

FUNZA LUSHAKA BURSARY PROGRAMME for prospective teachers

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme is a multi-year programme that is designed to promote teaching in South African public schools. Full-cost bursaries are available to enable eligible students to complete a full teaching qualification in an area of national priority. Recipients of the bursaries will be required to teach at a school or provincial education department for the same number of years that they receive the bursary. Qualified recipients of bursaries can apply for appropriate public school positions with the provincial education department (PED) of their choice. The PED concerned will determine whether there is a suitable post available. If there is not, the applicant will be offered employment in a PED that does have suitable vacancies.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The bursary is only awarded to South African citizens and this application will not be considered unless the applicant has a valid South African ID number. Eligible students need to meet certain admission criteria of the institution and they must also meet the national selection criteria for the Funza Lushaka bursary.

SELECTION CRITERIA INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- 📖 The applicant's academic ability;
- 📖 Eligibility for an approved degree or PGCE in one of the priority areas;
- 📖 Commitment to a teaching career, which includes: interest in working with young people; enthusiasm for a professional career in teaching; readiness to face and surmount difficult challenges and personal integrity;
- 📖 Commitment to teach in any school to which a student may be appointed by a PED.

Everything else being equal, selection should favour candidates from rural areas, candidates who wish to teach in rural areas and candidates whose financial position would otherwise exclude them from enrolment for a teaching qualification. The bursary will only be awarded if one of the priority area specialization subjects is included as a teaching subject in your qualification.

Please note that those who already have other teaching qualifications do not qualify for this programme. Prospective applicants should also note that there are a limited number of bursaries available, and that not everyone who applies will be successful.

PROGRAMMES TO BE FUNDED

Three different programmes that include at least one priority area specialization subjects as a teaching subject in your qualification can be funded. The table below indicates the different qualifications that can be funded.

Undergraduate studies

4-year Bachelor of Education degree (B Ed), specialising in Foundation Phase (Grade R – 3), Intermediate Phase (Grade 4 – 6), Senior Phase (Grade 7 – 9) and FET Phase (Grade 10 – 12).

3/4 -year Bachelors degree e.g. Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Computer Science, Bachelor of Technology in fields suitable for admission to the one-year Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). Application for funding for a Bachelors degree implies that the applicant commits to enrol for the PGCE upon completion of the undergraduate degree.

Graduate studies

One-year Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) for graduates whose degrees include majors in priority areas.

In addition to specialising in a priority area, the applicant will also need to specialise in a phase for the teaching qualifications (B Ed and PGCE). Those who prefer teaching younger children could specialise in Foundation Phase (Grade R – 3) or Intermediate Phase (Grade 4 – 6). Those who prefer teaching older children could specialise in Senior Phase (Grade 7 – 9) or FET Phase (Grade 10 – 12).

PRIORITY AREAS

The priority areas that are currently funded are indicated in the table below.

Foundation Phase (Grade R – 3)	Intermediate Phase (Grade 4 – 6)	Senior Phase (Grade 7 – 9)	FET Phase (Grade 10 – 12)
• Foundation phase specialisation	• African Languages	• African Languages	• African Languages
	• English Language	• English Language	• Agricultural Sciences
	• Mathematics	• Mathematics	• Agricultural Technology
	• Natural Sciences	• Natural Sciences	• Civil Technology
	• Technology	• Technology	• Computer Applications Technology
			• Electrical Technology
			• Engineering Graphics and Design
			• English Language
			• Information Technology
			• Life Sciences
			• Mathematics
			• Mathematical Literacy
			• Mechanical Technology
			• Physical Sciences

HOW TO APPLY

You need to apply for admission to a teaching qualification (B Ed or PGCE) or a Bachelors degree (e.g. BSc, B Tech, BA) with at least one major course in a priority area at a university of your choice. Once you have gained admission at a university, you are required to apply for the bursary. The university will have information about how to apply for the bursary. Further information can also be obtained from the Funza Lushaka website (www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za). This website will be available from November 2008.

The bursary is awarded for one academic year at a time and, on proof of academic success, the bursary may be renewed each year until the recipient of the bursary has qualified as a teacher. The bursary holder will be required to re-apply by the end of October for the following year. Recipients of bursaries will be required to teach one year for every year for which they receive a bursary i.e. it is a service-linked bursary.

WHAT THE BURSARY COVERS

Funza Lushaka bursaries cover all the recipient's essential expenses. Expenses covered include tuition, full accommodation including meals, books and learning materials, and an allowance for monthly living expenses. An allowance for travelling costs may also be considered in exceptional circumstances. In 2008, on average, each bursar received R40 000. This amount will increase in 2009 to accommodate increased costs.

CONDITIONS FOR REPEATING A YEAR

The bursary period may be extended to cover one additional year in a degree programme, or the time required for completion of one additional course in the PGCE programme. Only one such extension will be granted. Any additional time required will be at the recipient's own cost. The bursary is renewable for one academic year at a time. On proof of academic success the bursary may be renewed each year until the recipient of the bursary has qualified as a teacher.

CONDITIONS FOR REPAYMENT OF THE BURSARY

The bursary must be repaid only if the recipient fails to qualify, fails to apply for a teaching post with a PED at a public school, fails to take up a teaching post with a PED at a public school, leaves a teaching post with a PED before the end of the contracted service period, or otherwise fails to meet a requirement of the bursary agreement.



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