

FOODBEV SETA DISCRETIONARY GRANT: SECOND FUNDING WINDOW FOR 2026-27 FINANCIAL YEAR

Second Funding Window: Discretionary Grants for the Food and Beverage Manufacturing Sector

The Food and Beverage Manufacturing Sector Education and Training Authority (FoodBev SETA) invites eligible stakeholders to apply for Discretionary Grant funding under the second funding window for the 2026/27 financial year.

The purpose of this funding window is to support strategic skills development interventions that address priority and scarce skills within the food and beverage manufacturing sector, in line with the FoodBev SETA Sector Skills Plan (SSP), the Sector Priority Occupations Interventions List (SPOIL), and national skills development priorities.

Funding Window Dates:

- **Opening Date:** 10 July 2026
- **Closing Date:** 07 August 2026
- **Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered.**

Evaluation and Allocation timelines

- **Evaluation of applications:** 10 August 2026 - 01 September 2026
- **Presentation to committees and Allocations:** 03 September – 10 September 2026
- **Contracting:** 14 September 2026 – 25 September 2026
- **Implementation:** 05 October 2026
- **Registration deadline:** 15 February 2027

1. Purpose of the Grant

Applicants are encouraged to apply for learning programmes aligned to the **Sector Priority Occupations Interventions List (SPOIL)**.

Applications for occupations or programmes that are not identified as priority or scarce skills must include a comprehensive motivation demonstrating the strategic need for funding.

2. Funding Priorities

Applicants must prioritise programmes listed on the Sector Priority Occupations Interventions List (SPOIL). Applications for skills or occupations not classified as priority or scarce will require a detailed and compelling motivation for consideration.

3. Who Can Apply?

Applications are invited from the following eligible entities operating within the food and beverage manufacturing sector:

- Levy-paying employers
- Non-levy-paying employers
- Public TVET Colleges
- Public Community Education and Training (CET) Colleges
- Public Universities
- Universities of Technology
- Recognised FoodBev SETA Trade Unions

3. Learning Programmes & Grant Values Available

Please refer to the table below for details on available programmes, grant values, and the APP targets.

Table 1: Learning program interventions

Learning Programmes	Full value of the grant per learner	2026/27 APP Target
Bursaries (Employed) Final Year, Postgraduate studies or Management and Leadership Development Courses	Up to maximum of R 50,000	120
Bursaries: Research & Innovation (Unemployed): Master	Up to maximum of R120,000 for PhD students	50
Bursaries: Research & Innovation (Unemployed): PhD	Up to maximum of R150,000 for PhD students	
HEI Bursaries Unemployed (University and University of Technology)	R 120,000 per year to a maximum of R360 000 over the duration of the programme	50 (a maximum of 10 applications per HEI)
Candidacy Programme	Up to a maximum of R252,000 (R84,000 per year)	6
Lecturer development (TVET & CET)	Up to a maximum of R 63,000.00	10
Trade Union support	Allocated as per proposed training	Dependent on training requirements

NOTE: LEARNER ENROLMENT SUBMISSION CUTOFF DATE: all stakeholders applying for the discretion grant for 2026/27 financial year must have the capacity to recruit and submit learner registration documents by the cutoff date of **15 February 2027** for all learning programmes as no extension will be granted.

How to Apply:

- All applicants must submit their applications online via the FoodBev SETA SIMS www.foodbev.co.za or submit via the dedicated mailbox for manual applications **(applicable to trade unions and Lecture development only)**
- Upon submitting your application on SIMS, you will receive an automated discretionary grant application confirmation of receipt with reference number.

4. Important Notice on Funding Awards & SETA Discretion

- **Application Does Not Guarantee Award:** Submission of an application is a request for funding and does not constitute a guarantee of an award.
- **Award Criteria:** All applications are subject to approval based on the availability of funds, adherence to the SSP, and full compliance with the set criteria.
- **Past Performance:** The FoodBev SETA will prioritise applicants with a demonstrated track record of successfully implementing grants. This includes, but is not limited to, a history of:
 - Registering awarded learners timeously.
 - Maintaining low rates of learner drop-outs, cancellations, and terminations.
 - Ensuring learners progress according to schedule.
 - Exiting learners from the system upon completion or discontinuation.
 - Absorbing some of the learners being trained
- **SETA's Rights:** The FoodBev SETA reserves the right, at the sole discretion of the Accounting Authority or its delegate, to:
 - Not fully award the requested number of beneficiaries.
 - Partially fund an application.
 - Decline an application entirely.
 - Cancel the funding process.

Finality of Decision: All funding decisions made by the FoodBev SETA are final and binding. The SETA's discretion in the award of grants, as guided by its policies and the availability of funds, is not subject to appeal on the grounds of the applicant's perceived need alone.

Contact Details

For assistance: For any enquiries regarding discretionary grants application requirements or require clarity, please reach out to the following officials during working hours (Monday to Friday, 09:00 - 16:00).

Programme	Contact Person	Email Address	Contact Details
Bursaries Employed and Unemployed	Teboho Ngwane	Tebohon@foodbev.co.za	0112537313

Research Bursaries (Masters and PhD)			
Candidacy Programme	Mandy Lirumo	mandyl@foodbev.co.za	0112537376
Trade Union Support, SDF & T number registrations	Japhta Selwane	JaphtaS@foodbev.co.za	0112537304
Lecturer Development	Thabang Madihlaba	thabangm@FoodBev.co.za	0112537368

For more information, including the detailed Discretionary Grants Handbook and required compliance documents, please visit our website: www.foodbev.co.za under "What We Do > Skills Development Funding".

FUNDING INCENTIVE FOR STUDENTS REGISTERED ON THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES:

TVET COLLEGE NATED PROGRAMMES (N4-N6)

Business Studies (Non-engineering)	Engineering
• Business Management • Financial Management • Marketing Management • Human Resource Management • Management Assistant/ Public Management	• Chemical Engineering • Electrical Engineering • Mechanical Engineering

PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS PROGRAMMES (First to Final year students including postgraduates at honours level)

Engineering	Food and Nutrition	Commerce	General
• Electrical/ Electronics • Mechanical • Industrial • Instrumental • Materials • Marine • Chemical • Skipper	• Consumer Science: Food and Nutrition • