



Rotary Club of Knysna

Making informed study choices – some useful information from the Bursary Committee of the Rotary Club of Knysna

Perhaps you're interested in studying after you leave school. You might be thinking of applying for a bursary, or looking for other financial assistance. The Rotary Club of Knysna offers some bursaries, and we believe that it's important for you to think about your future studies long before the time.

Your teachers will have told you how important it is to choose the right subjects at the end of Grade 9, for your last three years of high school. One problem learners have is that they don't know, at the end of Grade 9, what they might want to study one day. So: choose subjects that keep all the doors open, like Mathematics instead of Mathematical Literacy, in case you might want to study Engineering one day, or Accountancy instead of Business Studies in case one day you want to study for a B.Com degree. Yes, it might be more difficult, but that just means you'll have to work a bit harder.

Your teachers will also have told you that 30% isn't good enough if you want to study after leaving school. It is good enough to pass **out** of school; it isn't good enough to **get into** something worthwhile later. So start aiming high long before the end of school gets close.

If you are in Grade 11 or 12, and you're starting to think about applying for a bursary from the Rotary Club of Knysna, here are a few important things you need to know.

- The **bursary application form** is on the website: www.knysnarotary.co.za. You may need to ask someone to print a form for you.
- **Read the form carefully** to see what you first need to get in order to submit your application (such as ID photos, application forms for a bank loan).
- Make sure you know **what course** you want to study, and **what subjects** you will take.
- Make sure you've **considered lots of different options**, such as becoming a plumber or an electrician. Tradesmen often earn better than professionals such as physiotherapists or engineers, and are always needed in all communities.

- Make sure that the **subjects** you're taking at school in Grade 12 will allow you to apply for the course you are considering. It's no good planning to do engineering if you've taken Mathematical Literacy and not Mathematics.
- Be able to explain **why** you are considering this course: have you done any job shadowing, have you spoken to someone who does this work, do you know what employment opportunities might be available?
- Decide which **college** or which **university** you want to apply to. Note that the Rotary Club of Knysna does not provide bursaries for private institutions.
- Find out what that **institution's requirements** are:
 - The closing date for application.
 - Registration fees.
 - Study fees.
 - School results you need to send them (e.g. do they want Grade 11 results when you apply?)
- Find out what **accommodation** options are available while you will be studying.
- Know something about **Rotary**, since you might want to make use of Rotary's money.
- Be **available for an interview** (if you are selected) during the first week of the end-of-year Western Cape school holidays.

All these points cover three specific things: (1) What you need to be doing in the early years of high school; (2) What you need to do in Grade 11 and 12; and (3) What you need to do if you are interviewed. Let's look at these in a bit more detail.

1. What you need to be doing in the early years of high school

- Choose the subjects for Grades 10, 11 and 12 that will give you the widest choice when you leave school.
- Talk to lots of different people about the work they do, and think about whether you want to do that kind of work.
- Always try to get the best marks you can in every test, not just enough to pass.

2. What you need to do in Grade 11 and 12

- Choose what you want to do when you leave school, and think as broadly as you can. Did you only consider careers that are familiar, like 'teacher', 'nurse', 'engineer'? Try to find out (perhaps from Rotary, the library, newspaper advertisements) about other options, such as electrician, food chemist, optician, graphic designer, radiographer. Remember that the traditional professions such as Teaching, Engineering, Medicine, etc., are not the only kinds of work worth doing. In fact these areas might not be right for you, and might not fit with your interests, your academic skills or your results.

- Work hard in Grade 11 to make sure your marks at the end of that year are as high as possible. Many institutions that select students use the Grade 11 marks in the first round of their selection process.
- As early as possible in your Grade 12 year decide where you want to apply to study – not just your first choice, but other options as well. It is quite possible that you might not get into the university that is your first choice, or for the programme that is your first choice. Suppose you have decided you want to apply to study a BSc degree in Marine Engineering at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) – it might be a good idea to also apply for a BSc degree with Biology and Chemistry as the major subjects, perhaps at CPUT or NMMU, or Fort Hare or Rhodes. Then, if CPUT can't accept you, either into a Marine Engineering course or into their BSc programme, at least you have several other choices where you can be considered and may be offered a place. If you wait until you hear from CPUT before applying somewhere else it will be too late to apply.
- Consider applying to Tsiba (Eden Campus, in Karatara), especially if you are not yet well-enough prepared to be able to cope with the first year of a university course. The amount of work you will be expected to do in your first year at university will be far more than you would have had to do in your Grade 12 year at school. To find out more about Tsiba, look at their website: www.tsiba.org.za.
- Use the internet (at your school, or the library, if you don't have access to the internet at home) to find and read the **prospectus** of the college or university where you want to study. In general this document sets out
 - what subjects you will need to take;
 - what the minimum requirements are for acceptance;
 - deadline dates for applications;
 - application fees;
 - registration fees;
 - supporting documents you will need (e.g. ID document, Grade 11 or Grade 12 mid-year results – these may need to be certified);
 - course fees;
 - whether you need to write the NBTs or not;
 - when you can expect to be notified about whether or not you have been accepted.

