

PEF

Presbyterian Educational Fund

A Bursary Fund of the
Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa

1. WHAT IS the PEF?

The Presbyterian Educational Fund was established in 1972 by the General Assembly of the then PCSA when the denomination celebrated its 75th birthday.

Initial funds were raised by as many members as possible donating amounts equivalent to an hour's income.

Income continues to come in from congregations, individuals and the church's associations, trusts, bequests and gifts in memory of loved ones.

The Fund is run by a task team reporting to the Education and Training Committee appointed by the General Assembly of the UPCSA.

The cost of the administration of the Fund is carried by the UPCSA through assessment income.

This means that all income (from interest and donations received) goes directly towards the bursaries awarded.

The Fund is part of the Christian outreach of the UPCSA.



2. WHAT IS a PEF BURSARY?

It is a **contribution towards fees** (never full payment of fees) made on behalf of someone (who meets the criteria in **3.** below), who does not have the financial means to fund his/her own studies fully.

i.e. the Fund aims to help those members of the UPCSA who would otherwise not have the opportunity to finish their schooling or continue with further training after finishing their schooling, because they cannot afford it. Contributions vary greatly and may be as little as 10% of fees.

High School learners are given priority.

3. WHO MAY APPLY FOR A BURSARY?

a) A **MEMBER of the UPCSA** who is under 25 years of age and is in good standing (a Communicant members of the UPCSA), whether resident in South Africa, Zimbabwe or Zambia, **OR**

b) a **CHILD** of a member of the UPCSA who will be in High School or at a post-secondary institution of learning (a college, university, university of technology) in the year in which s/he will receive assistance from the Fund.

4. WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD?

i) Any child **not yet in High School**
(Bursaries are **not granted** for **primary school** years, but a child currently in Grade 7 may apply for a bursary for the following year when s/he will be in High School) **OR**

ii) Anyone who is **already 25 years of age or turning 25 in the year in which s/he would be studying.**
(Bursaries are **not available to adults**)

5. WHAT ACADEMIC STANDARDS ARE REQUIRED?

Results must equal or exceed the standard required by the fund:

- Applying for bursary for Grade 8 / Form I: average over all subjects of **65% or more**
- Applying for bursary for Grade 9 / Form II onwards: average over all subjects of **NO LESS THAN 50%**

Applying for university / college **after** final year at school, but before any post school study, requires an overall average of **no less than 50%** in the final school exams.

Border-line cases **may** be assisted on a term by term (semester by semester) basis, at the discretion of the Trustees, but assistance falls away immediately the learner/student fails to achieve, and then maintain, the required 50% average. Continued assistance is dependent on the submission of every school (term) / college (semester) report, showing that the requirements have been met before subsequent payment is made. Alternatively, a smaller amount may be awarded.

CELEBRATING

more than

40 YEARS

of

EMPOWERMENT *through* EDUCATION

6. GENERAL INFORMATION:

a) Application Forms are available on the PEF page on the UPCSAs website. For **congregations without internet access, applicants should approach their Minister/Interim Moderator (or in his/her absence, the Session Clerk of the congregation) to obtain an application form.**

b) Rules of the Fund are made available with all application forms and are strictly adhered to.

c) All applications are carefully screened to ensure that the learner / student is a worthy recipient and that the family is indeed in need of assistance.

d) NO payment is ever made to an individual. All payments are made directly to the school / academic institution on receipt of proof of enrolment / registration of the learner / student and a current fees statement showing payment(s) already made by the family.

7. FURTHER STIPULATIONS:

a) Bursaries are for **one year at a time** and **do not carry over** to the following year.

Annual application is required.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON 30 SEPTEMBER EACH YEAR

b) Late applications risk rejection, but at the very least, will not be attended to until all other applications have been processed.

c) High school learners will get **first preference** when bursaries are awarded.

d) Since bursaries **do not cover** full fees, parents / guardian(s) will **still be responsible** for the payment of any amounts not covered by the PEF award.

It is a principle of the Fund that parents/family of an applicant, or the applicant him-/herself, **must be prepared to show their commitment to the education process by taking responsibility for a portion of the fees themselves by contributing from their own income, supplementing their contribution from another source if necessary, where their own income does not allow for the full amount outstanding.** The Fund provides only **assistance** in meeting the fees, although the portion contributed by the Fund may vary dependent on the applicant's circumstances.

e) Any bursary recipient receiving a FULL bursary from another source will not be eligible for PEF assistance and will have to refund any PEF contribution already paid in the year in question.



ENQUIRIES may be made in any of the following ways:

BY MAIL ADDRESSED TO:

THE ADMINISTRATOR
PRESBY EDUC FUND
P O BOX 96188
2019 BRIXTON

IN PERSON AT:

28 RHODES AVENUE
PARKTOWN
JOHANNESBURG

BY TELEPHONE:

011-727-3511

BY E-MAIL:

pef@presbyterian.org.za

WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN ASSIST THE PEF:

- **Advertise the Fund to other members of your congregation and to the wider community**
- **Make a personal donation to the Fund**
- **Lobby for other individuals, businesses to make donations to the Fund**
- **Remember the PEF in your will**
- **Donate to the PEF in memory of a loved one**
- **Help your minister identify deserving applicants and recommend them if they have not come forward on their own**
- **Maintain a close personal / pastoral contact with bursars and their families**
- **Encourage recipients of bursaries with their studies and find help for them if they are struggling with a particular subject**

Banking Details of the PEF:

Name of account:

UPCSA - Presbyterian Educational Fund

Bank: Standard Bank

Branch Code: 000355 (Parktown)

Account Number: 20 085 175 6

Reference: Name of Presbytery

OR Congregation & suburb / town / city

e.g. Amatola **or** St Andrew's, Cape Town

OR Name of Church Association

e.g. St Peter's, Duduza, Women's Fellowship /

OR Business / Individual donor

e.g. Peter's Printers / Paul Smith

PLEASE **DO NOT MAIL** cheques to the PEF. There is too much cheque fraud and cheques are intercepted in the post.