



Canon Collins Thekgo Bursaries 2018 Guidelines for Applicants

Canon Collins invites applications for Thekgo Bursaries. These bursaries are for registration fees for courses at postgraduate and undergraduate level in the following disciplines:

- Languages and Literature
- Media Studies
- Gender Studies
- Education
- Arts (Digital Arts, Drama/Performance Studies, Visual Arts/Fine Arts, History of Art, Film and Television Studies, Music)

Each year, Thekgo supports student applications for universities in one of South Africa's provinces. In 2018 Thekgo will consider applications from first year undergraduates and first year postgraduates with a place to study at public higher education universities in **Limpopo and North-West** provinces only.

Eligible universities are:

- University of Limpopo
- University of Venda
- University of North-West

General Information

The Canon Collins Thekgo Fund is a non-profit initiative which was established by a group of professionals with a passion for promoting access to higher education. The bursary is funded by personal contributions from like-minded supporters and run on a voluntary basis by a committee consisting of the founding members.

The bursary was set up in response to the troubling South African reality that new students often forego the opportunity for tertiary education due to inability to raise the initial registration fees; a situation worsened by lack of awareness about the bursary schemes and funding opportunities available to them. The bursary scheme therefore affords successful applicants access to the initial registration fee, which allows them to enroll at tertiary institutions and subsequently access alternative financial support.

Are you eligible?

Any student who has a strong academic record and is financially challenged, who has gained acceptance into a public South African higher education university for the first year of a diploma, undergraduate or postgraduate degree, and is not able to pay their first year registration fees without assistance is eligible to apply.

To be considered for an award, applicants must:

1. Have been accepted to study at a university in the Limpopo and North-West , South Africa for a full-time programme. Applicants must be in their first year.
2. Be able to produce an academic record demonstrating strong academic merit at either Grade 12 level or a university academic record of the undergraduate degree (for postgraduate students). In cases where students have not completed Grade 12 with an exemption or have been accepted for undergraduate programmes based on an age exemption, candidates must demonstrate they have been actively involved in studies/activities relevant to their academic interest and studies they intend to pursue or where necessary have already applied for an age exemption certificate which allows them entry into university. All international students must ensure they have a South African equivalency certificate for their studies.
3. Be able to demonstrate financial need and be able to provide the necessary documentation to substantiate this – via a pay slip and 3 month bank statement and/or statement of oath made in front of a law official (which can be done at local police stations).
4. Show proof of having filled in all bursary forms provided by the institution, NFSAS and other relevant funding bodies.
5. Seeking support for a degree programme within Thekgo's focus disciplines in the Humanities, listed above.

No incomplete or ineligible applications will not be processed or answered.

Application Process

Please download the application from our website when we are open for applications. Save a copy on your computer, and fill it in. You must return the form to Canon Collins by email, to scholarships@canoncollins.org.uk, along with your supporting documents. Please remember, we only get to 'know' of you and your achievements via this application form, so make a concerted effort to present yourself well through your considered answers and supporting documentation.

In addition to the application form you must submit the following supporting documentation:

1. University admission letter for the course of study the applicant wishes to take up including the amount of registration fee. The acceptance letter is mandatory for the application. However, students need to explain if they did not receive an (unconditional) confirmation acceptance letter from the university. For instance, if final results are still not available at the time of application, please make sure to give a reason why and when the result will be available;
2. Proof of the required registration fee amount only (not including residence fees or any other upfront payments). Proof needs to be submitted if the student office did not publish the registration fee at the time of application.
3. Proof of having applied for the university's bursary scheme, and NFSAS where possible;

4. Proof of financial need (bank statements, affidavit confirming economic difficulties);
5. Proof of academic merit, including a comprehensive CV and certificates which demonstrate the applicant's commitment to their area of interest. Students who do not have a matric certificate must send proof of their age exemption certificate or other matriculation exemption certificate: <http://hesa-enrol.ac.za/mb> (students can apply directly to the Matriculation Board or with their university). International students must have their results certified by the South African Qualifications Authority: <http://www.sqaq.org.za>.
6. Certified copy of ID/Passport

Furthermore, students are encouraged to submit the following supporting material:

1. Provide a letter from their departmental HoD supporting the application;
2. Submit a digital portfolio of your creative work if you are aiming to study creative arts (Visual Arts, Music, Textile, Fashion, Music, etc.).
3. Motivate longer gaps in the CV. It is beneficial to explain study breaks and to list activities outside of the university, such as community engagement or non-formal learning.

Filling in the form

Please remember that someone else will read your application. Therefore:

Please do

1. Pay attention to grammar and presentation
2. Complete all sections
3. Attach all necessary documents
4. Submit your application in a timely manner

Please do not

5. Repeat answers
6. Write in capital letters
7. Attach unnecessary documents

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

How many scholarships are available?

Our scholarship usually dispenses about 5-7 bursaries per year depending on how much funds we have and how much students are requesting for their registration fees. The selection committee decides on the actual amount that will be awarded to individual successful applicants, up to a maximum of R7500.

Selection Criteria

Eligible candidates are selected for a bursary on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Their academic record and promise in the proposed field of study and a demonstration of financial need;
2. Adequate demonstration of financial need.
3. The quality of the application itself (completeness, accuracy, consistency).
4. The motivation for choosing a specific field of studies in connection with future plans.
4. Submission of further relevant documentation, such as portfolio or letter of support from the HOD.

Timetable

We will open for applications on Wednesday 18 October 2017. The deadline for applications is Wednesday 16 December 2017, at 11pm GMT. Late applications will not be considered.

When will you hear from us?

Please do not email us to ask about the outcome of your application. All notifications will be by email so please make sure you provide an accurate email address. Only successful applicants will be notified. Short-listed candidates may be interviewed telephonically in mid-January 2018.

We look forward to receiving your application. Good luck!

Terms and Conditions

- ³⁵₁₇ The bursary can only be used for registration fees and will be paid directly to the institution on behalf of the bursary recipient.
- ³⁵₁₇ The bursary recipient must provide all necessary details such as: deadlines of registration payment, student number, University bank account details, full course details in order for payments to be paid in time.
- ³⁵₁₇ Bursary awards will be made on a case-by-case basis subject to availability of funds.
- ³⁵₁₇ The amount awarded will be determined by the committee.
- ³⁵₁₇ Successful applicants will be required to keep the committee posted on their academic performance for their first year of study and notify them when they have completed their first year of study and provide proof of their first year results and/or progress report by the supervisor in the case of postgraduate students. The committee should be notified in advance if the student for any reason is not able to complete their first year as agreed. Awardees are expected to submit mid-year and full year results and reports on the progress of their studies.
- ³⁵₁₇ In the event of a student failing their first year or not completing their first year, for reasons other than health, the student will be required to pay back all monies provided by the bursary.
- ³⁵₁₇ Applicants may not receive the bursary more than once.
- ³⁵₁₇ The decision of the committee is final and reserves the rights of the committee.