

How to Check Your UNISA Bursary Application Status 2026

(Is My Bursary Approved?)

Introduction

Applying for a bursary at the University of South Africa (UNISA) can be the difference between continuing your studies or putting your academic goals on hold. For the 2026 academic year, UNISA bursary applications are officially open for postgraduate students, while undergraduate students are mainly funded through NSFAS or merit bursaries.

After submitting your application, the most common question students ask is: “**How do I check my UNISA bursary application status for 2026, and is my bursary approved?**”

This guide explains everything you need to know about checking your UNISA bursary status for 2026, including postgraduate bursaries, merit bursaries, and NSFAS funding. It also breaks down common status messages, eligibility requirements, required documents, and what to do if your application is rejected.

Overview of UNISA Bursaries for 2026

UNISA does not follow a single system for all bursaries. Each funding category has its own process and timeline. Understanding which bursary you fall under is the first step.

Postgraduate Bursaries (Honours, Master's, Doctoral)

- Applications open: **15 October 2025 – 19 December 2025**
- Who must apply: Honours, Master's, and Doctoral students
- How outcomes are communicated: Via **myLife email**
- Expected outcome period: **January – February 2026**

Undergraduate Merit Bursaries

- Application required: **No**
- Eligibility: Students with a **75% or higher average**
- Selection process: Automatic identification by UNISA
- Notification: Sent directly to **myLife email**

NSFAS (Undergraduate Students)

- Application required: **Yes**
- Where to check status: **myNSFAS portal**

- Important note: NSFAS status is **not** available on the UNISA website

Step-by-Step: How to Check Your UNISA Bursary Application Status (Postgraduate)

If you applied for a postgraduate bursary (Honours, Master's, or Doctoral), follow these steps carefully.

Step 1: Go to the UNISA myAdmin Portal

Visit the official UNISA website and navigate to the **myAdmin** section.

Step 2: Log In

Enter your **student number** and **myUnisa password**.

Step 3: Navigate to Student Admin

Once logged in, locate the **Student Admin** or **Financial Aid** section.

Step 4: Select Financial Aid / Bursaries

Click on the relevant bursary link, such as **Postgraduate Bursary Application**.

Step 5: View Your Application Status

Your current application status will be displayed on the screen.

If it shows **“Application Submitted”**, your application is still under review.

Important: The final decision is always sent to your **myLife email address**. From January 2026, check your inbox and spam folder daily. Missing an acceptance email can result in your bursary being allocated to another student.

How to Check Your NSFAS Status (Undergraduate Students)

Undergraduate students funded by NSFAS must use the **myNSFAS portal**, not UNISA platforms.

Step 1: Visit the myNSFAS Portal

Go to the NSFAS website and click on **myNSFAS**.

Step 2: Log In

Enter your **ID number** and **password**.

Step 3: Track Funding Progress

Click on “**Track Funding Progress**” to see your current status.

What Do NSFAS Statuses Mean?

Understanding your NSFAS status helps you know what action to take.

- **Validation:** Your details are being verified with Home Affairs and SASSA.
- **Provisionally Funded:** You are approved, but UNISA must confirm registration.
- **Action Required:** You must register when registration opens.
- **Awaiting Academic Results:** NSFAS is waiting for UNISA to confirm your academic performance.

Understanding UNISA Bursary Application Status Messages

When checking your UNISA bursary status, you may see the following messages:

- **Application Submitted:** Your application is received but not reviewed yet.
- **Awaiting Evaluation:** The bursary committee is reviewing your academic records.
- **Provisionally Funded:** You are selected, but you must register before **31 January 2026**.
- **Insufficient Funds:** You qualify, but funding has been exhausted.
- **Rejected:** You did not meet academic or administrative requirements.

Are You Eligible for a UNISA Bursary in 2026?

Postgraduate Bursary Requirements

- South African citizenship (preferred)
- Minimum **60% average** in prior qualification

- Correct workload and module registration

Undergraduate Merit Bursary Requirements

- Minimum **75% average**
- All modules passed
- No application required

Required Documents for UNISA Bursaries

If your status shows “**Awaiting Documents**”, prepare the following:

- Certified copy of ID (certified within 6 months)
- Full academic record from myUnisa
- Proof of registration for 2026
- Fee statement (if applicable)

What to Do If Your UNISA Bursary Application Is Rejected

- Review the rejection reason carefully
- Submit an appeal if there is an error
- Attach updated academic records if applicable
- Explore alternative funding options such as external bursaries or Fundi loans

Contact Details for UNISA Bursary Enquiries

- Postgraduate Bursaries: **CGS-pgb@unisa.ac.za**
- Undergraduate Merit Bursary: **dsf-undergrad@unisa.ac.za**
- NSFAS at UNISA: **DSF-NSFAS@unisa.ac.za**

Always include your **student number** in the email subject line.

FAQs

1. Can I check my UNISA bursary status on myUnisa?

Postgraduate students must use **myAdmin**, while NSFAS students use **myNSFAS**.

2. When will UNISA bursary results be released for 2026?

Most outcomes are released between **January and February 2026**.

3. What happens if I miss my bursary acceptance email?

The bursary may be awarded to another student.

4. Do I need to apply for a merit bursary?

No, merit bursaries are awarded automatically.

5. Can I appeal a rejected bursary application?

Yes, depending on the reason for rejection.

Conclusion

Checking your UNISA bursary application status for 2026 is essential to ensure your funding is secure. By following the correct steps for your bursary type and regularly monitoring your myLife email, you can avoid missing critical updates. Whether your status shows approved, pending, or rejected, staying informed allows you to plan ahead and secure alternative funding if necessary. Always act quickly, stay organized, and contact UNISA support when needed.