sport, arts & culture
Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FROM PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES FOR A BURSARY IN LANGUAGE STUDIES FOR 2027/28 – 2029/30

The Use of Official Languages Act, 2012 (Act No. 12 of 2012), among other things, aims to promote the equitable use of the 12 official languages, facilitate access to government services, knowledge and information; and ensure redress for the previously marginalized official languages. This Act implies increased demand for language services and properly qualified language practitioners are needed to meet this demand.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, therefore, is offering bursaries for students to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies in any of the following areas of study:

- Any of the official languages
- Human Language Technology
- Sociolinguistics
- Interpreting
- Language Planning
- Lexicography
- South African Sign Language
- Terminology Development and Management
- Translation and Editing

Please note that this bursary programme is available to eligible South African citizens pursuing studies from undergraduate through to master's level. It is important to note that the bursary is not a fully funded bursary as the financial support is limited to tuition fees, prescribed textbooks and/or essential study materials. Other costs, such as accommodation, meals, transport, living expenses and personal costs, will not be covered and will therefore remain the responsibility of the student unless otherwise specified.

The bursary will be administered by the individual beneficiary university, which will be responsible for the application process, assessment of eligibility, selection of beneficiaries and the administration of approved funding in accordance with the applicable requirements. The Department will provide the necessary funding and oversee and monitor the implementation of the bursary programme to ensure that the funds are utilised appropriately and that the programme achieves its intended objectives.

Interested public universities are requested to submit their proposals, outlining the courses they offer using the link below:
https://dsacevents.dsac.gov.za/nls_burs/index.html

Closing date: 2 December 2026. Applications sent after the closing date will not be considered.

NB: *Institutions should please note that their programmes will be verified for South African Qualifications Authority compliance requirements.*

For further information and enquiries, please contact Mr Manganyi on 082 934 0655 or Email: SiphoM@Dsac.gov.za or Ms Ndima on 082 900 9767 or Email: ZaneleN@Dsac.gov.za