

SA Student Finance Forum: 2024 Conference

HEI financial support projects

Ms Seipati Mthembu

MQA | Acting Senior Manager: Strategic Projects Unit



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE





- 01 BURSARY OVERVIEW
- 02 HISTORICAL DEBT
- OTHER HEI SUPPORTED PROJECTS (to address challenges from all stakeholders and the MQA)

#### PURPOSE, BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE OF THE MQA BURSARY SCHEME



- The principal aim of the bursary project is to provide financial support to competent and financially deserving students who have applied for financial assistance from the MQA to further their academic studies in institutions of higher learning. The Mining Qualifications Authority strives to contribute towards the development of communities, particularly in Mining and Mineral related fields.
- Critical skills have been confirmed in the MQA's Sector Skills Plan (SSP), which
  include technical, professional and management skills. In an effort to address
  the need for these skills, a substantial investment has been made on the part of
  companies associated with the Mining and Minerals Sector.
- We aim to increase the number of previously disadvantaged bursars qualifying in selected disciplines and entering employment within the MMS.

### PURPOSE, BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE OF THE MQA BURSARY SCHEME



#### Unemployed Individuals

The MQA Bursary Scheme shall apply to Individuals that are interested to study in a South African public university, university of technology and TVET College for any approved qualification from undergraduate levels to postgraduate studies. These include, Honours, Masters, and PhD programmes as well as approved NATED (N1 to N6) qualifications or National Certificate Vocational (NCV) – Level 2 to 4.

#### **Current stats:**

57 Institutions with 2488 learners (MQA bursars)

#### **HOW PAYMENTS ARE PROCESSED**



- Allowance and tuition fees due shall be payable in the academic year of the signed contract. The MQA will require documentation such as fee statements and academic records to make payments and these documents shall be obtained from the university, UOT and or TVET college.
- All payments in respect of tuition will be processed directly to the institution. The institution will allocate the tuition fees to each students account as per a reconciliation sent to the institution by the MQA.
- Allowances are distributed to student's bank account however in the event of a standing MOA some institution shall administer the payment of allowances to student via university approved payment methods i.e. Fundi.

#### HISTORICAL DEBT



- The MQA does not cover historical debt relating to tuition fees neither will the MQA refund credit amounts carried over from previous academic years. However, the MQA may consider the settlement of historical debts for existing MQA bursars in their final year of study in line with the set criteria subject to availability of funds.
- The criteria will include the students results proof of completion
- Duration of bursary and previous year pass rate, i.e. if previously suspended from the bursary or not.
- Note the criteria is not limited to the above examples and depending on the budget vs need the criteria may be amended.

#### **APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2025 STUDY YEAR**



#### 2025 BURSARY APPLICATIONS

# BURSARY APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR FOR UNEMPLOYED AND EMPLOYED LEARNERS

The MQA is inviting deserving candidates to apply for the 2025 bursaries:

#### **Unemployed Learners Bursary**

The is bursary is available to applicants who are are presently in grade 12 or are already studying at a public university, university of technology or a TVET college.

Only 700 bursaries for unemployed learners are available.

#### **Employed Learners Bursary**

This bursary is available to applicants who are presently employed within the mining and minerals sector and who would like to pursue studies for a qualification relevant to the mining related sector.

#### Only 70 bursaries for employed learners are available.

#### **Application Process:**

More information about the MQA Bursary Programme including the selection criteria, rules as well as the online bursary application link can be obtained at <a href="https://www.mqa.org.za">www.mqa.org.za</a>

#### **Application Window Period:**

Applications open from 21 August 2024 to 21 September 2024

#### OTHER HEI PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE MQA



## **University Graduates Placement Internships**

- The MQA provides funding to Universities and university of Technology (UoT) to recruit graduates into 2 yrs internship programme
- The graduates can be placed in any department within the university, however, priority should be given to placing these graduates within the admin, finance department.
- The University is responsible for the recruitment of their graduates to place in the Internship.
- Graduates that are placed in admin and finance departments, are supposed to assist the MQA with documentation needed for management of MQA bursars.





### **University Graduates Placement Internships**

- All the institutions of Higher learning qualify to apply for the grant.
- The qualification criterion is, the university must be a public university, registered with the Department of Higher Education.
- Grant is paid directly to the university, then the university is responsible for the payment of learner stipends. Stipend amount is up to R9 000.00 per learner
- The MQA advert for discretionary grants is usually out in the period, Dec Jan annually.
- The MQA financial year is from 1 April 31 March.

#### OTHER HEI PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE MQA



## **Lecturer Support:**

- The project aimed at transforming the Mining and minerals related departments within the institutions of higher learning through a provision of exposure, experience and employment of Historically Disadvantaged South African lecturers.
- Universities are supported to provide work exposure opportunities for identified with the desire to become lecturers for HE students in the technical mining disciplines.
- Support that is provided includes lecturer salaries as well as identified development for the lecturer at the University.



# **THANK YOU**



**NGIYABONGA!** 

NDIYABONGA!

**KE A LEBOHA!** 

**KE A LEBOGA!** 

HA KHENSA!

**NDIYABULELA!** 

DANKIE!



**INKOMU!** 

**KE YALEBOGA!** 

NDI A LIVHUWA!

**NGIYATHOKOZA!**