



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

CIRCULAR NOTICE NO 01 OF 2022 (FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS)

TO: VICE-CHANCELLORS, PRINCIPALS, REGISTRARS

CC: CHIEF FINANCE OFFICERS
HEADS OF FINANCIAL AID

FROM: ANDILE NONGOGO

DATE: JANUARY 07, 2022

SUBJECT: **EXTENSION OF 2022 APPLICATION CYCLE, COMMUNICATION OF STUDENT FUNDING OUTCOMES AND APPEALS PROCESS**

1. Introduction

This circular communication is aimed to provide information to Higher Education Institutions and TVET colleges regarding; i) extension of the application cycle ii) communication of funding decisions for approved students as well as the iii) appeals process for unsuccessful students.

2. After careful consideration of a number of factors and given that NSC results will be released by January 20, 2022, NSFAS will extend bursary applications for new students from January 07, 2022 to January 21, 2022.

3. Communication of 2022 Funding Decisions

NSFAS is busy finalising and verifying New Students that must qualify for bursaries in the 2022 funding cycle; including SASSA and Non-SASSA recipients. Funding decisions for SASSA beneficiaries were made real-time to applicants upon successfully applying to NSFAS. Processes for evaluation of Non SASSA and Senior Students applicants as well as evaluation of continued funding for Returning Students are nearly completed. NSFAS will be ready to publish the 2022 funding lists to institutions on January 24, 2022 for New and Continuing Students subject to confirmation of budget from Government. Students who apply during the extended period (January 07 -21) will receive a funding status by January 28, 2022. Institution must note that these deadlines are dependent on the budget allocation for 2022 being finalized and communicated to NSFAS.

4. 2022 Appeals for New and Continuing Students

NSFAS has enhanced the 2022 appeals process to enable a direct interaction with students during the processing of appeals. This capability existed previously for New Students and has now been extended to cover Continuing Students. Appeals will open on January 24, 2022. Students will have up to 30 days to submit an appeal. Appeals with outstanding documents will be left open for 14 days after which the appeal application will be closed automatically by NSFAS. This process places responsibility on the student to submit an appeal with supporting evidence within the prescribed timelines.



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Institutions are requested to advise students of this new process noting the timelines as indicated above. Additionally; NSFAS may require further information from institutions for students that may appeal N+ (This will be to confirm if such a student is likely to complete the qualification within the next academic period).

5. NSFAS Funding Eligibility Criteria

The NSFAS Funding Eligibility Criteria has been drafted and is due for final approvals. This new criterion once approved will replace the DHET Bursary Guidelines as has been previously applicable to TVETs and Universities. The Funding criteria has been extensively consulted with all relevant stakeholders and is awaiting the concurrence of the Minister.

Sincerely,

Mr Andile Nongogo CA (SA)
Chief Executive Officer