



Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme

ISFAP 2025 Bursary Applications opening on 3 June – over 3 500 students already funded

Press Release
Immediate Release
23 May 2024

Johannesburg, South Africa – The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme Foundation NPC (ISFAP) is pleased to announce that bursary applications for the 2025 academic year will open on 3 June 2024. This includes both undergraduate and postgraduate applications.

Since its inception in 2017, ISFAP has been dedicated to providing financial aid and comprehensive support to South African students from poor and middle-income households, contributing significantly to the nation's skills development and economic growth. ISFAP was established to bridge the financial gap for students whose family incomes are too high to qualify for NSFAS funding, but too low to afford tertiary education independently (the "missing middle").

Although the programme specifically targets missing middle students who have a household income of between R350,000 and R600,000 per annum, it also accommodates unfunded students that have a household income of between R0 and R600,000 per annum. ISFAP funds their higher education in fields identified as critical to South Africa's economic development. These include Actuarial Science, Engineering, Medicine and Nursing, Computer and Data Science, Chartered Accountancy, and other Occupations in High Demand (OHDs), as defined by the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC).

Since its launch following the #FeesMustFall movement, ISFAP has funded over 3 500 students, covering tuition fees, accommodation, books, laptops, stipends, and psychosocial support, ensuring that students receive a well-rounded educational experience. The programme not only focuses on academic excellence but also provides mental health support, life skills training, and financial literacy programmes, helping students thrive in all aspects of university life.

Despite the significant impact that ISFAP has made over the years, the demand for bursaries remains high. The programme is predominantly funded by private sector contributions, along with support from government entities such as the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs). ISFAP remains motivated in its effort to seek additional funding to expand its reach and support more students across South Africa's universities.

"The financial landscape for many South African families is challenging, and tertiary education remains an unattainable dream for many. ISFAP aims to change this by offering comprehensive support to deserving students," said Martin Mukwevho, Executive

Programme Manager of ISFAP. "We encourage eligible students to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to advance their education and contribute to the country's future", he added.

Application Details

- Opening Date: 3 June 2024
- Closing Date: 31 October 2024
- Eligibility: South African citizens from households with an annual income between R0 and R600,000.
- Undergraduate: Applications are open to **first-time university registrants** as well as students that are already studying. In other words, second, third, and final-year students who are enrolled in undergraduate degrees at universities that ISFAP partners with and in courses that ISFAP support, can also apply.
- Postgraduates: Applicants must be enrolled for Honours or Masters postgraduate studies at universities that ISFAP partners with and in courses that ISFAP supports.

Applicants are encouraged to apply online at applyonline.isfap.org.za. The online platform is designed to guide students through the application process, ensuring that all required documents are correctly submitted. Applicants should regularly check their emails for updates on their application status.

For more information about ISFAP, the application process, and eligibility criteria, please visit www.isfap.org.za.

Contact:

Anneke Burns

ISFAP Publicist

Email: media@isfap.org.za

Phone: +27 71 423 0079

About ISFAP

The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme Foundation NPC (ISFAP) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to funding and supporting the higher education of South Africa's poor and middle-class students. Established in 2017, ISFAP partners with various universities and private sector entities to ensure that students in need can access and succeed in higher education, contributing to the nation's economic development.

Commented [MDT1]: I don't think this is correct. They can also be second, third years etc.

Commented [TK2R1]: It was the initial criteria used for selection before the complexity. The sentence can be changed to accommodate other funder requirements of funding students that are at different Levels of study including PG.