

2026 FINANCIAL REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

DRAFT 2026 FINANCIAL REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

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Introduction

The financial registration guidelines outlined in this document are intended to provide clarity and streamline the registration process. These guidelines focus on two key areas that directly affect a student's ability to register for the 2026 academic year, namely:

- i) the **minimum initial payment (MIP)**,
- ii) the settlement of **prior debt**.

It must be understood that at present, South Africa's university funding system is based on both government block grant and tuition fees, the latter expected from students, their parents/guardians and/or sponsors. In addition, students that are financially needy and academically deserving are encouraged to apply for NSFAS, SETAs and other external donors for funding.

CUT must prioritise and optimise the collection of Minimum Initial Payments (MIP) to prevent severe cash-flow constraints and curb the growth of overall student debt. The recoverability of outstanding student debt has become increasingly challenging each year, underscoring the need for proactive financial management and timely payment compliance.

Since 2020, the University has adjusted student fees in line with the directives issued by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

For the 2026 academic year, the approved fee increase is determined using a weighted approach that combines 70% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 3.7% and 30% of the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) at 5.2%. Based on this methodology, the **fee increase is 4.15% for tuition fees and 5.7% for accommodation fees**.

The approved fee adjustments are aligned with the final directive received from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) for implementation.



FINANCE

Central University of
Technology, Free State

The areas below have an impact on students' ability to register:

- i) **Application fees.**
- ii) **Minimum initial payment (MIP):**
 - a. South African citizens and Southern African Development Community (SADC) students; and
 - b. international students.
- iii) Settlement of **prior debt.**
- iv) **National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) funding.**
- v) Other **external donors.**

Financial guidelines

Application fees payable

There are no fees payable with the submission of the application form for admission.

- Application fee **R0.00**
- Residence application fee: **R0.00**

Minimum initial payment on or before the registration day (Enrolment fee)

South African citizens

(MIP – non-residence):

Registration fee (*non-refundable*): R1 453.00

Deposit tuition fees: (**or 10% tuition if registering for less than 3 subjects**) R3 807.00

MIP **R5 260.00**

Students accepted for university residence accommodation:

(MIP – CUT residence):

Registration fee (*non-refundable*): R1 453.00

Deposit tuition fees: (**or 10% tuition if registering for less than 3 subjects**) R3 807.00

Deposit residence fees: (**Only for Self-Funded Students**) R3 610.00

MIP **R8 870.00**

SADC and International students

The rules regulating the acceptance of international students are legislated by the South African Department of Home Affairs, thus the Central University of Technology, Free State, as an institution that operates under the jurisdiction of South Africa and governed by the Higher Education Act has to comply with these regulations.

The 2026 MIPs for International (Foreign) students are as follows:

MIP – (non-residence):

Registration fee (<i>non-refundable</i>):	R1 453.00
International Admin fee	R2 603.00
Deposit tuition fees: (or 10% tuition if registering for less than 3 subjects)	<u>R3 807.00</u>
Expected Minimum Initial Payment	<u>R7 863.00</u>

Students accepted for university residence accommodation:

Registration fee (<i>non-refundable</i>):	R1 453.00
International Admin fee	R2 603.00
Deposit tuition fees: (or 10% tuition if registering for less than 3 subjects)	R3 807.00
Deposit residence fees: (Only for Self-Funded Students)	<u>R3 610.00</u>
Expected Minimum Initial Payment	<u>R11 473.00</u>

Exempted from paying Minimum Initial Payment (MIP) during registrations

Please note that the following categories of students are exempted from paying the Minimum Initial Payment (MIP) at registration:

- All returning NSFAS-funded undergraduate students who appear on the NSFAS-funded list or were funded in 2025, **provided they are registering for an NSFAS-funded qualification.**
- All 2026 first-time entering students (FTENs) listed as NSFAS-funded, **registering for an NSFAS-funded qualification.**
- Students funded by other confirmed donors, as verified by the Fees and Financial Aid (FFA) Office. However, if the donor's funding award letter specifically excludes the registration fee, the student will be required to pay the registration fee accordingly.
- **NB:** If the funder fails to provide the list of students approved for funding upon the commencement of the registration process, the affected students' matters shall be dealt with by the Financial Appeals and Aid Committee (FAAC).

Student debt settlement

Student debt remains a significant challenge across the higher education sector. The non-payment of tuition fees poses a serious threat to the financial sustainability of the University, as student fees account for approximately 30% of the total institutional budget required to support operations. A continued rise in student debt may hinder the University's ability to meet its financial obligations and could negatively impact the quality of teaching and learning.

Students are therefore encouraged to act responsibly by ensuring timely payment of both current and outstanding fees. Students and their parents or guardians are urged to liaise with the Fees and Financial Aid (FFA) Officers to make suitable arrangements for the settlement of any outstanding debt.

Please note that students with unpaid balances from previous academic years will not be permitted to re-register until such accounts have been settled in full.

Alternatively, the student is required to make acceptable payment arrangements and submit a duly signed Acknowledgement of Debt (AoD) form together with the Debit Order Authorisation form before registration can be approved by the University. The following supporting documents must be submitted to the Fees and Financial Aid (FFA) Officers:

- Three (3) months' bank statements of the account payer.
- Certified copies of the identity documents (IDs) of both the student and the account payer.
- Proof of income for parents or guardians (one of the following must be provided):
 - Recent salary advice or payslip of the account payer; or
 - Valid SASSA receipts; or
 - Social Development Declaration Form; or
 - SARS IT34 form.

The student will be required to complete a Financial Appeals Form, which must be submitted to the Financial Appeals and Aid Committee for consideration.

Forms to be completed by students with outstanding debt prior to registration:

1. Acknowledgement of Debt (AoD) and Monthly Payment Commitment Forms
2. Debit Order Authorisation Form

Settlement dates

- a) Year programmes: by 31 October
- b) First-semester programmes: by 31 May
- c) Second-semester programmes: by 31 October

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CUT banking details

Students are encouraged to make payments directly into the University's designated bank account to minimise the risks associated with handling large amounts of cash.

Bank	:	First National Bank
Account name	:	Central University of Technology, FS
Branch name	:	Bloemfontein OFS 171
Branch code	:	230134
Account number	:	62684987418
Account type	:	Cheque account
Account name	:	Central University of Technology, FS
Reference	:	YOUR STUDENT OR ID NUMBER OR PASSPORT NUMBER