

### 5.7.6 The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)

The National Student Financial Scheme (NSFAS) is the major source of student funding at Mangosuthu University of Technology. In 2017 the NSFAS grant was R348,999,562, specifically earmarked to assist financially needy but academically deserving students. The University was able to assist 6,881 students. In 2016 the grant was R 219,682,763 and we managed to assist 6,872 students with funding. The comparison between 2017 and 2016 shows our NSFAS grant increased by 63%. The following is the comparison between students that applied and those who received funding over a period of ten years.

Year	Students Applied	Bursaries Allocated	Percentage
2008	5,105	4,013	78.61
2009	6,011	4,281	71.22
2010	6,818	4,731	69.39
2011	6,822	5,453	79.93
2012	7,383	6,154	83.35
2013	7,889	6,111	77.46
2014	8,134	6,172	75.88
2015	7,989	5,965	74.67
2016	8,128	6,872	84.55
2017	8,455	6,881	79.00

The graph below shows the trend of funds allocated, compared to the number of applicants, over the past 12 years.

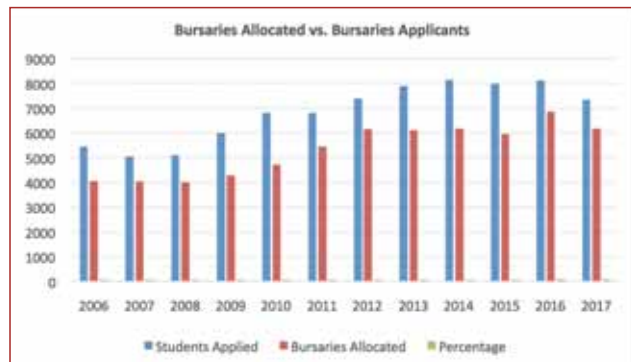


Figure 11: NSFAS Funding Allocated to Students (2006 - 2017)

### 5.7.7 Students with Disabilities

Forty students with disabilities were awarded bursaries to cover their full costs of study, including support equipment where necessary. A total of R 2,267,311 was spent on this bursary programme and the money was made available by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

### 5.7.8 Conclusion

Although our funding increases every year, the increase in student fees and limited funding from the private sector make the task of equitable distribution of funds among students very difficult. The support from the private sector is not enough. Our institution draws a large number of students from historically disadvantaged communities where parents are either unemployed or depend on government social grants. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our sponsors for their financial support over the years.

## 6. 2017 REPORT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL FORUM TO COUNCIL

During the 2017 reporting cycle, the Institutional Forum (IF) reviewed and advised Council on the following matters;

1. Approval of the revised Institutional Forum Charter;
2. Approval of MUT's Disciplinary Code;
3. Support for the reappointment of MUT's Chancellor.

Furthermore, the following matters were discussed;

1. Diversity management policy and programs for both staff and students;
2. Vice Chancellor to expedite the appointment of EMC (no acting appointments);
3. Creation of a clear Recruitment and Selection policy and procedure for all MUT staff;
4. Alignment of our Employment Equity Plan to national legislation (Employment Equity Act);
5. A formal memo from the Council Secretary as feedback to IF on advice given.

The following was identified for further discussion within the Institutional Forum:

1. The role of IF Chairpersons' Forum as per DHET mandate.