



OFFICIAL USER GUIDE

How to apply?

2027 User Guide

APPLICATIONS OPEN
18 Sep 2026

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
31 Oct 2026

Applying is free. Apply on your own, anytime and anywhere, on a cellphone or a computer.



What's inside

Everything you need to apply for NSFAS funding for the **2027 academic year**, from checking whether you qualify to tracking your application after you submit.

Applying is FREE. You can apply on your own, anytime and anywhere, on a cellphone or a computer.

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Who are we?

NSFAS is a public entity under the **Department of Higher Education and Training**. NSFAS provides financial help through study bursaries to deserving students at **public TVET colleges and universities**.

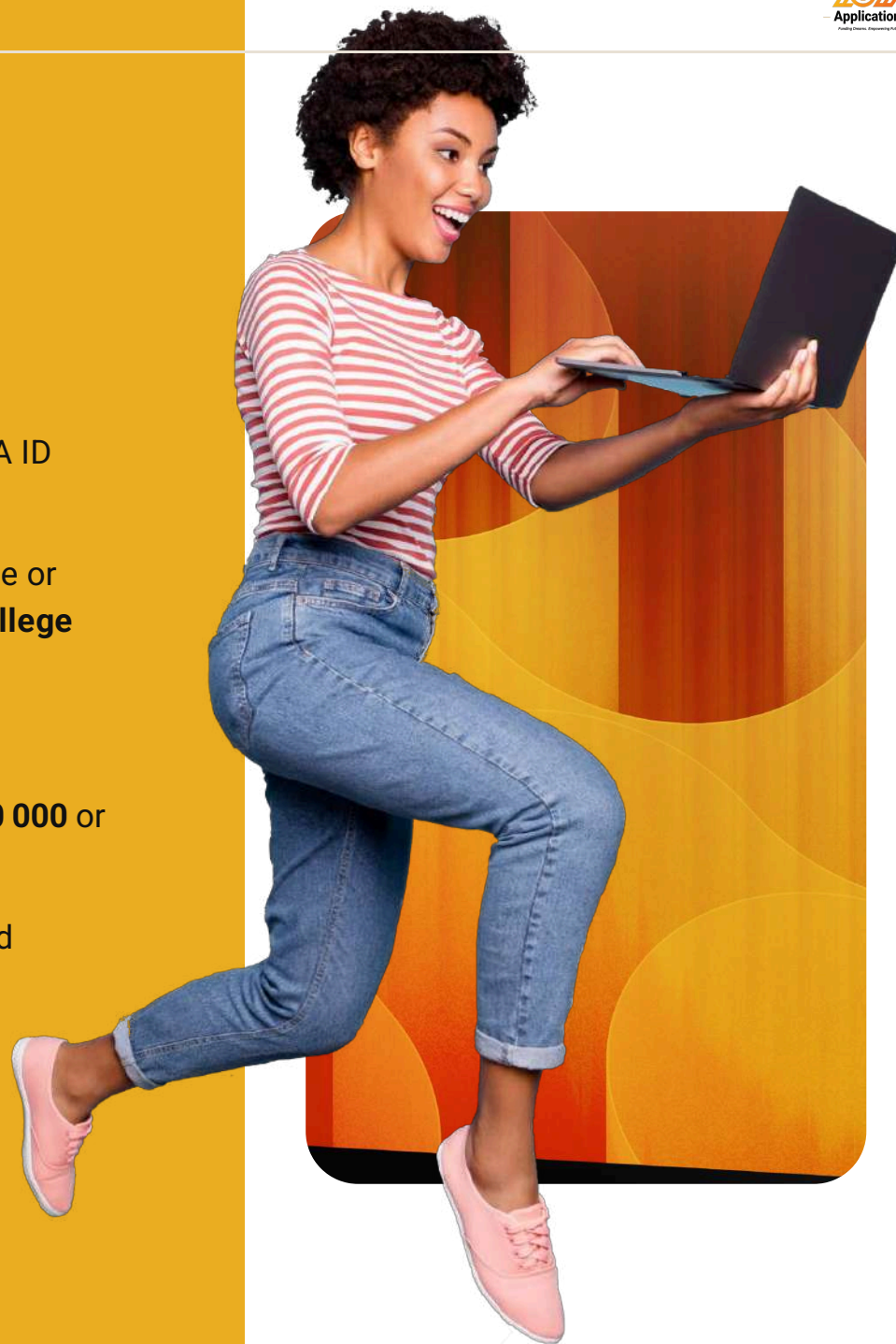
The funding covers the cost of **registration and tuition**, as well as allowances for **living (meals), learning materials, personal care, and either accommodation or transport**, depending on your institution and how you study.

