



**VAAL UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY**

Inspiring thought. Shaping talent.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

 **Vanderbijlpark Campus**
Andries Potgieter Blvd
Vanderbijlpark, 1900, South Africa

 Private Bag X021
Vanderbijlpark, 1911, South Africa
www.vut.ac.za

VAAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY 2023 CONCESSION

The Vaal University of Technology has experienced high level of student debt. While management may understand that this is a national challenge across the higher education sector, for VUT, non-collection of student debt has a severe impact on VUTs financial sustainability and operations. This is due to VUT having two main sources of income, i.e. government subsidy (51%) and tuition and other fees (49%).

It should be noted that on an annual basis, the university has been writing off student debt for self-funded students due to non-payment of fees and this amount cannot be recovered.

Management and the SRC have had a number of engagements to discuss the 2023 concessions. The SRC is not in agreement with management's resolutions; however, the following Mancom resolutions were implemented to ensure the financial sustainability of the university.

1. **NATIONAL STUDENTS**

- 1.1 Registration fees for all self-funded students are R2 200 for tuition fees and an additional R2 200 for residence fees.
- 1.2 The 2023 tuition fees and residence fees should be paid in accordance with the VUT Fee booklet.
- 1.3 **National Students with debt from 2022 and previous years** are required to pay as per Table 1.

Table 1: Sliding scale for national students

Categories	Percentage to be paid	Number of accounts affected
R0–R10 000	100%	4 364
R10 001–R30 000	60%	4 515
R30 001–R50 000	50%	2183
R50 001–above	40%	2474
Total		13 536

- 1.3.1 Management will investigate exceptional cases presented and assist where possible.
- 1.3.2 All outstanding historic debt should be settled by September 2023 in accordance with the VUT Fees booklet.
- 1.4 **National students with existing arrangements**, it should be noted that previously-signed Debt Acknowledgement Form/ Payment Agreement legally binds the students. Students are required to settle the defaulted amount in terms of existing Debt Acknowledgement Form/ Payment Agreement. VUT will consider individual circumstances where students have special cases and the Credit Management Office should be provided with the required documentation supporting the special circumstances.
- 1.5 **Approved NSFAS/bursary-funded students covered for 2023 fees with previous year debt that is not covered by NSFAS/ bursary**. Students should have complied with their Debt Acknowledgement Form/ Payment Agreement for 2022 and for prior academic years. Where there is no payment arrangement, they need to comply with 2023 concessions. Management will look into exceptional cases.
- 1.6 **Students with an outstanding balance that have three (3) or less remaining modules to complete the qualification**. These students need to comply with 2023 concessions, and the student should make arrangement with the Credit Management Office. Management will look into special cases, where the student cannot comply with 2023 concessions is required to pay for the cost of the remaining modules, after the confirmation by academics.
- 1.7 **Students with existing arrangements with debt collectors and the account is up to date**. Students should pay for the cost of the modules they are adding in 2023. Students without payment arrangements with debt collectors need to

pay according to 2023 concessions and payment arrangements must be entered into with debt collectors. The full cost of the modules for 2023 must be paid.

1.8 **WIL students** who want to register for in-service training towards completion of the qualification, whilst owing, must be permitted. This will be upon receiving proof of confirmation and provided that the in-service training fee is paid. They are subject to 2023 concessions and should sign an acknowledgment of debt. If a student defaults, the student should not be allowed to add the P2 module until the arrears are settled in full.

1.9 **Student that has exceeded the N+ rule** and NSFAS has confirmed that the student is not funded, should be treated as non-funded and be subject to 2023 concessions.

2. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

2.1 International students are required to pay as per Table 2.

Table 2: Sliding scales for international students

Categories	Percentage to be paid	Number of accounts affected
First-year students	100%	Not applicable
Senior students	100%	202

2.2 It was noted that the international students are not complying with the concession. Credit Management Office and debt collectors are struggling to trace the international student when the qualification is completed.

3. SPECIAL CASES

In the review of special cases the following factors will also be considered:

3.1 The university should avoid reckless lending, which is in contravention of the National Credit Act.

3.2 Academic progress of the students.

3.3 Affordability of the parent or guardian.

Regards

Management