

the school for the creative economy



Film | Television | Performance | Business Innovation | Creative Writing

## **Student Funding / Bursary Advice**

As a Private Higher Education Institution, AFDA unfortunately does not receive government subsidies as is the case with public universities. There are however numerous organisations and companies that provide bursaries to students to fund their tertiary studies, as part of their Corporate Social Investment (CSI) projects. Most of these funders prefer to enter into agreements directly with students.

On the occasions when, and if, AFDA receives funding for bursaries from private organisations, AFDA will issue a call for applications with set criteria and communicate the opening and closing dates for application. Please note that AFDA does not have internal bursaries available to students at an undergraduate level (first to third year students); however there are a select number of Honours Development Bursaries available to qualifying AFDA third year students that have been accepted to further their studies at AFDA at a postgraduate level.

Any funding agreement entered into is the responsibility of the individual student. AFDA cannot enter into funding agreements or negotiations for funding on behalf of prospective students. AFDA does provide advice and where necessary assist students with access to institutional documents required for their application, and where possible provide support if there are particular difficulties regarding the funding arrangements.

The prospect of finding bursaries or funding providers can feel overwhelming. To support prospective students and their parents, AFDA provides a free online guide (under an hour in length).

To access this resource, go to <https://matric-writing-coach.teachable.com/> and click on the “go to the courses” button. From the list of courses, select the one titled HOW TO APPLY FOR A BURSARY. The course covers the following:

- How to search for bursaries and identify calls that are open for submissions
- How to write a letter of motivation
- How to manage your supporting documents
- How to manage your relationship with a funder
- How to manage & schedule ongoing searches and funding applications

## **WHERE TO START WITH A SEARCH FOR BURSARIES**

There are multiple bursary providers, and each provider has their own specific criteria, requirements for submission, and deadlines for application. Please ensure to research accordingly and engage with the bursary provider directly about their application procedure. Feel free however, to ask for advice about bursary applications during your consultation with the AFDA recruitment team, or campus visit during an AFDA Open Day. It is advisable to have submitted your AFDA application and had your consultation with us, so you can submit your AFDA acceptance letter as supporting documentation when applying for a bursary. We suggest applying to as many bursary providers as possible. Also, consider making provisional application for a study loan with a bank or other financial service provider so you know whether this is an option for you to cover your tuition fees.

It is important to check the bursary provider / funder’s website to see when calls for applications open and close, as well as to thoroughly check the funding criteria. Some of the documents that are usually required to be submitted with a bursary application include:

- Your South African ID
- Your Matric Results / latest academic results
- Latest AFDA report if you are already studying at AFDA
- Your NQF 5 Higher Certificate results (if you are applying for funding for a BA Degree and have a Matric Diploma pass, you can qualify for a BA degree if you have completed an NQF 5 Higher Certificate course)
- Proof of enrolment at AFDA if you are already studying at AFDA
- AFDA acceptance letter if you are a new student intending to study at AFDA
- Proof of residency
- Proof of parents’ income

It is useful to have available certified electronic copies of these documents in a folder so you can easily upload them as part of your application. Make sure that each document is clearly labelled with your name and the name of the document so it is easy for the bursary provider's administration to identify.

Funding can be very competitive, and we recommend submitting as many bursary applications as you can to funders whose range of funding criteria you feel you qualify for. Make sure you have a strong and compelling motivational letter as to why you will be a good investment for the funder. You also need to make a good case for financial need and provide proof of such.

## **CONDUCTING A BURSARY SEARCH**

A good place to research funding is on the Bursaries South Africa website <https://www.zabursaries.co.za>. We can recommend this site as their information is reliable and they are very responsive in removing any incorrect information.

Students should pay particular attention to the following links on the Bursaries South Africa site and review the bursaries listed there:

- **Closing Soon**

<https://www.zabursaries.co.za/bursary-news/>

This tab lists calls for applications that are currently open. The list usually shows open calls for application for a period of three months.

Other search tabs you should look through include the below. See who is open or when they will open calls for applications:

- **Arts**

<https://www.zabursaries.co.za/music-and-performing-arts-bursaries-south-africa/>

Students enrolled or intending to enrol in the following AFDA qualifications should look at the Arts sites:

- Higher Certificate in Film, TV & Entertainment Production
- Higher Certificate in Performing Arts
- Higher Certificate in Radio & Podcasting
- Bachelor of Arts in Motion Picture Medium
- Bachelor of Arts Honours in Motion Picture Medium
- Bachelor of Arts in Live Performance
- Bachelor of Arts Honours in Live Performance
- Bachelor of Creative Writing
- Postgraduate Masters in Fine Arts

- **Commerce**

<https://www.zabursaries.co.za/commerce-bursaries-south-africa/>

Students enrolled or intending to enrol in the following AFDA qualifications should look at the Commerce sites:

- Bachelor of Commerce in Business Innovation
- Postgraduate Diploma in Innovation

## **SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES**

- If you do not see criteria for film or TV production, but do see Media, apply under that category.
- Live Performance can be harder to secure funding opportunities. However, if you do not see your category for funding, test your application under Media if it is listed.
- Creative Writing seldom appears as a discrete category. If Media is listed as an application category, apply under that category. You will need to prominently show that your intended studies addresses scriptwriting for digital and entertainment media.

## **SOLVING BURSARY APPLICATIONS IF YOU CANNOT ACCESS YOUR REPORT**

If you are studying at AFDA and payment for your tuition fees is in arrears, you may find that you cannot access your academic report. Should this be the case and you are making an application for a bursary and require your report, please send me an email on the address below. I will access your report and forward it directly to the funder with an explanation and request that they link the report to your application.

I wish you all the best with your studies.

Kind Regards,

**Dr. Christopher John**

Social Responsibility and Funding Officer

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