Assisting **millions** of South Africans to achieve their **dreams**.



Who qualifies for funding?

- **South African citizens or permanent residents** with a valid SA ID number, regardless of age
- Studying, or planning to study, a **first** NSFAS-funded certificate or undergraduate qualification at a **public university or TVET college**
- **SASSA** recipients of the Child Support, Foster Care or Care Dependency grant (the SRD grant does not count)
- Applicants whose combined gross household income is **R350 000** or less per year
- Applicants with **disabilities** whose combined gross household income is **R600 000** or less per year
- Granting of **loans** to eligible students studying at public institutions in South Africa, for approved courses, whose combined annual household income is between **R350 0001** and **R600 000**.



Who should **not** apply?

Continuing students who are already NSFAS-funded do **not** need to reapply each year, as long as they keep meeting the academic and financial criteria.

You must reapply if you: change from a TVET college to a university (or vice versa); move to a new qualification on an approved progression pathway; deregistered or dropped out and want to resume; or were not funded in the previous academic term.

NSFAS bursaries do not fund: a second undergraduate or certificate qualification, postgraduate studies, private institutions, or qualifications not approved by DHET.



Use your correct details

When you apply, it is very important to provide your **correct ID number, name(s) and surname** exactly as they appear in your **ID document**.

NSFAS validates your ID upfront and verifies your information against third-party data sources, including SARS and SASSA. **Errors in your ID number, first name or surname cannot be fixed through an appeal**; the application will be rejected, and you can only reapply while applications are still open.

BENEFITS FOR APPLICANTS

- 1 Apply anytime, anywhere**
A user-friendly application form you can complete on a cellphone or a computer.
- 2 Save time**
Less time spent completing your application.
- 3 Fewer mistakes**
Fields are validated as you go, which improves the accuracy of your application.

Before you apply

- You must create a **myNSFAS** profile to apply. Have your cellphone and email address available when you apply.
- An **OTP pin** will be sent to you to activate your profile. This also allows NSFAS to communicate with you.

HAVE READY

Your personal and household information, including income information where applicable.

CONSENT FORM

A complete, signed **NSFAS consent form** from your declared parents, guardian or spouse. Without it, your application will be rejected.

KEEP ACTIVE

A cellphone number and email address you can access. NSFAS uses them to contact you.

PREPARE

Clear, valid copies of the supporting documents that apply to you (see page 13). Incomplete applications are not accepted.

How to **apply**?

It's as **easy** as 1 · 2 · 3

1

Create a myNSFAS account

Go to my.nsfas.org.za or download the **NSFAS App** on Google Play or the App Store. **Your ID number will be your username.**

