



BANKSETA awards bursary grants to Informatics students

→ *Forty Informatics students benefit from full-cost bursaries to the value of R5 million.*

On 25 August 2015, the University of Pretoria and BANKSETA signed a grant agreement that will provide full-cost bursaries to the value of R5 million to 40 South African students who require support to complete their 2015 academic year in the discipline of information technology.

The BCom (Informatics) degree at the University is the only degree of its kind in Africa that is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), a USA accreditation body that sets the global standard for study programmes in applied science, computing, engineering and engineering technology.

Prof Alta van der Merwe, Head of the Department of Informatics, says this grant addresses the national student funding crisis and is specifically aligned to the scarce and critical skills required by the inclusive banking sector, as well as the broader banking sector.

"We are very proud of this partnership with BANKSETA, as this grant is a great start to what we hope will be an ongoing relationship. Partnerships with the industry and sector education and



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training authorities (SETAs) are an ongoing focus of the University. We cannot address skills shortages in isolation."

The bursaries target second- and third-year BCom (Informatics) degree students who meet BANKSETA's minimum requirements.

The funding will go towards the students' registration, tuition and meal fees, as well as textbooks and technological devices (such as notebook computers).

One of the bursary recipients, Dorcas Kgonyane, says that the BANKSETA funding is not only a financial relief, but also an emotional relief.

He does not have to worry about his study debt when he finishes his degree and can launch his career with a clean slate. ➔