



The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia

EPA Scholarship Fund Trust

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Guide to EPA Engineering Study Scholarships

1 Overview

Namibia needs an increasing supply of young engineers to help it grow and achieve Vision 2030. Engineering study is intellectually demanding and financially expensive. Only few have the necessary aptitude, interest and scholastic background for engineering study, and even fewer are in a financial position to afford it. The EPA Scholarship Fund Trust has been established with the aim of providing scholarships to meritorious candidates for engineering study to help reduce the gap between human potential and financial means.

To be considered as a candidate for the award of an EPA scholarship, you will be required to show both an above average potential for successful study in engineering, and financial need. A further requirement is Namibian citizenship, as this is the best assurance that your future services as an engineer would be available to Namibia.

EPA scholarships are available only for undergraduate studies towards a Bachelor's degree in engineering, and only aim to reduce the financial gap. You will be required to show sufficient resourcefulness to procure enough funds also from other sources to co-fund your studies.

Scholarships are awarded for one year at a time, paying a fixed sum for the year, which is to be used firstly for tuition fees, secondly for accommodation expenses, and lastly for any other expenses that you would necessarily incur in pursuit of your studies. Scholarship recipients may re-apply in a subsequent year, but will compete with new applicants, and are not guaranteed a renewal of their scholarship.

The scholarships take the form of an interest free loan, which normally must be repaid in monthly instalments after the completion of your studies. In this manner, the EPA aims to assure that the benefits that you enjoyed will also again be available to future generations.

The EPA scholarships available in any year, the sums thereof, and conditions for applications will be advertised annually, for studies commencing in the following academic year.

2 Applications

Applications will be considered from university students and school leavers with a Grade 12 certificate, or who are still in Grade 12 and likely to fulfil the academic requirements for a

scholarship on the basis of their Grade 12 examination results up to the date of the application. Compliance with academic requirements and academic performance will in all cases be assessed on Grade 12 examination results, in addition to university and other relevant examination results in the case of university or other tertiary education students.

The required information must be provided on an EPA scholarship application form, together with such other information as may be required to be appended to the application form.

Certified copies of supporting documents, such as school and degree certificates and examination results, should be submitted together with the application. Before any scholarship award will be made, shortlisted candidates will be required to submit the original documents to the EPA for inspection.

3 Assessment

The assessment is aimed at determining the applicant's prospects of attaining a Bachelor's degree in engineering, and mainly the following factors will be considered:

- Compliance with minimum academic requirements;
- Compliance with financial need criteria;
- Merit based on academic performance;
- Merit based on proven leadership potential;
- Any other merit or demerit that is likely to impact on the applicant's ability for successful engineering study, and which may be determined through a personal interview of the applicant by the assessment committee;
- In cases of equivalent merit, preference will be given to applicants with a previously disadvantaged background.

Compliance with minimum academic requirements will be measured against two sets of criteria:

- EPA scholarship minimum requirements; and
- University admission requirements.

EPA scholarship minimum requirements have been established based on experience with unacceptably high failure rates among engineering students who do not meet these minimum requirements, and are as follows:

- English – HIGCSE 4 or Higher Grade D
- Mathematics – HIGCSE 3 or Higher Grade C
- Physics/Physical Science – HIGCSE 4 or Higher Grade D.

Some educational institutions use tables that allow equivalencies between HIGCSE and IGCSE grades to be established, but the EPA will not consider such purported equivalencies for assessing scholarship minimum requirements. Applications from students that have not obtained, or in the case of Grade 12 pupils are not likely to obtain, a Grade 12 certificate with the aforementioned subjects at a HIGCSE, Higher Grade or A-level, can regrettably not be considered.

Different universities have different requirements for admission to study for a Bachelor's degree in engineering, and all of them publish guidelines by which school leavers can calculate these admission requirements. It is common today to find these guidelines published on the university's web site. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit proof to the EPA of fulfilling admission requirements. University students already enrolled in undergraduate studies in engineering must submit proof of their readmission to the university, and all others must submit a copy of the relevant university's admission requirements together with the applicant's calculation of compliance with the admission requirements.

Only applicants compliant with minimum academic requirements and financial needs criteria will be considered for a scholarship and be assessed on merit. The first assessment will be based on the information submitted on and together with the application form, and will lead to a short-listing of candidates. Short-listed candidates may be required to attend an interview with the EPA scholarship assessment committee, and may also be required to submit further information, after which the final assessment and awards will be made.

The EPA reserves the right not to make any scholarship awards, if it is not satisfied of applicants' prospects of successful completion of their engineering studies.

4 Scholarship Conditions

The EPA is desirous to fund the student's studies in such a manner that the following costs are being covered, in order of priority:

- Study fees;
- Board and lodging fees;
- Any other of the expenses necessarily incurred by the student in the pursuit of the engineering studies, such as books and stationery, insurance, permits, travel, etc.

To facilitate the above, the EPA will pay scholarship monies in one of the following ways:

- To the university at which the applicant is studying, on behalf of the student; or
- To the student; or
- To both the university and the student a portion thereof.

The applicant must therefore indicate on the application form towards which payments the EPA scholarship would be utilised, as well as how the applicant intends to cover those costs that are not covered by the scholarship.

Payment of scholarship monies, for the year for which a scholarship has been awarded to the student, will be made as follows:

- 60% by the date by which the university's fees for the first academic semester are due for payment; and
- 40% by the date by which the university's fees for the second academic semester are due for payment.

If the student fails to enrol, at the beginning of each semester of the academic year for which the scholarship has been awarded, for the course of study for which the student has undertaken to enrol, or has not shown satisfactory academic progress during the first semester, the EPA reserves the right to withhold payment, or to withdraw the scholarship, depending on the seriousness of the case.

Since scholarships are awarded in the form of interest free loans, repayment of the capital to the EPA Scholarship Fund Trust must commence on a date, and be made in monthly instalments, as agreed in the EPA Scholarship Agreement, which the student will be required to enter into with the EPA. Penalty interest will, however, be levied on arrears. No employment conditions are attached to the Agreement.

The applicant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will normally be required to sign on the EPA Scholarship Agreement as surety, but the EPA may also accept alternative surety arrangements to its satisfaction.