



Hardship Funds

1. Wits University is cognizant of students who may need financial assistance with registration and accommodation because of their socio-economic circumstances.
2. The Wits Hardship Fund was established to assist financially needy students with an outstanding balance from the previous year with up to 50% of the balance outstanding. The maximum eligible amount is R50 000.
3. The purpose of the fund is to assist students to register for a current academic year or assist with the upfront fee for accommodation to enable students to secure a space at university residences. In addition, students may apply for temporary accommodation assistance.
4. Hardship Funding is not a bursary. Students need to source other funding to pay the balance of the outstanding fees and current year fee obligations. This funding is not guaranteed and is subject to availability.
5. The following criteria as determined by the Hardship Committee and approved by SET will apply for registration and accommodation costs:
 - a. Students who have a gross household income less than or equal to R 600 000 per annum.
 - b. Returning full-time students who have obtained a minimum average prior year mark of 50% or more.
 - c. Students who stay further than a 30 km radius from the University will be considered
 - d. Accommodation costs in a Wits recognized on- or off-campus residence facility only



1. Conditions

- a. If a student receives full funding that covers the opening balance and current year funding the University will reverse the Hardship funding.
- b. If fraudulent information is provided to FASO, then the funding will be withdrawn immediately, and the matter will be dealt with through the University's disciplinary processes.
- c. If a student does not register at the University but has been approved for Hardship funding, then the funding will not be allocated to the student fee account and the funding will be forfeited.

2. Exclusions:

2.1 Hardship funding is NOT granted for:

- a. Students who are eligible for a government bursary from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), that is the new NSFAS bursary (also known as FTEN from 2018).
- b. Students registered for non-degree courses, e.g., Diplomas and Certificates, in the prior academic year.
- c. Students registered part-time in prior academic year.
- d. Students who received Hardship funds in previous academic years.
- e. Students registered for the MBA degree.
- f. Students registered for select management diplomas in Wits Business School

2.2 Students that do not qualify for assistance and wishes to be considered in the 'special consideration' category. The following will apply:

- a. Students with an average below 50% but not less than 48% will be allowed to apply during a special period after the main applications close.



(Dates will be communicated annually).

- b. Students who received hardship funding in prior years.
- c. All other hardship criteria will still apply.

NB: Given limited funding, preference is given to support undergraduate first-degree students, followed by postgraduate students.