

# USAF PRESENTATION



UNIVERSITIES  
SOUTH AFRICA

## STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR: PPC ON HESI

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# Overview of the presentation

1. Progress with registration
2. Impediments regarding the completion of registration
3. Number of institutions that have experienced students' protests
4. Reasons for students' protests
5. Universities ways of preventing/ameliorating students' protests
6. USAf's interventions to deal with some of the challenges
7. Conclusion



# Progress regarding registration

By 8 March 2023:

- Academic classes have commenced at all 26 universities (13-20 February 2023).
- In most institutions registration overlapped with attendance of lectures.
- 19 Universities have completed their registration processes for both First Time Entering Students (FTES) and continuing undergraduate students.
- 7 Universities have made provision for late registration for a selected number of students. Those are students awaiting NSFAS appeals, results of supplementary or special exams, and to allow students experiencing financial difficulties to pay for registration.
- Online access to teaching and learning or access to attend lectures was offered to students awaiting registration by some institutions until a specific cut-off date .
- Registration of Postgraduate Students is on track with some universities closing applications by the end of March and others later during the year.

# Impediments regarding the completion of registration

Several universities had to extend their registration period and the start of the academic year. The main reasons were:

- a. The late release of matric results.
- b. The delays in NSFAS funding decisions with students funding lists arriving late in bits and pieces. This resulted in over-enrolments by some institutions.

