

NEWS RELEASE

Standard Bank supports future healthcare professionals with R100,000 donation to UP's Life Changers Fund



From left: Amritha Bhullan, Relationship Manager at Standard Bank South Africa and Professor Tiaan de Jager, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences

Standard Bank has reaffirmed its commitment to South Africa's healthcare sector with a R100,000 donation to the University of Pretoria's (UP) Life Changers Fund, an initiative aimed at supporting health sciences students facing financial challenges. The donation, will assist aspiring healthcare professionals to cover essential costs such as tuition, accommodation, and transport, ensuring that financial constraints don't impede their progress.

The Life Changers Fund was created in response to the economic strain brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, which left many students struggling to afford basic expenses. By stepping up to support the next

generation of healthcare workers, Standard Bank aims to empower students and contribute to a stronger, more resilient healthcare workforce for South Africa.

Professor Tiaan de Jager, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at UP, highlighted the importance of the donation: “This generous contribution from Standard Bank enables us to keep our students focused on their academic and clinical training without the distractions of financial hardship. Standard Bank’s support is a significant step in nurturing healthcare professionals who will go on to make a real difference in our communities.”

Amritha Bhullan, Relationship Manager at Standard Bank South Africa, underscored the bank’s commitment to sustainable development through education. “Investing in education is an investment in South Africa’s future. The Life Changers Fund provides essential support to healthcare students who will soon be on the frontlines of patient care across the country. We are honoured to back an initiative that has a direct impact on students’ lives, helping them to reach their potential.”

Standard Bank’s involvement aligns with its broader strategy to champion educational initiatives and reduce financial barriers through innovative funding models, such as the Feenix crowdfunding platform and other social investment programmes. “We believe that empowering students through education has a transformative effect on communities. Our commitment goes beyond financial assistance; it’s about ensuring these students have the tools and resources to succeed,” Amritha added.

With a target of R2.2 million, the UP Life Changers Fund continues to seek support from corporations, alumni, and the public to reach its fundraising goal. Every rand raised helps another student overcome financial challenges and supports the future of healthcare in South Africa.

Professor de Jager emphasised the long-term impact of the initiative: “Each student supported by the Life Changers Fund is one step closer to becoming a skilled healthcare professional who can serve our communities. With backing from partners like Standard Bank, we’re fostering a healthcare workforce that’s well-prepared to meet the needs of our nation.”

Donations to the Life Changers Fund can be made through a secure online platform, inviting individuals and companies to join in supporting South Africa’s next generation of healthcare leaders.

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa, with its administration offices located on its Hatfield Campus in Pretoria. This 115-year-old institution is also one of the largest producers of research in South Africa.

Spread over seven campuses, it has nine faculties and a business school, the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). It is the only university in the country with a Faculty of Veterinary Science, which is ranked the best in Africa. UP has 120 academic departments and 92 centres and institutes, accommodating more than 56 000 students and offering about 1 100 study programmes. It has the most academic staff with PhDs (70%), NRF-rated researchers (613).

The 2024 Times Higher Education subject rankings placed UP first in South Africa in the fields of Law, Veterinary Science, Accounting and Finance; Agriculture and Forestry and Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranked the University among the top five in Africa, as part of their 2024 World University Rankings (WUR). UP was the only South African university featured in the 2023 World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI), falling within in the 101-200 range of innovative universities.

For more information, please go to www.up.ac.za