bursary funding, and that bursary funding does not provide for assistive devices or human support, where these are required, then the student may be able to access funding through NSFAS on condition that he/she meets the criteria as specified in this policy.

NSFAS Disability Information Form

Applicants who are currently receiving the funding for students with disabilities do not need to submit this Annexure. Should the nature of your disability change over the term of study, and if this impacts directly on your ability to participate in your educational programme, then you will need to submit updated details and a full medical/rehabilitation report from a certified professional. Failure to provide the information requested on all pages will render this application incomplete.

Please complete in detail, in legible handwriting with certification and verification by a registered healthcare professional or disability support office (where indicated). Please see notes at the end of this document for more information regarding the completion of the form. This form should accompany your application for financial assistance if you have indicated that you have a disability. All information contained in this form will remain with the university/university of technology and/or NSFAS only and will remain confidential.

APPLICANT DETAILS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ID Number | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First name | | | | | | | Surname | | | | | | | |
| Student number | | | | | | | Date of birth | | | | | | | |

Disability information:

(This section could be completed by a certified, professionally registered medical doctor or other appropriately qualified professional viz. optometrist, physiotherapist, disability unit head), who can confirm the disability status of the student and state what support the student requires and how the student would benefit from the support proposed).

Please indicate disability in the section below. Please see the table overleaf for information and explanation on the disabilities listed below

² This is available as a downloadable .pdf in the NSFAS corporate identity on the NSFAS website.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Partially-Sighted | | Chronic Illness | |
| Blind | | Physical Disability | |
| Hearing Impaired | | Psychosocial Disabilities | |
| Hard of Hearing | | Deaf-Blind | |
| Deaf | | Neurodevelopmental Disabilities | |
| deaf | | Any other disability | |

Please provide further details if you have a disability not mentioned above:
(Please give detailed explanation and provide a medical report from a medical practitioner)

Psychosocial and Neuro-developmental Disability - a detailed report to be provided detailing the nature of the support required, not older than 3 years from a registered Psychologist or Psychiatrist will need to be provided to support this application.



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

Chronic Illness – a detailed recent medical report (from a registered medical practitioner) will need to be provided to support this application explaining how the condition impacts on the teaching and learning process of the student. The nature of the support required by the student will need to be detailed.

Details of Practitioner: (if completed by the Disability Unit, this form must be completed by the Head of the Unit. The additional medical reports required must accompany this form where appropriate)

Please give details as to how the support requested will benefit the student.
(this section to be completed by the DU):



NSFAS

National Student Financial Aid Scheme

.....
Name

.....
Date

.....
Signature

Organisation Stamp

HEDSA Disability Coding Framework

| Washington Group | Category of Disability | Description Of Disability |
|--|--|--|
| Sensory Disability | Blind | No functional vision |
| | Partially-sighted | Functional vision with limitations that may be reduced through the use of electronic or manual low-vision devices. (Vision cannot be fully corrected through the use of prescriptive lenses) |
| | Deaf (capital D) | Little or no hearing: generally, makes use of South African Sign Languages (SASL) and typically subscribes to Deaf Culture |
| | deaf (lower case d) | Little or no hearing, do not make use of Sign language as a medium of communication, makes use of various means of communication such as speech, speech reading/cochlear implants or a combination of these. Aligns with impairment/disability and the hearing world. |
| | Hearing Impaired | None, little or some hearing: generally, makes use of appropriate hearing technology e.g. Cochlear Implants, Hearing Aids, and other assistive listening/living devices and typically uses verbal communication. Align themselves with impairment and the hearing world. |
| | Hard of Hearing | Persons with different degrees of hearing loss, who do not align with impairment and disability. |
| | Deaf-Blind | No functional vision and no hearing |
| Specific Learning / Developmental Disability | Neurodevelopmental Disabilities | Specific Learning Disabilities Communication Disabilities, Language and Speech Disability (e.g. stuttering), Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Intellectual Disabilities |
| Psychosocial / Psychiatric Disabilities | Psychosocial Disability | Such as Depression, Schizophrenia |

| Washington Group | Category of Disability | Description Of Disability |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Physical Disability | Physical Disability | Loss of a limb or makes use of crutches, Wheelchair User, Person with Cerebral Palsy |
| | Chronic Illness | A long-standing medical condition /illness that affects daily functioning. Such as Chronic Heart Condition, Chronic Diabetes Cancer |
| Any disability not mentioned above | Give details | Any disability not mentioned above |

For ease of reference, these HEDSA codes are as below, given alongside their HEMIS/TVETMIS codes and descriptions:

- Blind (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 01 = Sight)
- Partially-sighted (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 01 = Sight)
- Deaf (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 03 = Communication – talking, listening)
- deaf (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 03 = Communication – talking, listening)
- Hearing impaired (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 02 = Hearing even with a hearing aid)
- Hard of hearing (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 02 = Hearing even with a hearing aid)
- Deaf-Blind (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 07 = multiple)
- Neurodevelopmental disabilities (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 04 = Physical)
- Psychosocial disabilities (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 06 = Emotional – behavioural or psychological)
- Physical disability (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 04 = Physical)
- Chronic illness (HEMIS/TVETMIS code 09 = disabled but unspecified)

Suppliers & contact details

Assistive Technology

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Edit Microsystems | Gerhard Erasmus | gerhard@editmicro.co.za www.editmicro.co.za |
| Sensory Solutions | Anthony Dodds | Anthony@sensorysolutions.co.za www.sensorysolutions.co.za |
| Inclusive Solutions | Lisa Ellis | lisa@inclusivesolutions.co.za www.inclusivesolutions.co.za |
| Microlink PC / Hearability | Lesley Shaw | lesley@hearability.co.za www.microlink.co.za |
| BlindSA | Susan Bam & Mr Rudolph Lubbe | www.blindsa.co.za |
| Phonak SA | Lizeth Keulder | www.phonak.co.za |
| Head-phones SA | Martin de Marillac | www.headsets.co.za |
| New wave Communications | Ishmail | www.newwave.co.za |
| Chairman Industries | Gertrude Sierra | www.chairmanund.co.za |

Mobility Aids

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|-------------|--|
| Shonaquip | www.shonaquip.co.za |
| CE Mobility | www.cemobility.co.za |
| Medop | www.medop.co.za |

Other Computer Equipment

| |
|----------------------------|
| Tshwane Computer Solutions |
| Teletek |
| Incredible Connection |