

TVET bursary applications go electronic

19 October 2016 - The electronic bursary application system for TVET college students will go online in 2017 says the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Earlier discussions between the government student loan programme, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and TVET colleges proved fruitful with commitments to eradicate communication barriers such feedback, response times to colleges inquiries and updating student personal details, among others.

Ms EPL du Toit from the Umfolozi College in Richards Bay says improved communication with NSFAS will help colleges to fast-track bursary approvals to students who come from poor families.

NSFAS representative, Jomo Jacobs, adds that the on-time capturing and overall effectiveness of student applications would be greatly improved as the number of manual applications and walk-ins dropped.

“The quality of the data is very important as outstanding information such as supporting documents and unknown student profiles affect funding decisions,” he says.

He adds that application methods such as manual, emails and faxes are still acceptable and may be used by colleges.

All agreed that communication to all stakeholders should be improved and that the NSFAS call centre needed to better articulate processes to previously disadvantaged students who needed financial assistance.

This would result in these students being able to access better career prospects through higher education.

The nine Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), colleges that attended the workshop were Buffalo City, Vhembe, Johannesburg, Motheo, Northlink, West Coast, False Bay, College of Cape Town and Umfolozi.