2

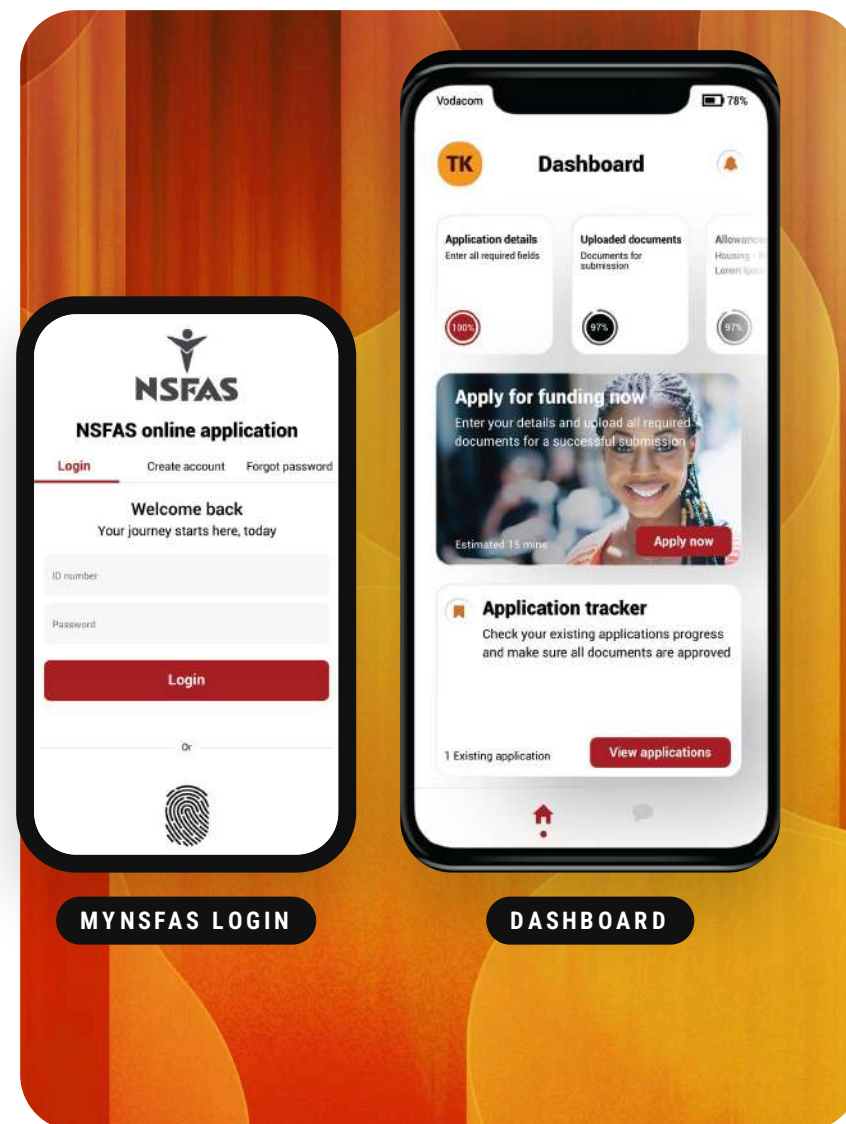
Apply and upload

Select **Apply** to update your **personal information** and **upload** the supporting documents indicated for your application.

3

Submit your application

Review everything, submit, and keep your reference number. The detailed 10 steps follow on the next pages.



STEP-BY-STEP · GETTING STARTED

Steps 1 – 3

1

Visit the NSFAS website

Go to the official NSFAS website and select **myNSFAS** to begin your application, or open the **NSFAS App**.

Only use official NSFAS websites and apps.

