



**social development**

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Department:  
Social Development  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

# **SCHOLARSHIP FOR SOCIAL WORK**

## **STUDENT GUIDE 2017**



## 1. Background to the scholarship programme

Government through the Draft Scarce Skills and Policy Framework (2003) recognised social work, among others, as a scarce skill and mandated the development of strategies to facilitate the recruitment and retention of such scarce skills. The Department of Social Development developed the Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Social Workers with the aim of providing guidelines for the recruitment and retention of social workers within the social work profession, the sector and the country. To achieve this aim, the social work scholarship programme was implemented (since 2007) to recruit young people who will be committed to the social work profession and render services where they are most needed in the country.

## 2. Who is the scholarship programme intended for

The Social Work Scholarship programme is intended to provide financial assistance to deserving students to enable them to complete the Bachelor of Social Work degree (BSW). It facilitates access to higher education and training institutions and ensures development of skills, thereby increasing the capacity of social work professionals. While the programme is open to all eligible students for whom social work is a career of choice, priority will be given to youth between the ages of 18 – 35 years. This is in line with government's broad goals geared towards youth development and promoting active participation of youth in socio-economic activities. Social work is a caring and helping profession; therefore young people and students who REALLY want to pursue this noble profession and join the current social work workforce in making a difference in people's lives, must apply.

**NOTE:** If social work is not your area of interest, there are alternatives in government through which your studies can be funded. Other government departments also provide bursaries that are in line with their mandate, for example, National Treasury, Human Settlements, Arts and Culture, Health, Energy and Minerals. Please visit the government website at [www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za) and peruse each department that might offer what you really need

## 3. What does the scholarship cover

Funds allocated for the Social Work Scholarship pay for (a) registration, (b) tuition, (c) prescribed books, (d) on-campus accommodation, including off campus accommodation premises contracted to the university or privately owned accommodation, (e) meals, and (f) stipends for practical work experience as determined by the university. Specific details on how to access funds and submission of claims for specified items are outlined in the contract to be signed by successful applicants.

## 4. Who should apply for the scholarship

Application for scholarship is open to South African citizens and are:

- ❖ Grade 12 learners who meet admission requirements to study for Bachelor of Social Work degree (BSW) at any South African university. It is therefore the responsibility of students to make applications for admission at various universities of their choice.
- ❖ Students currently studying towards BSW degree at any South African university. In order to be considered for allocation of the scholarship, current students must have passed and be progressing to the next level of their studies as per specific requirements of respective universities.
- ❖ Students who come from disadvantaged communities.
- ❖ Students with financial need based on assessment of financial status of their household.
- ❖ Social Auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers and assistant community development practitioners in the employment of Non-Governmental Organisations who are interested in studying BSW degree.

Since the scholarship is exclusively for BSW degree, any student who chooses to change from BSW to any other degree, drops out or deregisters from the degree will lose benefits as outlined in the scholarship contract.

## 5. Submission of applications

Application for the Social Work Scholarship must be made in the attached application form, which must be fully and correctly completed. The application form is obtainable from [www.dsd.gov.za](http://www.dsd.gov.za), the Department of Social Work at various universities and Provincial Departments of Social Development. All applications must be submitted to the Provincial Departments of Social Development **ONLY** as scholarships are allocated according to provincial needs for human resource capacity (see contact details below).

The following documents must be attached to the application form:

- ❖ In case of first year / prospective BSW students, certified copy of Grade 12 results.
- ❖ In case of current BSW students, certified copy of academic record in the official letterhead of the university.
- ❖ Certified copy of identity document.
- ❖ Certified copy of identity document and proof of income of parent / guardian.

Applications without these documentations will not be considered by the selection panel. The closing date for all applications is .....

## 6. Selection process

It is important for prospective scholarship recipients to submit their applications at their respective Provincial Departments of Social Development where the selection process will be made. A selection panel will assess all the applications received in line with the set requirements and provincial human resource needs. Due to the large number of applications received only successful applicants candidates will be informed in writing about the outcome of selection. Upon receipt of notification the applicant must indicate in writing if he/she accepts the scholarship. A special reply slip will be attached to the notification letter and will have to be returned to the Provincial Department of Social Development within 14 days after receipt of the notification. In respect of first year students, proof of admission must be attached to the acceptance letter. It is the responsibility of the applicant to fill in correct contact details in the application form.

After receipt of the acceptance letter of the applicant arrangements will be made for the signing of the scholarship contract. More details on terms and conditions of the scholarship will be contained in the contract.

A copy of the acceptance letter and the signed scholarship contract will be provided to National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), the Social Work Scholarship funds administrator to arrange for payment of fees and allowances as outlined in the contract.

### **VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

Due to limited budget, the Department will in certain instances not be in position to accommodate every applicant. Students are therefore advised to explore other financial assistance from institutions like the National Students Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). NSFAS offices are located within the universities' premises. For more information on the Scheme please contact them at (021) 763 3200 or contact the Department of Higher Education & Training at (012) 312 5911.

### **Contact details**

For more information, kindly contact Ms Vuyelwa Mngadi at (012) 312 7294 or email: [VuyelwaM@dsd.gov.za](mailto:VuyelwaM@dsd.gov.za) or Ms Kefiloe Bosman at (012) 312 7223 or email: [Kefiloeb@dsd.gov.za](mailto:Kefiloeb@dsd.gov.za).

Yours sincerely  
 Ms Galeboe Rapoo  
 Director: Recruitment and Retention Programme for Social Services Practitioners  
 National Department of Social Development

Contact Details: Provincial Departments of Social Development

<b>Gauteng</b>	Ms Fatima De Oliveira: Tel 011 355 7932 Perm Building OR Private Bag X35 75 Commissioner Street Johannesburg 2000 Tel: 011 227 0072 or 011 355 7967 or 011 355 7663 or 011 227 0079
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	Mr Andries Mashego or Reagan Mahole Tel: 013 766 3181/3317 No 7 Government Boulevard OR Private Bag X11213 Building No.3 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Nelspruit 1200
<b>Limpopo</b>	21 Corner Biccard and Rabe streets Office number 051 Olympic Towers Building Ground Floor Department of Social Development Private Bag X9710 Polokwane 0700
<b>W Cape</b>	Ms. Lee-Ann George Operational Management Support Department of Social Development 9th Floor, 14 Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town, 8000 Tel no: 021 483 6183
<b>N Cape</b>	Ms Zindra Avenant Tel: 053 874 9111 Mimosa Complex Barkly Road 257 OR Private Bag X5042 Homestead Kimberley 8300
<b>E Cape</b>	Ms Nomathemba Gola: Tel: 043 605 5042 Beacon Hill Building OR Private Bag X0039 King Williamstown BHISHO 5605
<b>Free State</b>	Old Mutual Building Fourth Floor Room 411 Charlotte Maxeke Street Bloemfontein 9300 OR Private Bag X20616 Bloemfontein 9300
<b>North West</b>	Ms Pinky Mathe: Tel: 018 388 2867 Mr Thuso Mokhasi Tel: 018 388 3747 Provident House Building University Drive OR Private Bag X6 Mmabatho Mmabatho 2735 2735
<b>KwaZulu Natal</b>	Mr Velaphi Gumede: Tel: 033 264 2104

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