

I Got Rejected by NSFAS in 2025 – Here's What I Did to Still Get Student Funding

Introduction

Thousands of students were rejected by NSFAS in 2025. I was one of them. If you're in the same boat, don't panic. I'll show you exactly how I still got funded.

My Story: Getting Rejected by NSFAS

I applied to study BCom Accounting at the University of Pretoria. I submitted my NSFAS application early, but received a rejection email citing 'Household income exceeds threshold'. This was based on outdated data. I was shocked.

My Immediate Reaction and What I Learned

My mistake? I didn't submit my latest proof of income. I assumed SASSA status alone was enough. Tip: Always upload every document, even if you think it's unnecessary.

Step 1: I Appealed the NSFAS Rejection

I logged in at my.nsfas.org.za and submitted a formal appeal. I uploaded my parent's retrenchment letter and an affidavit. Unfortunately, the appeal was denied.

Step 2: I Applied for Other Funding Options

I visited the university bursary office and found the UP Financial Aid Bursary, the Feenix crowdfunding platform, and the NYDA bursary list. I applied to all. Two responded.

Bonus Tip: How I Improved My Application

This time, I wrote a personal motivation letter, attached all supporting documents, and got a community leader to sign my recommendation. It made a big difference.

Outcome: I Got Funded

The UP Financial Aid Bursary awarded me R32,000. It covered my tuition and books. They paid it directly to the university. I received confirmation in 2 weeks.

Final Advice for Students Who Got Rejected by NSFAS

1. Appeal immediately. 2. Contact your university's funding office. 3. Apply for other bursaries online. 4. Don't give up – you still have options.

Bursary Comparison Table

Bursary Name	Provider	Amount	Response Time
UP Financial Aid	University of Pretoria	R32,000	2 weeks
Feenix	Crowdfunding	Varies	Depends on campaign
NYDA Bursary	NYDA	R20,000	3–4 weeks