2

Create or access your myNSFAS account

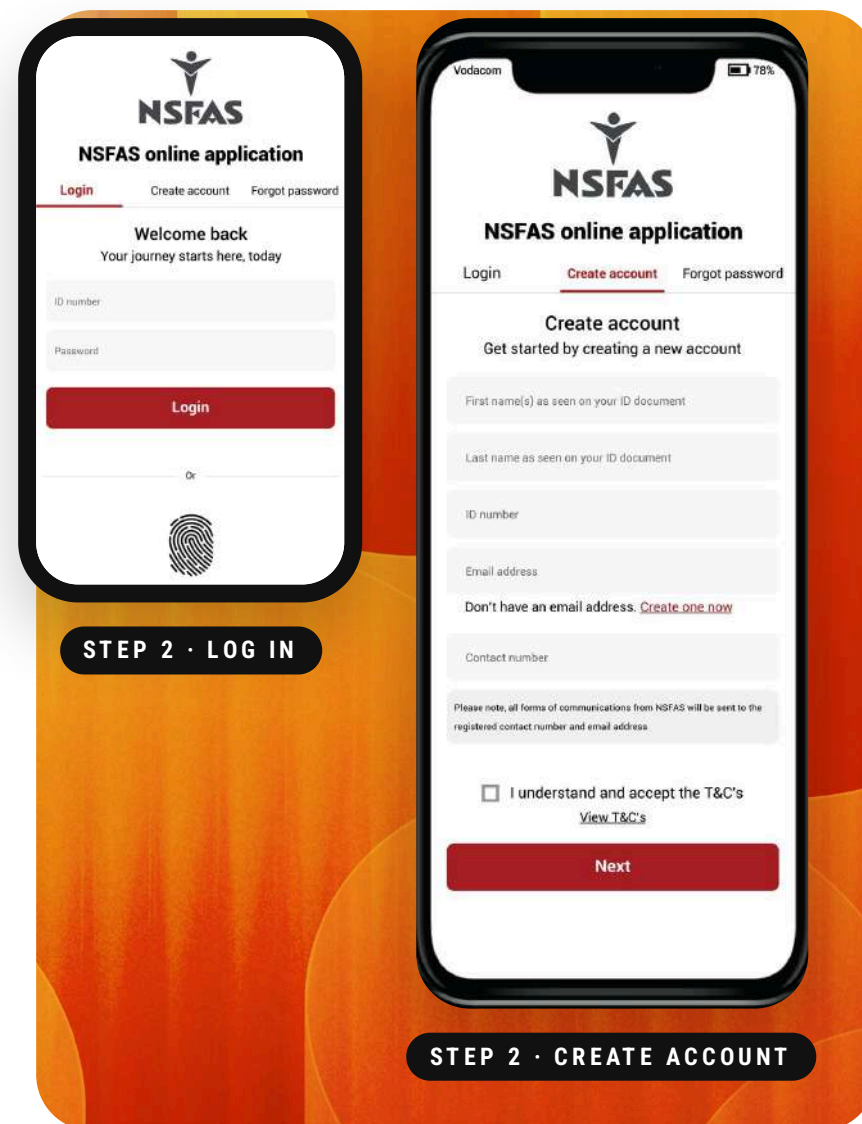
New applicants: select **Create account** and enter your first name(s) and last name exactly as they appear on your ID document, your ID number, email address and contact number. Accept the terms and conditions and select **Next**. **Existing users:** select **Login** and enter your ID number and password.

An OTP will be sent to activate your profile. Never share it.

3

Verify and complete your personal information

Check that your personal information is correct and complete all required fields. Use accurate information that matches your official records.



