

# Adopt a Student

## Bursaries needed for brilliant university entrants in the Hundred for Hundred Project

IN RESPONSE TO SAICE's centenary and Allyson's research, in 2003 Dudu Mkhize, a teacher with a master's degree in maths, initiated a project to find 100 high-calibre entrants for civil engineering studies at South African universities. This was an optimistic target for one year, but nevertheless, after tireless campaigning in North West, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, Dudu identified 32 candidates. Twelve eventually chose other engineering fields but 20 entered civil engineering and collectively gained many distinctions at the end of 2004. Successes since that time are outlined in the table below:

Level of students	Number of students	Distinctions in the previous exams
Third-year students	11	15
Second-year students	12	12
First-year students	20	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>37</b>

The success of the programme was such that it was decided to continue. The support of Jones and Wagener enabled Dudu to dedicate more time to the project. So 2006 has seen more students from disadvantaged backgrounds entering civil engineering. Most of them would have been lost to the South African economy because of their financially

impoverished backgrounds coupled with lack of career guidance. (Dudu now visits over 50 schools and has added the Free State to her itinerary.) The calibre of the 2006 entrants is impressive. One matriculant from a rural school gained 99% for higher grade maths!

Unfortunately the project is experiencing a financial crisis that is threatening its quality and reputation owing to bursary funding sources apparently having dried up or having become bogged down in decision-making processes!

### APPEAL – 2006 UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS

Please consider taking over one or more of these students totally or participating in 'Adopt a Student'.

The needs of the students who require financial support are set out in the table below.

If you are looking for students, we would like you to commit to them for the duration of their studies. However, we are aware of the risks associated with first-year students so suggest an 'Adopt a Student' approach, in which we ask for commitment for first-year costs only, excluding the selection and management fees. Should the student pass, we would ask you to contribute R 5 000 towards the selection and management of the project. Thereafter you may wish to continue to support the student or withdraw. Experience has shown that once students have passed their first year, it is easy to get bursaries for the remaining years, so we do not anticipate further crises for that particular group.

Companies can adopt students as part of their corporate social investment activities.

### APPEAL – 2005 UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG NATIONAL DIPLOMA STUDENTS

Another crisis has befallen last year's national diploma students. Despite commitment, the funds did not materialise. We now have six students who have passed S2, mostly with excellent results, but are faced with large debts and are unable to carry on. A contribution towards their debts and an opportunity for experiential training are also being sought.

### CONCLUSION

Twenty students who have the potential to succeed in their studies in civil engineering are in danger of being rejected by the universities if their financial obligations are not met, and a further six with excellent S2 results may not be able to continue with their studies. This in the context of scarce skills in engineering!

**Please URGENTLY consider contributing towards this project!**

#### ► Contacts

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University	Number of students	Tuition fees (R)	Residence and meals (R)	Books and stationery (R)	Selection and management (R)	Total (R)
University of Pretoria	3	19 370	18 700	5 000	5 000	48 070
University of Johannesburg	10	16 000	14 000	5 000	5 000	40 000
University of the Witwatersrand	7	22 210	18 000	5 000	5 000	50 210

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