

National Skills Fund (NSF)

The National Skills Fund (NSF), through the Department of Higher Education and Training, provided **R 22 536 318.40** as full bursaries for students who qualify under the NSF Bursary Fund for Scarce and Critical Skills. Nine hundred and twenty five (925) students were awarded full bursaries under this bursary funding programme. This is a marked improvement compared to 2014 where the amount provided was **R 20 038 725.56** and 770 students were funded. In 2015 the number of students assisted under NSF for NatSkills increased by 16%.

Students with Disabilities

Fifty eight (58) students with disabilities were awarded bursaries to cover their full costs of study including support equipment where necessary. A total of **R 2 097 651.74** was spent on that bursary programme and the money was made available by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

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 the government social grants. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our sponsors for their financial support over the years.

5.9. Significant Developments and Achievements at the Technology Station in Chemicals (TSC)

Background about the Mut-TSC

The Technology Station in Chemicals at Mangosuthu University of Technology (TSC) under the Technology Stations Programme of the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), offers technological support and services to industries involved or specialising in chemicals and related operations. The scope of the TSC ranges from SMEs to large industries and corporate establishments. This is achieved through established relationships with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including MUT, students, through the TSC's Internship programme, scientists, and entrepreneurs who work to develop new technological knowledge in chemical and related disciplines. All operations are geared to encourage and stimulate innovation amongst academics, students and SMMEs and to develop and transfer technology thereby participating in the economic welfare of the country. The current priority market sectors are the following:

- Surfactants -Detergents and Disinfectants;
- Cosmetics;
- Water Management;
- Bio-Energy;
- Urban Agriculture; and
- SMME Training.

The MUT-TSC provides the following services to SMMEs:

1. Process Design and Optimisation Consulting
2. Quality and Product Testing
3. Demonstration and Training
4. Technology Development and Transfer

Vision

To be the pre-eminent technology transfer support centre that fosters socio economic advancement through innovation, technology development and transfer.

Mission

The mission of the MUT-TSC is to contribute to sustainable economic growth and social advancement in South Africa by:

- Providing tailor-made technological services and support to SMMEs and Cooperatives in the chemicals and related industries; and
- Promoting entrepreneurship and innovation by providing access to latest innovations and technological developments to SMMEs and cooperatives thereby enhancing innovation and improving competitiveness and sustainability amongst SMMEs and Cooperatives.

Contribution to Third Stream Income

The MUT-TSC is a self-sustaining technology development and technology transfer centre within MUT.

During the year 2015/16 the MUT-TSC raised funds that were utilised for its various projects, namely:

- SMMEs and Cooperatives Technological support :
- Technology Innovation Agency – R4 300 667
- WIL and skills development for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering students:
- Technology Innovation Agency – R490 050 for internship (WIL)
- Bursaries to promote access to education for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering students. Bursaries for ND –Analytical Chemistry; ND Chemical Engineering, BTech Chemistry and BTech Chemical Engineering.
- Chemical Industries Sector Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) – R900 000
- Development of SMMEs and Cooperatives in the