Fee Increase and “Missing Middle” Fee Adjustment Grant

• What does Fee Adjustment Grant Funding mean?
  o Government will subsidise the fee adjustment (8%) on the 2015 fee for all qualifying registered students with a gross family income of R600 000 and less per annum in 2017. This is not a loan but a grant.

ELIGIBILITY

• Who qualifies for the grant?
  o Only South African citizens and permanent residence students studying towards an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in 2017 will be considered if they meet one of the following criteria:
    ▪ Students covered by NSFAS
    ▪ Students who attended Quintile 1,2 and 3 schools in 2016
    ▪ The applicant and direct family (parents, spouse and/or legal guardians who earns an income to supporting the family through wage, salary, grant, pension or other sources of income including rental or business income) must have a combined GROSS family income of R600 000 and less per annum.

• Who do NOT qualify for the grant?
  o All foreign students (non-SA citizens), including SADC students, will have to pay their full fees (including the fee adjustment of 8%). No foreign student (non-SA citizen) will be provided with Fee Adjustment funding
  o Any student from a household with an income in excess of R600 000
  o Students who are recipients of bursaries and scholarships that cover their full cost will have to pay the fee increase
  o Any student who does not automatically qualify and who does not apply for the Fee Adjustment Funding (i.e. who chooses not to provide proof of household income and other information required) and therefore can't be tested for eligibility, will not receive the grant to cover the fee adjustment.

• Who are automatically considered for the grant and do not have to apply?
  o First year students from Quintile 1,2 and 3 schools (Gr 12 in 2016)
  o New first time entry NSFAS students who qualify in 2017 (new entrants to the NSFAS system)
  o Continuing qualifying NSFAS students (those who received NSFAS in 2016)
  o Students who applied for NSFAS and have completed the NSFAS means test but due to shortage of funding did not receive support in previous years or cannot be covered in 2017 academic year. These students must also meet the NSFAS academic progression requirements:
    ▪ The NSFAS academic requirements are that students must pass 50% of their modules and
• Students only qualify for NSFAS if they apply within the prescribed years of study + 2 criteria.

• What is a Quintile 1, 2 or 3 school?
  o South African Schools are divided into 5 categories (quintiles) based on the socio-economic status of the community in which the school is situated. Quintile 1 schools are the poorest while quintile 5 schools are the least poor.

APPLICATION

• What do I do if I am not automatically considered and think I qualify for the Fee Adjustment Grant Funding?
  o You need to apply on the website www.up.ac.za/fees-and-funding
  o Click on the link “Application for Fee Adjustment Grant Funding (Missing Middle)"

• When can I apply?
  o Applications will open in December 2016. The closing date is the 28th February 2017.

• Can I also apply on the “Financial aid application” link?
  o No – this link is only for applications for the normal bursaries and loans offered by the University of Pretoria. Applications for these bursaries and loans closed on the 30th of November.

DOCUMENTATION

• What documentation do I need to submit as evidence?
  o Certified copies of the student and spouse/parents/guardians ID documents
  o Salary slips to reflect the combined household income of the direct spouse/parents/legal guardians: - Certified or official copy of recent payslip(s), letter of employment not older than 3 months, for each parent or your guardian/s) or yourself if you are employed
  o A form of consent to enable the university to conduct a credit check (available on the application page)
  o Information on any party sponsoring their studies
  o If either of the parents is deceased a certified copy of the death certificate must be provided.

• What if the student’s parents are divorced?
  o The divorce order is then required and the responsible parent’s income according to the order, is used.
R600 000 THRESHOLD

- What if the gross household income is for eg R 800 000 (more than threshold) and there are two students at UP. Is the average taken into account?
  - The combined gross household income of the direct spouse/parents/legal guardians are taken into account and not the number of students per household.
  - Students can apply for family rebate of R2 500 each. Check on the Fees-and-Funding page. Click on Fees > Early payment discount and account Information > Family rebate.

- What if one parent is responsible for the account, will only the one income count?
  - The gross combined household income of all the direct parents/legal guardians is taken into account.

- What happens in the event where a parent earns above the R600 000 threshold and the parent and child do not see eye to eye and the parent refuses to pay for the tuition fees?
  - If the gross combined household income is in excess of R600 000, Fee Adjustment Grant arrangements do not apply.

- What happens in the event where the parent has excessive debt and currently cannot afford to pay for the increase on the fees?
  - Debt is not taken into account.
  - If the combined household income is in excess of R600 000, Fee Adjustment Grant arrangements do not apply.

FEES TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION

- What cost will be considered for the grant adjustment?
  - Tuition fees
  - University accommodation that is part of the student’s university account (excluding meals)

- What if a student is a recipient of a partial bursary but qualifies according to the rest of the criteria?
  - This student will be eligible to apply for the grant provided he/she falls within the R600 000 family income cap; in such cases the grant funding will be proportional.

- What if a student is a recipient of an internal university merit award?
  - The student will be eligible for the grant funding, provided he/she falls into the R600 000 family income cap.
INITIAL FEE

- If a student is considered for the grant, will he/she have to pay the initial fee?
  - If a student is considered for the grant, the initial fee does not have to be paid. A service indicator to allow them to register without paying the fee will be on their accounts as soon as they are identified.

- Must a final year student pay the initial fee for postgraduate studies if the household income is less than R600 000 per year and he/she has applied for the grant?
  - The student is exempt from paying R7500.

- If a student has received NSFAS this year for their final year of undergraduate study, has applied for and has been accepted for postgraduate studies in 2017, will the student be charged the postgraduate registration fee of R7 500 or are they then still exempted from paying?
  - Students are exempted from paying the initial registration fee if the gross household income is R600 000 or less.

- Are students who received bursaries exempt from paying the initial fee?
  - Students do not have to pay the initial (registration) fee if they can present acceptable documentation confirming scholarship. Fee Adjustment Grant Funding arrangements do not apply. To expedite the process please load 2017 bursary letters on your Self Service Portal (Documents > Upload Supporting Documents > Relates to: Student Financials/Fees > Year 2017 > Doc Type: Bursary letter from external).

- Are foreign students who are sponsored exempt from paying the initial fee?
  - Students do not have to pay the initial (registration) fee upon presentation of acceptable document confirming scholarship. Fee Adjustment Grant Funding arrangements do not apply.

ACCOUNT

- How will it be reflected on my account?
  - The account will reflect the 2017 fee structure (including 8% increase).
  - The fee adjustment (grant) will be shown as a credit entry on the account on a separate line, indicating the grant.

- When will it be on the student’s account?
The grant will be on the account once the student is verified as a qualified grant recipient.

- When will a student know the outcome of the application?
  - Within the first quarter of the year

**QUERIES**

- What if a student do not meet the criteria due to not having submitted the required documentation?
  - Contact the ssc@up.ac.za