



higher education  
& training

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND NSFAS MEET WITH UNIVERSITY SRCs

### CLARIFICATION ON DECLARATION ON NSFAS RELATED MATTERS

7 February 2017

It has been brought to the notice of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) that the *31 January Declaration on NSFAS related Matters* has been misinterpreted by some students.

The meeting referred to in the Declaration agreed on a number of aspects relating to **NSFAS qualifying students**. The entire Declaration was in the context of students **who had applied for NSFAS funding** and had not received communication from NSFAS and were therefore experiencing problems in registering.

Amongst other aspects, the declaration stated that:

- Students from quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools and/or from families dependent on South African Social Service Agency (SASSA) grants automatically qualify for NSFAS financial aid and, provided they meet the academic requirements of the university and they have been offered a study space, must be allowed to register for a study programme and to a residence place.

The Department stresses that this clause **ONLY refers to students who have applied for NSFAS funding**. Students who did not apply cannot be considered as NSFAS qualifying students. Any students that did not apply by the final cut-off date (20 January 2017) are not covered by this clause. At the meeting it was stressed that NSFAS will not reopen the application process for 2017.

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