



## Education Expenses

Experts suggest that a tertiary education over the full period of study can range from R30 000 for a three-year diploma at a less expensive day college, to over R350 000 for a medical degree at a more expensive live-in institution. And although some families can save for their children's higher education using special savings schemes, many others live in low-income circumstances and can save very little – or nothing at all. The bad news is that self- or family-funding is pretty rare. But the good news is that insufficient or non-existent funds needn't put higher learning out of reach. Financial aid is designed to help you meet your educational expenses if your own resources are small. In other words, if you believe that you can't afford all the costs of tertiary education: tuition, room and board, books and transportation.

## What Are My Options?

Your options range from self- or family-funding, to bank or commercial loans, to state-sponsored financial aid schemes. Also available are scholarships and bursaries, which are offered by sectors of the economy (like the engineering industry) or individual educational institutions (like the University of the Witwatersrand).

**In general, scholarships are awarded for exceptional academic achievement, while bursaries are awarded on the basis of financial need**

## A Scholarship

If your high school results are above average, you can apply for a scholarship. Why are results so important? Because scholarship programmes target students who've set career and life goals and who'll take their education seriously. Institutions offering scholarships want to be sure that their funds will be well used. Always read the fine print to find out what's included in your scholarship agreement. You may have to maintain certain results and fulfil longterm obligations to keep the scholarship.

## A Bursary

A bursary is mainly based on financial need and if you apply for one, you'll be required to provide documents describing your financial situation. Be aware that once you receive your qualification, you may have to work for the company supplying the bursary.

In South Africa, some courses attract more funding than others. Certain skills are more scarce and therefore in more demand. As a result, more bursaries are available for commerce, engineering and science than for schooling and technical training, study by correspondence or short, non-formal courses.

**The amount of money awarded differs for each scholarship: some provide for tuition and books only, while others cover all expenses including pocket money**

### © JumpStart 2007

The publication of JumpStart involves extensive research and substantial costs. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Publishers. Any person who carries out any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims.

### Disclaimer

Whilst every care has been taken in creating this book, the Publishers do not give any warranty as to the completeness or accuracy of its contents nor of any supplementary information, explanation or opinion. Furthermore, the views expressed in JumpStart are not necessarily those of Deloitte. All advertisements and advertorials have been paid for and therefore do not carry any endorsement by the Publishers or Deloitte.



## Where To Look For Aid

Your first stop should be the bursary office or financial aid bureau of the institution you'd like to attend. They're usually the best source of information on student funding and many print special guides or booklets which explain everything in detail.

### You should also:

- explore the advertisements in JumpStart;
- read the newspaper, trade journals and any career guidance publications you can get your hands on;
- visit career centres, exhibitions and open days;
- surf the Internet if you have access to it;
- visit the website of the Department of Education: [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za);
- order a copy of the Bursary Register by phoning (011) 672 6559, faxing (011) 472 3507, e-mailing [slevin@mweb.co.za](mailto:slevin@mweb.co.za) or writing to The Bursary Register, P.O. Box 178, Florida Hills, 1716;
- contact major corporations, institutes, associations and organisations with an interest in education; and
- consider approaching the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

**Most funding schemes and financial aid offices require applications to be submitted before the start of the new academic year. You may miss out if you wait for your final results, so enclose certified copies of your latest available results in your application and ensure that it gets there in time. There's no such thing as an "emergency bursary"!**

### You're eligible for a NSFAS award if you're:

- a South African citizen;
- registered at a South African university or university of technology;
- an undergraduate student, studying for a first or second tertiary qualification;
- able to demonstrate the potential for academic success; and
- "financially needy" (determined by the "NSFAS Means Test").

The NSFAS is a great option for students who are academically deserving and financially needy, because it offers the opportunity to access a loan which can be converted, in part, to a bursary. The NSFAS also runs bursary and loan schemes on behalf of other organisations, like the Department of Labour. Its benefits include:

#### © JumpStart 2007

The publication of JumpStart involves extensive research and substantial costs. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Publishers. Any person who carries out any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims.

