

THEOLOGY AND RELIGION - POSTGRADUATE APPLICATIONS AND TUITION FEE BURSARIES 2026

Dear Postgraduate Student/ Prospective Postgraduate Student,

The Faculty of Theology and Religion is pleased to announce that **Postgraduate Tuition Fee Bursaries** will be available in the **2026 academic year** for students registered for a postgraduate qualification within the Theology and Religion Faculty at the University of the Free State.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Academic merit:** Minimum average of **65%** in the previous qualification when considering Masters and PhD applications. Preference will be given to students with an average of **75%** or above. **60% - 65%** average will be considered if funds are left. With regards to the Honours and Postgraduate Diploma applications the highest averages will be selected and processed first.
- **Research potential** (Masters and PhD only): Quality and feasibility of the research proposal, and alignment with departmental research niche areas.
- **Financial need:** Applicants must be in financial need and must not hold any other bursaries or scholarships.
- **Returning students:** Must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress. Supervisor/Departmental confirmation will be required/requested.
- **Applicant of UFS Faculty of Theology and Religion:** Must have already applied to study at the UFS. Admitted and Conditional admitted students will be eligible. (Deferred or denied students applications will unfortunately not be evaluated until the status changes and pending funds are available.)

Important Notes

- The bursary covers **registration and tuition fees** for 2026 only.
- The bursary cannot be used to **settle outstanding fees** from previous years.
- All applications are reviewed by a **bursary committee**.
- Returning students are evaluated based on **academic progress** reports and confirmation by supervisor.

Terms and Conditions

1. The UFS tuition fee bursary only applies to registered students at the University of the Free State in 2026.
2. Part-time and full-time South African and International students at the University of the Free State in 2026 are eligible to apply and be awarded this bursary.
3. Only postgraduate students with no other sources of tuition fee funding are eligible to receive a UFS Faculty of Theology and Religion tuition fee bursary.
4. The tuition fee bursary is considered as follows: PhD: only for three (3) years, namely the first three years since registration for the Doctoral degree; Masters: only for two (2) years, namely the first two years since registration for the Masters degree; Honours: only for one year (1) year; Postgraduate Diploma in Theology: Only for one (1) year. (If students only register for half the load with regards to Honours and Postgraduate Diploma, the funds will not be allowed to be refunded by the end of the first year and need to remain in the account to cover part of the tuition in the follow-up year).
5. Please note that you have to reapply for the UFS tuition fee bursary every year. The bursary is not automatically granted for following years and depends on your progress and the financial bursary allocations of the UFS for postgraduate students.
6. A Theology and Religion student receiving any other tuition fee bursary will have to choose which bursary to keep. The second and further tuition bursaries will then be reversed, based on the choice of the student.
7. Theology and Religion students who are eligible or qualify for UFS staff and dependent study remission, will not receive a UFS Faculty of Theology and Religion tuition fee bursary.
8. A tuition fee bursary holder will be expected to attend five (5) Research Capacity Development workshops presented by the Centre for Graduate Support during 2026. Workshops can be attended in person or online. The workshops that are chosen are by the choice of students.
9. To monitor the attendance of workshops, please complete the attached Excel sheet. The Excel sheet must be submitted to postgradfunding@ufs.ac.za and theologybursary@ufs.ac.za by 30 June 2026 for the first semester of 2026 and by 30 November 2026 for the second semester of 2026.
10. As a recipient of the Tuition Fee bursary, you must be available for a maximum of 120 hours during 2026 to fulfil assistant, marker or facilitator duties or/and participate in a capacitating programme to enhance your employability. The Faculty will communicate with you with regard to this in more detail as the need arises. It will be a consultative arrangement, as we are aware of part-time students. We also reach out to students that would like to nominate themselves firstly for their availability for this assistance and skills development, so please indicate this in an e-mail to the Faculty at theologybursary@ufs.ac.za. Indicate in subject: Student number; Surname and initials, Subject: "Nomination to support Faculty". The Faculty will then be in contact with you.
11. When the tuition fee bursary holder successfully registers, the bursary amount applicable will be credited against the tuition fee account of the student in 2026.

12. The tuition fee bursary may not be used to settle outstanding debt on UFS tuition fee accounts or handed-over accounts from previous years.
13. UFS Theology and Religion students remain liable for all other outstanding fees, levies or ad hoc charges on their student accounts. These fees, levies and charges may include, but are not limited to, the remainder of tuition fees not covered by the bursary amount, residence fees, compulsory additional modules required.
14. UFS Theology and Religion students residing in residences still have to pay the residence fees and deposit in accordance with the UFS policies and financial requirements.
15. The Tuition fee bursary will be cancelled, reversed and become due and payable to the University of the Free State if the student:
 - Cancels or discontinues his/her studies in 2026,
 - Is excluded from the academic program due to misconduct,
 - Fail to attend the five (5) Research Capacity Development workshops offered by the Centre for Graduate Support in 2026, and
 - Receives any other government or tuition fee funding
16. Should the student fail to fulfil any of the aforesaid conditions, or should it transpire that a Bursary has been awarded based on false information supplied, the UFS Faculty of Theology and Religion reserves the right to forthwith cancel and withdraw the Bursary, in which event the student will be liable to refund the full amount of the Bursary received by him/her.
17. If there is a credit on your UFS tuition fee account at the end of 2026, the credit may be considered to be refunded by means of the online refund application process. An approval letter from the Faculty has to be uploaded during this process. To obtain a refund letter, please forward your account – dated the same day as your requesting email – to theologybursary@ufs.ac.za Your request will then be evaluated and if the terms and conditions of the bursary have been adhered to, a refund letter will be issued.

Bursary Values (maximum amounts per qualification if registered for all the curriculum modules)

Postgraduate Diploma	R60 000
Honours Degree	R60 000
Masters Degree	R35 000
Doctoral Degree	R25 000

Applications to study are Now Open- Bursary forms may also be submitted.

Online applications for studies in **2026** are currently open for new Postgraduate students and returning students. To be considered for admission to one of our postgraduate programmes, please apply for admission to study with the Faculty via the [UFS Online Application 2026](#) link. For detailed information on our programmes, please visit the website: <https://www.ufs.ac.za/theology>.

Kindly thereafter apply for a bursary should you meet the criteria once you have received a student number/reference number.

Bursary applications will not be evaluated if you have not applied to study at the UFS and have not received admission.

BURSARY APPLICATION LINK:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uRv8jq-5SEq_bLoGhhk7gKivBtuy63BMq1MNmrGQNTThUNzVYT0JTRE5NUTg1OTFVNk5HRUdBU1I1Ty4u

The closing date for bursary applications is 14 November 2025.

Looking forward to receiving your applications.

Faculty of Theology and Religion

University of the Free State