STEP-BY-STEP · YOUR APPLICATION

Steps 4 – 6

4

Start your 2027 application

Once logged in, select **Apply now** on your dashboard to apply for NSFAS funding for the **2027 academic year**. Follow the instructions on the application portal.

5

Complete your application information

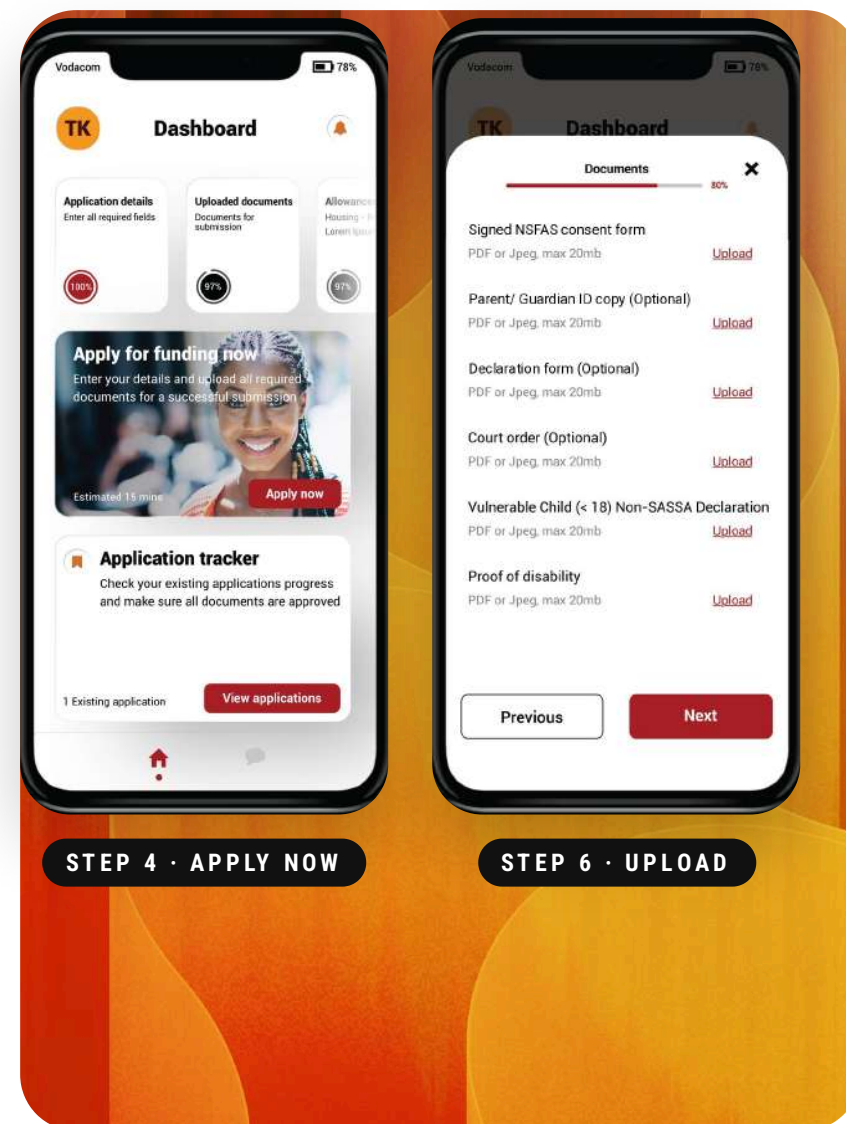
Provide all the information requested, including details about your **household** and **financial circumstances**. Complete the **consent** and **declaration** processes. By applying, you also accept the terms of the NSFAS Bursary Agreement.

