

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dear Students

The Office of the Dean of Student Affairs has been inundated with queries from students who want to know more about the Wits Hardship Fund.

The Wits Hardship Fund has been established by Wits University and has been allocated R13 million to help students who are in urgent need of assistance. To date, the Wits Hardship Fund Evaluation Committee (which includes SRC representatives) has

- assisted 567 students in total in the last two weeks,
- awarded funding to 220 students for urgent accommodation, and
- assisted 347 returning students to register.

Category 1: Students who owe less than R10 000, sign an Acknowledgement of Debt, and can register (no need to apply to the Wits Hardship Fund).

Category 2: Students who owe more than R10 000, must apply to the Wits Hardship Fund for assistance. If they met the criteria, assistance will be provided, provided that the total debt owing is less than R100,000. These students will sign an Acknowledgement of Debt, and can register. This only applies to students who have applied to the Wits Hardship Fund and who have been successful in their application.

Applications to the Wits Hardship Fund have been extended to 17:00 on Friday, 8 February 2019. We have also put the necessary internal processes in place to ensure that we speed up the processing of applications, and that we improve on the communication in terms of the outcomes. Please send applications to Sheryl.Letsapa@wits.ac.za

A special office for hardship fund related queries and to sign the Acknowledgement of Debt forms has been set up at Robert Sobukwe Building, CB 227.

Category 3: Students who require urgent accommodation assistance must send applications to Thembelihle.Dlamini@wits.ac.za.

These students must then present themselves for an assessment interview to the WCCO, at the Sanctuary. The University secured a number of additional beds to assist students facing difficulty with securing accommodation due to lack of funding. Beds are limited and we are doing all that we can to assist those in dire need.

Thank you

Jerome September
Dean: Student Affairs