



**BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE**

Make the right choice – and decide your future

**FINANCIAL HELP: Government is making greater strides every year to broaden access for families who cannot afford to pay fees for academically deserving youth to study post-school**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## Opportunities at Universities, Universities of Technology and Comprehensive Universities

Spaces are limited and competition for entry is tough. That is why you have to make the right subject choices in grade 9 and get the best results in order to get access to one of the 26 universities in the country.

Undergraduate studies can lead to certificates, diplomas and degrees followed by post-graduate or Advanced Diplomas, Honours, Master's and Doctoral Degrees.

Universities equip graduates for anything from science, engineering and medicine to law, business, teaching, the arts and much more.

Programmes last for periods from one year to six years.

When you have passed matric well and have a bachelors pass, it does not guarantee admission into a university.

You also have to decide if you want to go the academic route, or get a professional qualification such as an engineer or medical doctor or go into a vocational route and get a university qualification in any of the opportunities at a University of Technology.

These qualifications prepare you for the world of work and you will be amazed what opportunities are available at Universities of Technology.

Consult the various institutional websites, prospectuses and career guidance counsellors at both universities and TVET Colleges in your search for your ideal career path.

It is also important to apply in time for access into any programme at universities. You will need to:

- Ensure you meet the requirements before applying;
- Obtain the application form and complete it fully;
- Supply either your Grade 11 final results and your Grade 12 June results; and,

- Pay an application fee that is usually non-refundable.

Each institution sets its own entry requirements. A Central Applications Office is being rolled out in some provinces. Contact the call centre on 031 268 4444.

## Funding Opportunities for your Studies

Government is making greater strides every year to broaden access for families who cannot afford to pay fees for academically deserving youth to study post-school.

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is the Government student loan and bursary scheme and provides a sustainable financial aid system for loan and bursaries.

Bursaries are available for specific fields of study in scarce skills areas.

You may also qualify for a loan which must be paid back once you are qualified and start working.

You need to apply for NSFAS funding at the public education institution where you are planning to study.

Most institutions have Financial Aid Offices which can assist you.

If you want to go into teaching, there is government's Funza Lushaka bursary programme that promotes teaching as a profession.

Bursaries are available to enable eligible students to complete a teaching qualification in an area of national priority, such as

Foundation Phase specialising in an Indigenous African Language, Intermediate and Senior Phase in Mathematics, Natural Science or Technology as well as a list of FET Phase subjects.

Recipients of these bursaries will be required to teach at a public school for the same number of years that they received the bursary.

Other bursaries and loans are available from foundations, private institutions, universities and industry.

Please visit the Khetha website or call the Helpline.

## Learnerships, Internships and Apprenticeships

Skills programmes are available across the country. The best way is to decide on a sector you want to work in.

There are 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) that can give you more information and assist you to get access in one of the skills programmes they are offering in conjunction with industry.

Following this route means that you will be able to earn a salary while you are learning. Contact the Career Advice Helpline or any SETA to assist you with information on available opportunities.

## Internships

An internship is a structured training programme that seeks to provide unemployed youth

graduates and student interns with an opportunity to gain practical work experience in the real work environment.

Organisations advertise their own internship opportunities using the media of their choice.

## Learnerships

A Learnership is a structured learning process to gain theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the workplace leading to a qualification registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

A Learnership is outcomes-based, not time-based, and allows for recognition of prior learning. The average Learnership time is 18 months.

## Public Service Training Opportunities

Some government departments offer post-school education and training, often through colleges and centres for capacity-development.

You may find out more about these opportunities at the respective government department websites.

## Occupations in High Demand

Occupations in high demand refer to those occupations where they are in short supply in the future. Studying for entry to these

occupations might offer rewards and job opportunities.

The following are some of the skills required: Engineering and built environment specialists; health professionals; finance professionals; city planners; law professionals; IT professionals; natural science professionals; management professionals; education professionals and artisan professionals

Visit <http://www.careerhelp.org.za> for more information.

## Opportunities for self-employment

Most successful businesses start with an idea and an understanding of a market need that others have not noticed. Contact the organisations below for further information on the business skills you should acquire:

- The National Youth Development Agency (NDYA): <http://www/nyda.gov.za>
- The Small Business Development Agency (Seda): <http://www.seda.org.za>

## Opportunities through Community Service

Exciting opportunities for personal growth and development are available when participating in community service.

Community service involves a person giving his/her time to do something, generally without pay, that benefits community members. It is also known as volunteering.

This can benefit your experience through improving skills and knowledge; exposing yourself to the working environment and enhancing your employability.

The most important benefit to you may be character development as volunteering helps build patience, confidence and compassion. Contact Khetha Career Development Services to make the right choice and to decide your future.

*Ms T van Wyk is Chief Director, Career Development Services, DHET*



The DHET has a fully-fledged Career Development Service, Khetha, which provides you with personal advice and up-to-date, quality information to make informed choices

## HOW TO GET CAREER ADVICE

- SMS service: send an SMS to 072 204 5056 with your question or send a "PLEASE CALL ME" and one of the career advisors will call you back.
- Phone: 086 999 0123 (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 16:30) and a career advisor will assist you in your language of choice.
- Email: send an email to [careerhelp@dhet.gov.za](mailto:careerhelp@dhet.gov.za)
- Facebook: Visit our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/careerhelp](http://www.facebook.com/careerhelp)
- Web and Mobile Site: Visit our website on [www.careerhelp.org.za](http://www.careerhelp.org.za) or on your cellphone on

[mobi.careerhelp.org.za](http://mobi.careerhelp.org.za)

● National Career Advice Portal (NCAP): The NCAP provides you access to a career questionnaire and information on more than 1300 occupations, related learning pathways, and where you can study. Visit the NCAP at <http://ncap.careerhelp.org.za>

● Walk-in Service: You can also visit our Walk-In Centre at 123 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 16:30) and a career advisor will help you to get information and make informed career choices.