The *earlier in the year* you have all this information, the better equipped you will be. You will be able to work towards getting the marks you need in order to have a chance of being accepted. You will

- be able to apply to more than one university or college;
- have time to think about ways of finding the money to pay for up-front costs such as application fees and registration fees;

- be able to find out whether your parents/guardians are able to help pay for your studies; if not, you will have time to talk to them or a teacher about how to apply for bank loans and other loans;
 - have time to find out about organisations that offer bursaries or study loans (a list of some of these organisations is given later; if you are interested in any of these options you will need to contact them about closing dates for applications, as these change from time to time);
 - have some time to improve your marks if you know they aren't good enough;
 - have time to make sure you have all the personal documentation you need;
 - have time to prepare your application properly.
- Fill in the college or university's application form and post it with all the other documents required. The college or university might want certified copies of your Grade 11 results, or other results. Before posting the forms, make sure you have copies of everything so that you can follow up if your application is lost. Make sure you send everything to the right address – although it may cost a bit more it is a good idea to send your application by registered mail. This will give you a tracking number which you can use to track the document and know when it's reached the college or university.
 - Spend the last few months of your Grade 12 year working hard to achieve the best marks you are capable of getting. Don't ever settle for a low standard when you can do better.
 - As soon as you have a reply from the college or university you have applied to (remember that if you are accepted this will only be a provisional acceptance, i.e. final acceptance will depend on your Grade 12 results) you can apply for accommodation, if necessary, and other bursaries or loans, if necessary. All such application forms have different requirements – make sure you fill the forms in properly. You might be the best possible candidate, but unless your form is also the best possible form you might not be considered.

3. *What you need to do if you are one of the applicants who is selected for an interview for a Rotary Club of Knysna bursary.*

- Make sure you are available to be interviewed during the first week of the end-of-year Western Cape school holidays.
- Fill in the application form accurately, as indicated on the form. You can fill it in in English or in Afrikaans; you are also welcome to speak either language when you are interviewed.
- Be on time for your interview.
- Dress neatly.
- There's no need to be nervous, especially if you're well prepared. You will be asked questions that relate to your application, for example why you want to

study the course you've chosen, what work you would like to do one day, what your interests are, where you plan to stay while you study.

- Find out more about Rotary – there's lots of information on the internet about the Rotary Club of Knysna, and about Rotary International. If you expect Rotary to help you, you might want to think about how you can help Rotary.

Perhaps you're wondering what criteria Rotary will apply when they have to select who to interview, from all the many bursary applications received. Unfortunately there will be more applicants than there is money available, and so, unfortunately, not everyone can be selected for an interview. The two main reasons for not interviewing someone are that the application forms are not fully or properly completed, and that the marks at school are too low, so that the applicants are unlikely to be able to succeed in further study.

We encourage all learners to aim high, and do their best.

Some suggestions regarding bursaries/study loans

	Funder	Bursary or Loan	Description	Contact
1.	Get-a-life	Loan	Bursary database	www.gal.co.za
2.	NSFAS	Loan	National Student Financial Aid Scheme. Apply at Financial Aid Office or Student Centre at institution	www.nsfas.org.za
3.	Eduloan	Loan	Education finance service provider	www.eduloan.co.za tel: 0860 555 544
4.	Legalwise	Bursary	Law studies	www.legalwise.co.za
5.	National Film + Video Foundation	Bursary	Film and related industry – Education & Training	www.nfvf.co.za
6.	CETA: Construction Education + Training Authority	Bursaries	Engineering, Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Town Planning, and Construction – quick links	www.ceta.org.za
7.	SA Institute of Race Relations	Bursaries	Applications close end of August	www.sairr.org.za
8.	InkapaElihlumayo	Bursaries	For use at FET Colleges in the Western Cape. Gross family income not to exceed R60 000 pa	www.gostudy.mobi/bursaries database of bursaries available
9.	Government Departments: SA Treasury: Public Works (PWD)	Bursaries	Finance, economy and IT – Graduate recruitment Mainly construction related	www.publicworks.gov.za www.treasury.gov.za www.dsd.gov.za

	Dept of Social Dev.		Social work Scholarship	
	Dept of Defence		Wide variety of Technical training	
10.	Knysna Municipality	Bursary	Search Knysna Youth Portal	www.knysnamunicipality.co.za
11.	Banks	Bursary	For those interested in the banking industry	Check all bank websites
12.	Universities / FET colleges	Bursaries		Check websites of the different universities
13.	FunzaLushaka	Bursary (for teaching; must work as a teacher for the same number of years as study programme)	Re-applications close beginning of November; new applications close beginning of January.	www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za
14	Supplementary Bursary Trust	Bursary	Awarded on academic and personal achievement with satisfactory references; closing date beginning November	www.melfrieda@telkomsa.net