#### Disclaimer

Whilst every care has been taken in creating this book, the Publishers do not give any warranty as to the completeness or accuracy of its contents nor of any supplementary information, explanation or opinion. Furthermore, the views expressed in JumpStart are not necessarily those of Deloitte. All advertisements and advertorials have been paid for and therefore do not carry any endorsement by the Publishers or Deloitte.

- loans without guarantees;
- loans at low interest rates;
- the partial conversion of loans to bursaries, based on academic achievement; and
- reasonable repayment plans.

For more information on the NSFAS, contact the bursary office or financial aid bureau of the institution you'd like to attend or visit [www.nsfas.org.za](http://www.nsfas.org.za).

### How To Apply For Aid

**Step 1:** Phone, e-mail or write to the relevant person or organisation to ask for details and an application form.

**Step 2:** Use the format below to help you structure the e-mail or letter. Fill in your own details where appropriate.

**Step 3:** Make sure that you satisfy the requirements of a particular scheme. For example, don't apply for bursaries with conditions that don't suit you or your study choice.

### Receiving and completing an application form for a bursary, scholarship or financial aid package doesn't mean you'll automatically be awarded assistance!

The Bursary Officer  
Bursary fund's name  
Bursary fund's address

Your name  
Your address  
Your postal code  
Date

Dear Sir/Madam

#### APPLICATION FOR A BURSARY

I am in Grade 12 at the moment. I intend to study a B.Sc. (Engineering) at the University of the Witwatersrand next year and would like to find out about the bursaries you offer. Please send me an application form and all the information you think I might need. Enclosed are copies of my latest reports.

Yours faithfully,

Your signature  
Your full name

#### © JumpStart 2007

The publication of JumpStart involves extensive research and substantial costs. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Publishers. Any person who carries out any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims.

#### Disclaimer

Whilst every care has been taken in creating this book, the Publishers do not give any warranty as to the completeness or accuracy of its contents nor of any supplementary information, explanation or opinion. Furthermore, the views expressed in JumpStart are not necessarily those of Deloitte. All advertisements and advertorials have been paid for and therefore do not carry any endorsement by the Publishers or Deloitte.

The application letter and form are your first impression. They are the most important part of the whole process. And competition for funding is fierce! So:

- take your time when filling out the form;
- read all accompanying documents carefully;
- ask for help if you get stuck;
- answer all questions (institutions ask questions because they need certain information);
- always tell the truth; and
- print legibly (clearly) on your form.

**Selectors receive hundreds of applications. Yours should be the neatest, cleanest and most impressive.**

## A Student Loan

In JumpStart's article entitled "Apply For A Loan", you'll see that a student loan is one way to help you pay for your studies. Read the article. All the details are there.

### Here's some extra information:

- A loan is usually repayable on completion of your studies.
- It's often best to approach a bank where you (or a family member) already have an account. The bank will know what your resources are and there may even be a savings account that can be used as security (proof of income) against your loan.
- Always ask what the monthly repayments (payments) are going to be and find out about interest.
- Check the conditions of the loan very carefully. For instance, some loans stipulate (demand) that if the student fails his/her exams at any stage, the full amount of the loan must be repaid immediately!
- The advice of a lawyer or accountant can be very useful. But you don't have to hire one. See if your parents have a friend, or your friends have a parent, who can guide you.

**Be suspicious of private organisations that offer to loan you money for study purposes. Real bursary- and loanawarding organisations do exist, but it's worth your while to ensure that you're dealing with the real thing and not a bunch of con artists. Never agree to purchase an application form. Never offer a bribe to secure a bursary. And be aware that company representatives aren't allowed to ask you to pay for preferential treatment.**

#### © JumpStart 2007

The publication of JumpStart involves extensive research and substantial costs. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Publishers. Any person who carries out any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims.

#### Disclaimer

Whilst every care has been taken in creating this book, the Publishers do not give any warranty as to the completeness or accuracy of its contents nor of any supplementary information, explanation or opinion. Furthermore, the views expressed in JumpStart are not necessarily those of Deloitte. All advertisements and advertorials have been paid for and therefore do not carry any endorsement by the Publishers or Deloitte.