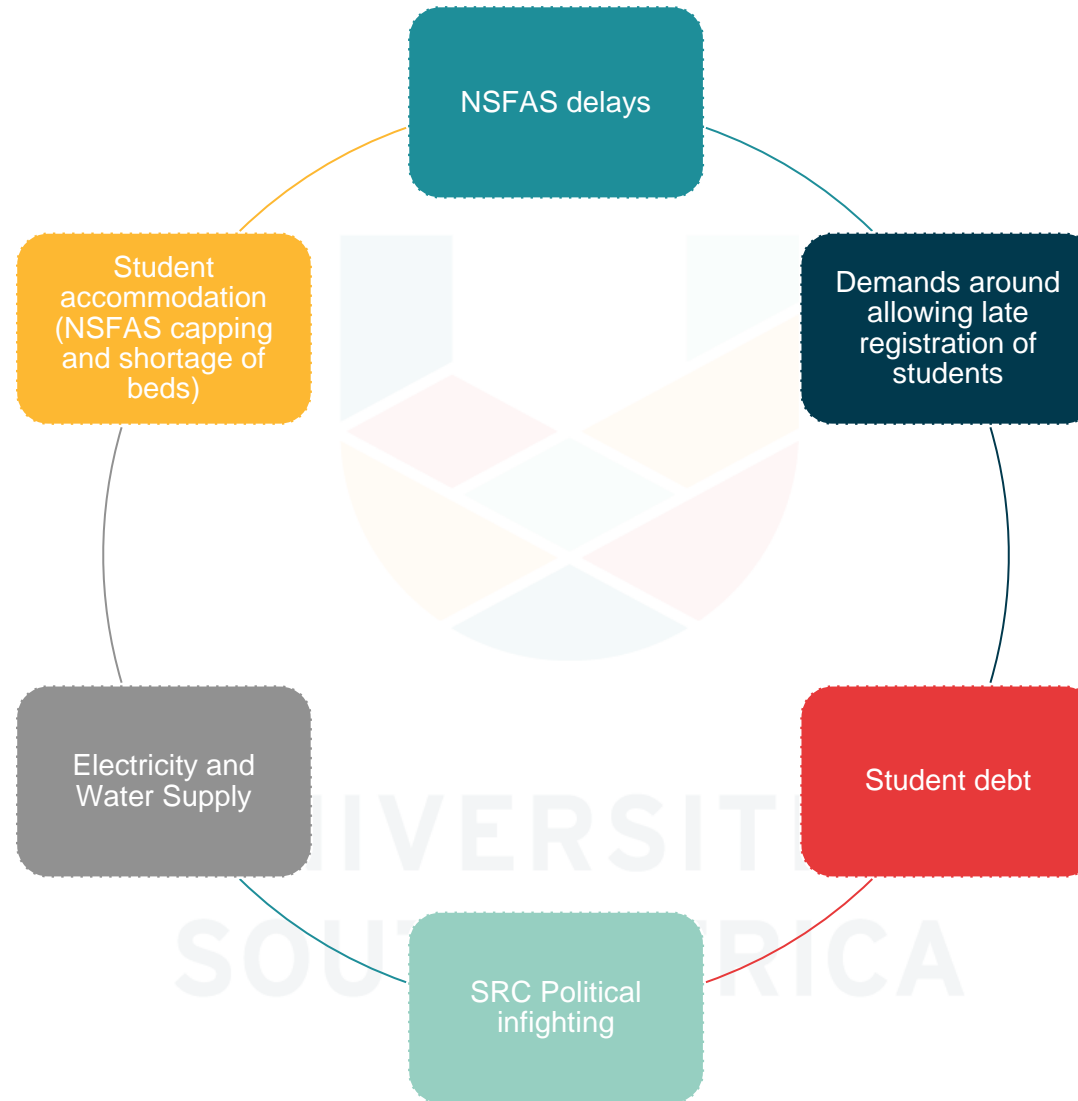


# Number of institutions that have experienced students' protests

- 10 Universities reported that they have experienced students' protests.

<b>DUT</b>	DUT experienced disruptions on the first and second days of lectures.
<b>NMU</b>	NMU had student protests on 20-24 February 2023.
<b>SPU</b>	One day, for a few hours, (15 February 2023) prior to the commencement of classes.
<b>UCT</b>	The academic programme and operation had been disrupted in the week of 13 February 2023. As of 20 February, the activities normalised.
<b>UJ</b>	On the morning of 2 March 2023 some student protest happened but was speedily resolved.
<b>UKZN</b>	Students' ongoing protest activity; lectures, both online and in person, disruptions; random arson attacks; infighting (assaults among EFF SC and SASCO).
<b>UP</b>	UP's students' protests were as a result of NSFAS capping of accommodation fees.
<b>WITS</b>	Tuesday 28 Feb/ Wed 1 March onwards.
<b>UWC</b>	UWC had protests for a week
<b>VUT</b>	One-day protest related to financial concessions.

# Reasons for students' protests



# Universities ways of preventing/ameliorating students' protests

Students' engagements on a regular basis through established structures.

Financial concessions made by universities to accommodate students and creation of hardship funding.

Concessions on the registration period to allow all academically deserving students to register.

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# USAf's interventions to deal with some of the challenges

1. Missing middle students	Ongoing engagements with the Minister and his Department on the Comprehensive Student Funding Model as from the report of the Ministerial Task Team.
	SETA and private sector funding toward historic debt and bursaries. USAf had secured Donor Funding exceeding <b>R 1,152,002,876.00</b> assisting <b>27,574+</b> undergraduate and postgraduate students in the last few years.
2. NSFAS Capping of Student Accommodation	Ongoing engagements with the Minister and the DHET. Participation in a Task Team set up by the DHET to find solutions.
	At least 10 HEIs have no intention to appeal the accommodation capping as it does not negatively affect them, at least 10 Universities have appealed, and at least 5 more are planning to appeal, UNISA is not affected by the accommodation capping.





# USAf's interventions to deal with some of the challenges

Substantive issues revealed by the appeal letters	a) Input costs have been pushed up by interest emanating from loans of the accommodation infrastructure; leases of accommodation and associated costs such as transport and university staff manning those residences.
	b) University residences differ, there are universities whose residences have single rooms in majority.
	c) Academic, Health, and well-being of students' facilities, provision of energy and water have a bearing on costing.
	d) Location of institutions effects prices.
	e) Extended curriculum period for Medical Students, etc.



# Conclusion

- a. Most of the factors that contributed to students' protests at individual universities point to broader systemic issues.
- b. However, institutional specifics should be recognised.
- c. Universities / USAf are committed to on going engagements with relevant stakeholders to ensure stability in the sector.

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**THANK YOU**

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