

Missing Middle Fee Adjustment Grant – additional information

Government will subsidise the annual increase of 8% on NWU tuition and residence fees for all qualifying registered students with a gross family income of R600 000 and less per annum in 2017. This is not a loan but a grant.

- **What does gross combined family income of R600 000 and less mean?**

Parents, spouses and/or legal guardians who earn a combined annual income (wage, salary, grant, pension or other source of income including rental or business income) of R600 000 and less to support the family.

- **What does Quintile mean?**

Quintiles are the categories into which South African schools are divided based on the socio-economic status of the community in which the school is situated, with Quintile 1 schools being the poorest.

- **Eligibility criteria**

- Only South African citizens and permanent-residence students studying towards an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in 2017 will be considered.
- The applicant and direct family (parents, spouse and/or legal guardians) must have a combined GROSS family income of R600 000 and less per annum.
- The grant will ONLY cover the 8% increase in **tuition fees and university-managed accommodation** (including operational leases for student accommodation between the university and the service provider).

- **Who is automatically considered for the grant and does not have to complete an application form?**

- First-year students from Quintile 1,2 and 3 schools (Gr 12 in 2016);
- New first-time entry students who qualify for NSFAS in the 2017 academic year;
- Continuing NSFAS-qualifying students (received NSFAS in 2016) who meet the academic progressing requirements;
- Students who applied for NSFAS and have completed the NSFAS means test but, due to shortage of funding, did not receive support in previous years or cannot be covered in the 2017 academic year. These students must also meet the NSFAS academic progression requirements (must pass 50% of their modules and should apply within the prescribed years of study + 2 criteria).

- **Who does NOT qualify for the grant?**

- All foreign students, including SADC students, will have to pay their full fees, including the fee increase of 8%. No foreign student will be provided with fee adjustment funding;
- Any student from a household with an income in excess of R600 000;
- Students who are recipients of bursaries and scholarships that cover their full **tuition and accommodation fees** will have to pay the fee increase;
- Any student who does not automatically qualify and who does not apply for the fee adjustment funding, will not receive the grant to cover the fee adjustment.

- **Who should apply for the grant?**

- Under and postgraduate students who have a gross combined family income of less than R600 000;
- Staff members of the NWU who receive staff discount and who have a gross combined family income of less than R600 000;
- Students who are recipients of partial bursaries and scholarships not covering full tuition and/or accommodation, provided they fall within the R600 000 family income gap.

- **How should a student apply?**

- The DHET application form is available on the NWU website;
- Paper application forms will also be available at financial support offices on the various campuses;
- Completed application forms with the supporting documents can be scanned and emailed to the

following addresses:

Mafikeng Campus: mcmissingmiddle@nwu.ac.za;

Potchefstroom Campus: pcmissingmiddle@nwu.ac.za;

Vaal Triangle Campus: vcmissingmiddle@nwu.ac.za;

OR manually submitted at financial support offices on the various campuses.

- **What are the closing dates for applications?**

The first closing date is **28 February 2017** and the second closing date for students who have to register for the second semester is **20 August 2017**.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- **What documentation should be submitted as evidence?**

See list, where applicable:

- Certified copy of a student's, his/her parents', or his/her legal guardians' identity document(s) (IDs);
- If one or both parents are deceased, a certified copy of the death certificate;
- Certified or official copy of recent pay slip, letter of employment, not older than three months, for each parent, or guardian or the student himself/herself if employed;
- Proof of income, bond statement and council rates accounts if parents/guardians are informal traders/hawkers;
- If parents are employed by a company – salary/wage slips of both parents (not required in bullet 3 above);
- IRP5, IT3 and IT12 (last two years) if parents/guardians are earning commission;
- Signed and complete 2015 financial statements signed by members; IT14 – tax return for the business (last two years) IT12 – tax return for the individual (last two years) and IT3(b) Income Tax Certificate from the bank (last two years) if parent/guardian/spouse owns or is a member of a CC/Pty (Ltd) and /or sole proprietor;
- Official letter from the Department of Labour if parent/guardian/spouse is unemployed, proving unemployment status;
- Copy of an official pension slip or bank statement if parent/guardian receives income such as pension/grant/maintenance/rental/interest from investment;
- Signed consent form (part of the application form).

Please ensure that ALL parties complete and sign the relevant sections of the application form before submitting it.

General

- **What if a student's parents are divorced?**

The divorce order is then required and the responsible parent's income according to the order is used.

- **How does one apply if there is more than one student in one household?**

A separate application for each student must be submitted.

- **What if a student is a recipient of an internal university merit bursary?**

The student will be eligible for the grant funding, provided he/she falls into the R600 000 family income gap.

- **How will a student receive the grant?**

The grant will reflect as a separate credit entry on a student's account.

- **When will it reflect on a student's account?**

The grant will be processed on the account once the applicant has been verified as a qualified grant recipient by the end of the first quarter of the academic year.

- **What if a student is not satisfied with the outcome of the application?**

A formal appeals process will be established for students to appeal the outcome if they wish to do so.

- **How will this grant impact on staff discount?**

Staff who receive staff discount as well as the funding grant will receive the grant for the 8% fee increase as a separate line entry on their student accounts as well as the difference for the balance of their tuition fees. All staff discount will be processed at the same time as the credit of the grant.

- **Can a student request the grant to be paid out?**

This grant is not allowed to be part of a credit pay-out.

- **Will this application form part of the registration process of the university?**

Not necessarily. This is a separate process and has no influence on the registration process of the university, but could be done at the same time. See closing dates for applications.

- **If a student is considered for the grant, will he/she have to pay the minimum payable fees upon registration?**

YES – individual cases will be handled on merit.

- **What if a student is employed and want to apply on behalf of himself/herself?**

If a student is employed, and independent from his/her parents or legal guardians, the student does not need to include the supporting evidence of his/her parents or legal guardians.

- **Does a student have to pay the minimum payable fees on registration?**

As in the past, all students are required to pay registration and minimum payable fees upon registration. Only NSFAS-approved students and students funded by other approved sponsors are exempt from these payments. Documented proof will have to be supplied.

Students who are academically deserving and struggling financially to pay their registration fees and/or outstanding debt, must engage with the university's finance office to agree upon a repayment plan.

- **How do OLG students apply for this grant?**

OLG-registered students can apply directly at OLG for this grant.

Important: Only registered students will be considered for the fee adjustment grant.

QUERIES

Please contact the financial support offices on campus for queries.