## A Good Tip

Try to find part-time work while you're studying. It'll help you pay off your education expenses that much quicker. If you're attending an urban institution, look for a job in a restaurant or a nearby company. If your campus is off the beaten track, try to obtain a position as an on-site student assistant, tutor or employee.

## If You Run Into Difficulty...

Let's say you've arranged a student loan and started studying, but you experience a problem raising your portion of the funds after a month or two. Contact the bursary office or financial aid bureau at your institution; sometimes special arrangements can be made. And if your personal situation becomes desperate, it's a good idea to speak to student counsellors on campus. They're trained to help you deal with this sort of thing.

### HERE'S A WORST - CASE SCENARIO:

**A would-be student arrives at a tertiary institution at the start of the academic year, without applying for admission or funding. He has a suitcase in one hand and a Matric certificate in the other – but not enough money to get back to wherever he came from.**

**Don't be this student!**

- Allan Taylor, CEO, NSFAS

#### © JumpStart 2007

The publication of JumpStart involves extensive research and substantial costs. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Publishers. Any person who carries out any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims.

#### Disclaimer

Whilst every care has been taken in creating this book, the Publishers do not give any warranty as to the completeness or accuracy of its contents nor of any supplementary information, explanation or opinion. Furthermore, the views expressed in JumpStart are not necessarily those of Deloitte. All advertisements and advertorials have been paid for and therefore do not carry any endorsement by the Publishers or Deloitte.





## I JumpStarted my Future

By: Priscilla Khabane

I'm 20 years old. I'm not your average "i-live-in-a-comfortable-zone, i-have-both parents, they-work-and-do-everything-for-me, i-never-worry-about food-shelter-or-school-fees, if-i-get-sick-i-know-i'll-get-the-best-medical-care-because-i-can-afford-it-person!". In fact my background and circumstances are very screwed up, but I manage to make them positive, regardless of how difficult it is.

I have a single parent who's a domestic worker. I didn't go to a private school, but I did have the privilege of going to a model c school. Most days I have food, but there are also times when a day or two goes by without me having any; but that hungry time passes.

There were times when I just wanted to give up, because I didn't have money to get to school. I didn't have a place to stay because I couldn't afford it. I was in so much debt that I was being bombarded by court and jail threats. I didn't have a support system and I wanted to turn to sex work but didn't. I felt there was absolutely no way out, there's more, but I'll stop to save time, I just wanted to paint a picture.

Surrounding yourself with positive people is crucial, because they will motivate and encourage you during situations like these.

Things aren't perfect at the moment, but they are much better. I accept that making life worth living is a process. I got a bursary to Boston Media House after matriculating, and not because I was lucky or because I applied, but because I had showed potential and someone spotted it, and gave me a chance.

I also applied for an internship at loveLife, and got it. I am now a loveLife groundBREAKER on a year internship programme working a full day at the same time as completing my studies. It wasn't all smooth sailing though, I had to show true passion, drive, commitment and persistence and that was just to be selected - but it was all worth it, because it paid off.

The secret is passion, perseverance and commitment, and it applies to all aspects of life. It is these character traits that have helped me to finish school, to receive a bursary and to get an internship that will help me get a good job after my studies are completed. I believe that if I had not stuck to these principles I would definitely be a "wash out" - have kids with no fathers, no job, have HIV and be involved in criminal activities; in fact any bad deed that you can think of.

Have passion, commitment, and perseverance, and always be willing to work hard, humble yourself, start at the bottom, be patient, and keep praying. THERE'S HOPE JUST KEEP THE FAITH. IT WILL HAPPEN FOR YOU.

### © JumpStart 2007

The publication of JumpStart involves extensive research and substantial costs. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Publishers. Any person who carries out any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims.

### Disclaimer

Whilst every care has been taken in creating this book, the Publishers do not give any warranty as to the completeness or accuracy of its contents nor of any supplementary information, explanation or opinion. Furthermore, the views expressed in JumpStart are not necessarily those of Deloitte. All advertisements and advertorials have been paid for and therefore do not carry any endorsement by the Publishers or Deloitte.

