



Vaal University of Technology

Your world to a better future

Memorandum

Vice-Chancellor and Principal

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To: ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS
CC: n/a
From: VICE CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL
Date: 05 January 2018
Subject: 2018 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Dear Staff and Students

Compliments of the New Year to all students and applicants, I sincerely hope that you all had a peaceful and enjoyable festive season.

As you are all aware, President Zuma made an announcement regarding fee-free higher education for new, first-year South African undergraduate students as from 2018 from poor and working-class households. The President went further to introduce a re-definition of "poor and working-class households". The new dispensation is set at R 0 – 350 000 annual combined household income.

Following on the fee-free higher education statement by the President, the Executive Management Committee met with the Student Representative Council on the 04th January 2017 to discuss the implementation process. The following registration arrangements will be implemented only for all first-year students as from 2018:

- New first-year undergraduate South African students from poor and working-class households where the combined family income does not exceed R350 000 per annum, will be supported through government grants, administered by NSFAS, as per their guidelines and procedures.
- SASSA grant recipients and applicants from quintiles 1, 2, and 3 schools qualify for NSFAS grants. Students in this category should have applied for this grant as published on the NSFAS website before the closing date;
- Applicants who have applied to NSFAS should await confirmation of their application outcome. Applicants can track their application status on the NSFAS website;
- NSFAS grant recipients will be allowed to register without making an upfront payment or registration fee for 2018; (this dispensation is once again in accordance with the prescripts of the NSFAS rules and regulations, the university is bound to operate within the confines of these regulations).

- Applicants who are from quintile 1-3 schools and SASSA beneficiaries will register without upfront payment or registration fee for 2018
- Applicants who meet the requirements of R 0 - R350 000 will be allowed to register without upfront payment or registration fee for 2018.
- Students who were enrolled in extended programmes in 2017 and will be enrolling for the main-stream programmes in 2018, will be treated as first-entering students.
- Applicants from households where the combined household income is more than R350 000 but less than R600 000 are eligible to apply for gap funding to cover the 8% increase in their tuition fees; application forms for this purpose will be distributed at the various registration points. Students who do not comply with this requirement will automatically forfeit the gap funding from government and will be liable for the full payment of their fees.

In this category, students will be required to pay R 2000 (for non-resident students) and R4000 (for resident students) before registration.

- Applicants from households where the combined household income exceeds R600 000 will be required to pay R 2000 (for non-resident students) and R4000 (for resident students) before registration.

International Students

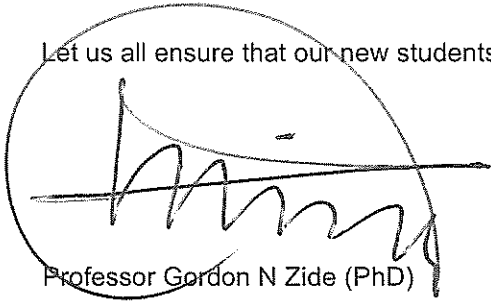
- Management is mindful of the concerns raised by the SRC on this matter and wishes to assure all that new applicants for 2018 were notified timeously regarding the fee structure and requirements for 2018.
- To date Management is not aware of any challenges from prospective international students. Management appeals for cooperation in this regard.

On behalf of Management, I wish to express our appreciation for the constructive and open engagements held with the SRC on this matter. Management wishes to reiterate its commitment to assisting any student who is academically deserving and financially needy for the 2018 registration. This is to ensure that we live up to VUT's transformation commitment to enabling students from poor and working-class families' access to post-school education.

Given the complexity of issues involved in the 2018 registration, Management and the SRC have committed to meet on a regular basis to assess the registration process and new developments so as to ensure that registration continues without delays.

Finally, you are all aware that our first-year students are very vulnerable, some may be unfamiliar with the environment and accompanied by parents or guardians, we appeal to staff and students to exercise extra tolerance in assisting them.

Let us all ensure that our new students are received with warmth and care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon N Zide', is enclosed within a thin circular line. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line crossing through the middle of the letters.

Professor Gordon N Zide (PhD)

Vice Chancellor and Principal

Professor Emeritus (Anthropology) (UNISA)