

## **NSF shares details of its bursary activities for 2014**

Hlamalane Samanther Chaka, B Comm Accounting student from the University of Johannesburg is just one of the 18,000 students who was awarded a bursary by the the NSF through the NSF Bursary Unit and its partners for the 2014 academic year.

Of these students, the total number of bursaries directly awarded by the unit through NSF initiatives is over 1,400 students.

The bursaries were awarded by the NSF and on behalf of the NSF by the following partners:

- a) Service providers (since the establishment of the unit in 2013, these contracts came to an end)
- b) Minister of Higher Education and Training through commitments (for example Sedibeng Project and Mandela Day)
- c) National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

Other bursaries were awarded through the following partners:

- a) National Research Foundation (NRF)
- b) South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA)
- c) University of Fort Hare (SAICA)
- d) University of Limpopo (SAICA)
- e) University of the Western Cape (SAICA)
- f) National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences(NIHSS)
- g) National Student Financial Aid Scheme(NSFAS: Various Programmes)
- h) Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

**2014/2015 Allocations (As per 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report)**

<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>Number of student</b>	<b>2014/15 Allocations</b>	<b>Discipline</b>
NSF Scarce Skills & Disabilities	11580	433 856 000.00	Scarce Skills
NSF FET Lecturers	99	2 644 940.00	National Profession diploma in Education
NSF General	1311	148 080 000.00	Various Scarce Skills funding categories
NSF Post Graduate	2011	74 240 000.00	Post graduate qualification in Scarce Skills disciplines
NSF/DHET Discretionary	580	21 754 439.52	Various Scarce Skills funding categories
NSF Special Bursary	623	12 880 000.00	Various Scarce Skills funding categories
NSF Rural Student Programme	421	29 120 000.00	Various Scarce Skills funding categories
NSF NIHSS	123	18 000 000.00	PHD in Humanities
NSF Strategic Projects	462	45 538 849.75	Various Scarce Skills funding categories
National Research Foundation(NRF)	1031	132 916 482.52	Post graduate qualification in Scarce Skills disciplines
DHET- International Scholarships	82	5 145 380.00	Various Scarce Skills funding categories
<b>Total</b>	<b>18323</b>	<b>924 176 091.79</b>	
	Number of students who benefited in 2014	Amounts paid for 2014	

**NB:** R 934 815 652. 26 is allocated for the 2015 academic year of study (2015/2016 financial year) to benefit 12927 learners. The figure above excludes the new Deputy Minister project and other projects that have recently been approved.

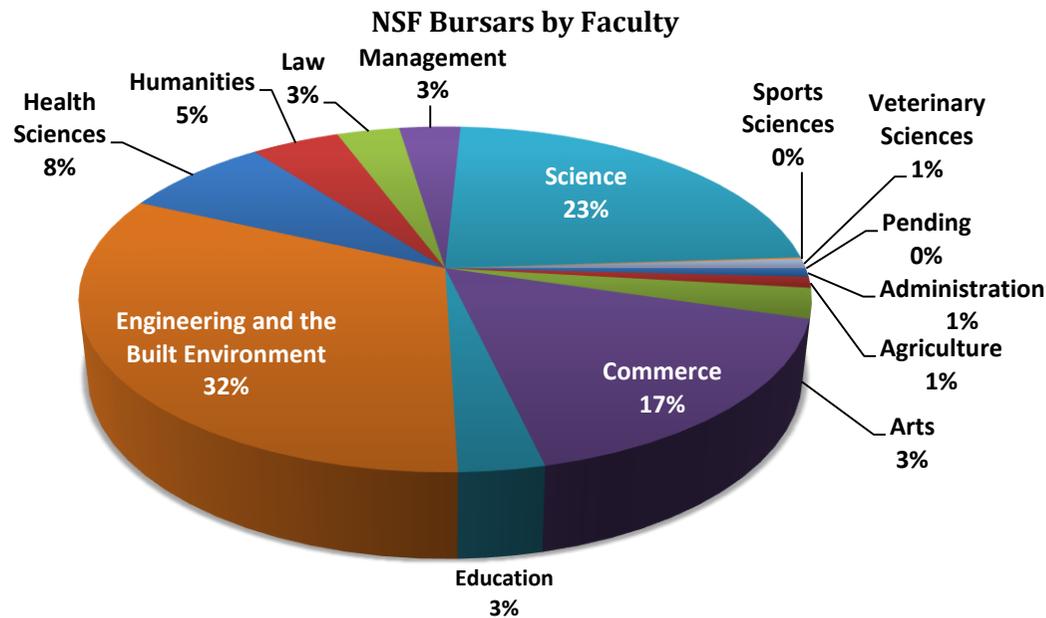
#### **Completed students as managed by the NSF Bursary Unit (2014/2015 financial year)**

In the 2014 academic year of study, 1463 were funded by the NSF through the NSF Bursary Unit. The percentage students who have completed their studies in 2014 is 13%.

The NSF bursary unit is currently in the process of engaging with the completed students to determine their whereabouts and current occupation. Of the students that the NSF bursary unit has engaged with, a high number of students have indicated that they are seeking employment.

A total of 337 NSF bursars obtained between 1 and 11 distinctions in the 2014 academic year. Of the 337 bursars, 160 (47%) are females and 177 (53%) are males.

The highest number of bursars is found in the faculties of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE) (32%) and Science (23%). The least number of bursars (in prominent faculties) is in Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and Law. High number of bursaries in EBE and Science are a good indication that the NSF bursary unit is doing well in funding scarce skills, as per the table below:



The Unit, twice a year, arranges one on one progress discussion visits with all students, including students that have been suspended due to poor academic performance.

Our students are encouraged to stay in regular contact and to address problems with us when they arise to avoid their interferences during their studies. Should students be experiencing difficulties with specific courses, we advise them regarding possible courses of action, i.e. senior students are approached to assist and in severe cases students are advised to seek professional tutors.

In the event that students are experiencing personal or career/study programme, students are encouraged to consult the counselling units at their respective institutions.

The new structure of the NSF Bursary Unit is being designed to include personnel and/or links to systems that can assist our students through these difficulties.