Your dashboard shows how much of each section you have completed.

6

Upload supporting documents

Select **Upload** next to each document the system requests. Documents are accepted as **PDF or JPEG, up to 20 MB** each. Make sure every document is **clear, valid and readable**.



STEP-BY-STEP · SUBMIT AND TRACK

Steps 7 – 10

7

Review your application

Before submitting, confirm that your personal information, household details, contact information and uploaded documents are correct.

8

Submit your application

When everything is complete, select **Submit**. Do not leave your application incomplete.

9

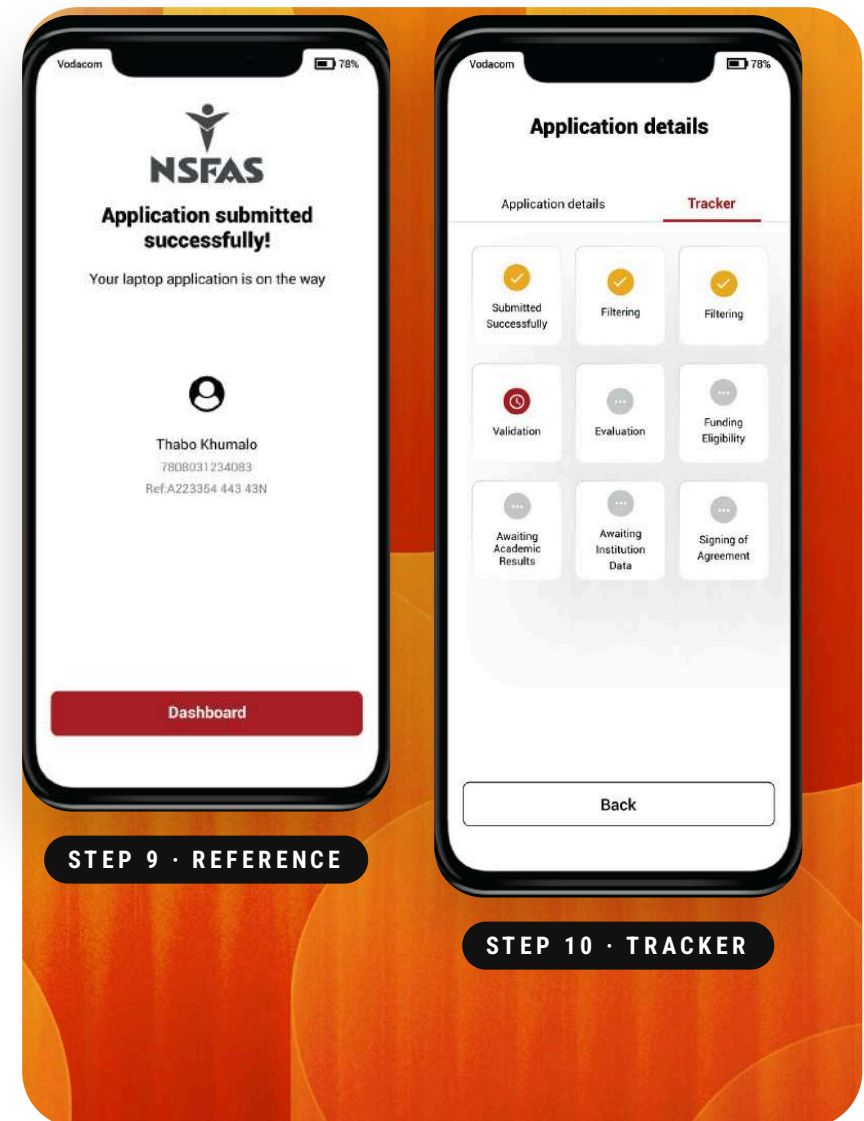
Keep your application reference

After submitting, a confirmation screen shows your **reference number**. Save it as proof that your application was submitted.

10

Track your application

Log in to myNSFAS regularly and open the **Tracker** to check your status. If NSFAS requests more information, you have **30 working days** to submit it.



STEP 9 · REFERENCE

STEP 10 · TRACKER

Required information

ALL APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE

- A signed **NSFAS consent form** — required for all applicants
- Your **personal and household details**, completed on the online form
- **Income information**, where applicable

All required information must be completed on the **online form**, together with a signed **NSFAS consent form** so NSFAS can verify household income.

SASSA recipients: no proof of income is required.

Your document list is personalised

Based on your application type, the system will generate the list of documents you need to upload.

Whose income counts?

Unmarried: your parents' (biological or adoptive) and your own. **Under guardianship:** your guardian's and your own. **Married:** your spouse's and your own.

Required documents

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A completed and signed **Disability Annexure A Form** (available on the NSFAS website).

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Applicants under 18 recognised as a vulnerable child by the Department of Social Development must provide a **Vulnerable Child Declaration Form** completed by a social worker (available on the website).

DECLARATION FORM

May be required if you are under 35 and the people you declared do not match DHA records, especially legal guardians. Complete the **NSFAS Declaration Form** (available on the website).

OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED, IF APPLICABLE

- Retrenchment letter
- Proof of legal guardianship
- Death certificate(s)
- Marriage certificate
- Divorce decree
- Documents for appeals



Note: ID copies of your parent(s) or guardian may be required if their details are different from those found at the Department of Home Affairs (DHA).

ITA34 for appeals

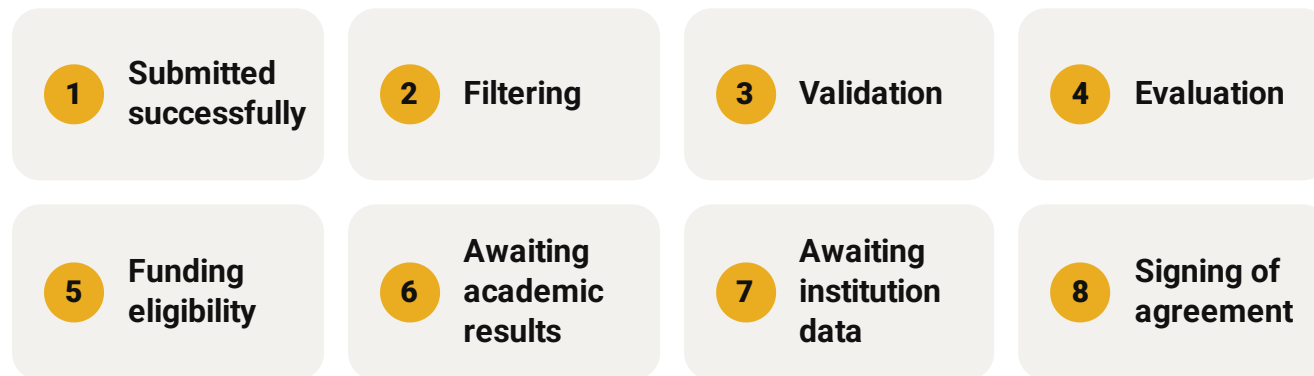
A **SARS ITA34** may be required if you are appealing your financial eligibility.

Upload tips

Upload PDF or JPEG files of up to 20 MB each, and check that every document is clear and readable.

