



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

## CIRCULAR NOTICE NO. 8 OF 2025 (TVET COLLEGES ONLY)

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### PRINCIPALS

TO:

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS

CC:

FINANCIAL AID OFFICIALS / STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICE MANAGERS

FROM:

WASEEM CARRIM

ACTING CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

DATE:

01 DECEMBER 2025

SUBJECT:

OPENING AND CLOSING DATES FOR 2026 NSFAS TVET FUNDING APPLICATIONS

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### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this circular is to formally advise all **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges** of the official **opening and closing dates for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) TVET funding applications** for all academic cycles of the **2026 academic year**.

### 2. ALIGNMENT WITH THE TVET ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The 2026 NSFAS TVET funding application windows have been aligned, as far as possible, with the TVET academic calendar issued by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

TVET Colleges participating in the **Centres of Specialisation (CoS) programmes**, and therefore offering **Occupational Programmes**, are required to take special note of the NSFAS application windows aligned to Occupational Programme intakes. Colleges are directed to **ensure that all participating students are timeously informed and guided to apply within the correct application window**, aligned with their intended programme commencement and registration period.

### 3. OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMME INTAKES

As prescribed by DHET, **two (2) annual intakes are implemented for Occupational Programmes**, each spanning twelve (12) months, as follows:

- **OQ1 (January Intake):** January to December.
- **OQ2 (July Intake):** July to June of the following year.

NSFAS has accordingly structured the 2026 TVET funding application cycles to align with these intakes. **Students registering for the January 2026 Occupational Programme intake (OQ1) were required to apply during the national application cycle.**

#### 4. 2026 NSFAS TVET APPLICATION WINDOWS

The remaining 2026 NSFAS TVET funding application periods are as follows:

- **Trimester 2:**  
Applications open on **06 May 2026** and close on **18 May 2026**
- **Semester 2:**  
Applications open on **01 July 2026** and close on **17 July 2026**
- **Occupational Programmes – 2nd Intake (OQ2):**  
Applications open on **01 July 2026** and close on **17 July 2026**
- **Trimester 3:**  
Applications open on **03 September 2026** and close on **14 September 2026**

**Colleges must ensure that students apply only for the academic cycle in which they intend to register.** Applications submitted for incorrect cycles will not be considered.

#### 5. METHOD OF APPLICATION

All applications for **NSFAS TVET funding for the 2026 academic year shall be submitted online** via the official NSFAS website. Students are responsible for completing their own applications.

Colleges are hereby instructed to ensure that **new applicants are clearly informed that:**

- Creating an online profile **does not constitute a submitted application**; and
- Applicants must **complete all required steps and formally submit their application** for it to be considered valid.

#### 6. COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITIES

TVET Colleges are required to:

- Disseminate this circular to all campuses, Student Support Services, and Financial Aid Offices without delay.
- Actively communicate application windows to all prospective and registered students.
- Provide appropriate application support and guidance to students; and
- Monitor compliance to avoid late, incorrect, or incomplete applications.

Sincerely,



**Waseem Carrim**  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO)**