



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

**CIRCULAR NOTICE NO.03 OF 2021  
(FOR TVET COLLEGES ONLY)**

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**TO: AII TVET COLLEGE PRINCIPALS AND  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS**

**FROM: MR ANDILE NONGOGO  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2021**

**SUBJECT: TVET UPDATES**

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**2021 ALLOWANCE ALLOCATIONS**

The introduction of the fee free policy brought about massive changes in the TVET sector where the budget allocation increased by over 100% and standardised allowances were introduced for the first time in the TVET sector. This resulted in the allowance portion of the allocation to be distributed as a conduit (pool of funds) and institutions claimed on a first come first serve basis. Furthermore, some institutions claimed more accommodation allowances than the allowable cap.

In 2020, for the first time, the TVET sector registration claims exceeded the available budget due to accommodation claims that were more than the national standard as set in the rules and guidelines. To curb this practice, both the Department and NSFAS agreed that in 2021, an allowance allocation should be provided to the TVET sector.

In terms of the National Norms and Standards for Funding Technical and Vocational Education and Training Colleges (NNSF-TVET Colleges), the Department allocates the Tuition component of the NSFAS Bursary to all TVET Colleges based on the approved enrolment plans for the next academic year. The tuition allocation is based on approved enrolment numbers and thus TVET Colleges exceeding the approved enrolment numbers must be accountable for the full programme cost (DHET 80% subsidy as well as the NSFAS 20% tuition portion) as well as correlating allowances. The tuition allocation formula based on approved enrolment numbers, was used to determine the allowance allocations per institution.

Colleges will each receive an allowance letter from NSFAS. Each college is required to plan for its allowance allocation and follow the principles contained in the Bursary Rules and Guidelines particularly for the allowance type splits. The allowance allocation is for the year and institutions are not supposed to exceed this allocation.

## **UPFRONT TUITION & REGISTRATIONS**

In preparation for the 2021 academic year, NSFAS will be made an advance payment calculated at 20 percent of the tuition on the 12 February 2021. As has been the practice the aim of this advance payment, is to assist institutions with its operations to allow NSFAS funded students to proceed and register without paying a registration fee.

Given the delays in the start of the academic year, we will not be paying upfront allowances. Institutions will be required to submit the full registration and it will be on that basis that NSFAS will be making its first allowance payment on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 for funded students. We are preparing the system to consume registration information that will be opened on the 22 February 2021. The student allowances of registrations that have been successfully matched to funded students will be made on the 26 February 2021.

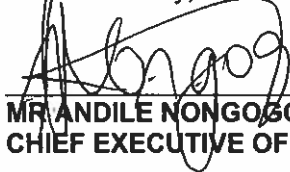
Colleges are requested to ensure that they adhere to the registration mapping rules when submitting registration data to avoid exceptions and registration failures.

## **EXTENTION OF WALK-IN APPLICATIONS**

We have been receiving requests to extend the 2021 TVET walk-in application period which was set to close on the 15 February 2021. We are therefore extending the application period to close on the 26 February 2021. Please note, that this application period is exclusively for TVET college registered students and is managed on an exceptional basis. The normal NSFAS application window is closed.

All operational enquiries should be directed to your Servicing Administrator and for escalations to Ms Phumla Tshilenge at [phumlat@nsfas.org.za](mailto:phumlat@nsfas.org.za)

Yours sincerely,



**MR ANDILE NONGOZO**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**