Tracking your application

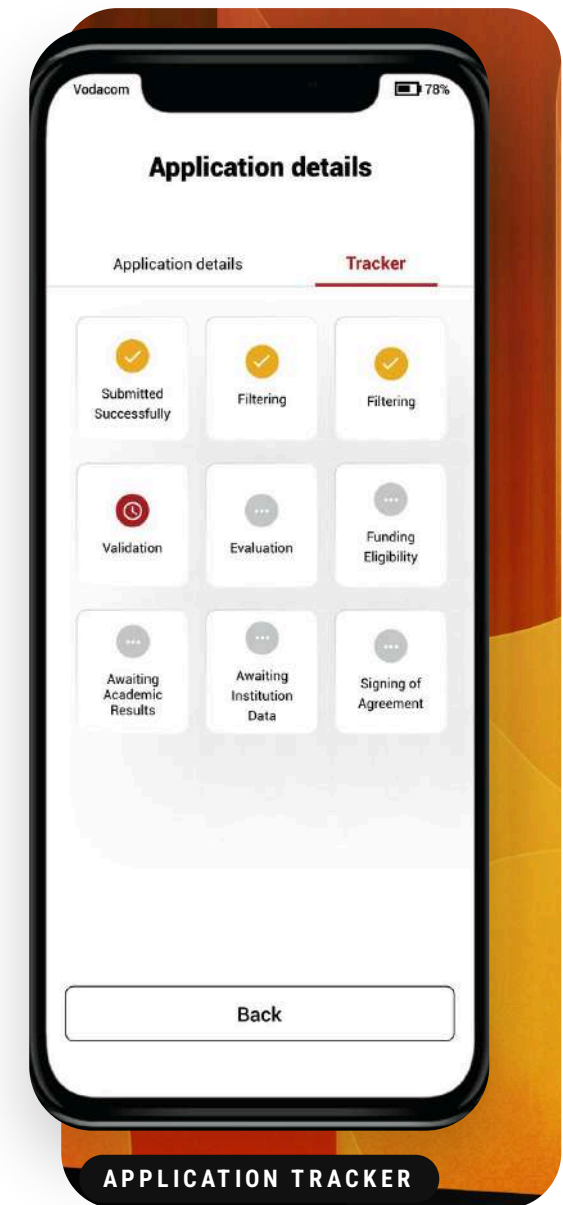
After you submit, log in to myNSFAS and open **Application details** → **Tracker**. Your application moves through these stages:



READING THE TRACKER

● Completed
 ● In progress
 ● Still to come

If NSFAS requests more information or documents, **respond promptly** so your application can keep moving.



If your application is **unsuccessful**

You can **appeal** on the **myNSFAS portal** within **30 working days** of receiving your application outcome. You get **two opportunities** to upload the correct supporting documents; after that, the appeal is closed.

INCOME APPEALS ARE CONSIDERED ONLY IF

- your household's financial circumstances changed after you applied, and you can prove it
- you can prove your household income is below the threshold
- a key contributor to household income became incapacitated or passed away after you applied
- a court has declared you independent of your parents and not their responsibility to maintain

You cannot appeal if

your qualification is not NSFAS-funded; you have used up your N+ funding period; you now declare different parent, guardian or independence details than in your application; or your institution's registration record is missing or wrong (take that up with your institution).

Evidence

A **SARS ITA34** may be required if you are appealing your financial eligibility. NSFAS verifies all appeal documents.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Applying is **FREE**

- **Never pay anyone** to submit an application on your behalf.
- **Never share** your myNSFAS password or OTP with anyone.
- Only apply through **official NSFAS channels**: the NSFAS website, myNSFAS and the NSFAS App.
- Report anyone who charges to help with an application to the **NSFAS fraud hotline**.
- If you receive another bursary, tell NSFAS **within 10 business days**. Receiving double funding can lead to cancellation and repayment.



Contact us

-  Website: www.nsfas.org.za
-  Toll-free: **0800 067 327**
-  WhatsApp: **078 519 8006**
-  USSD: ***120*67327#**
-  Facebook: **National Student Financial Aid Scheme**
-  Instagram and X: **@myNSFAS**



Apply now at www.nsfas.org.za.
Applications close on **31 October 2026!**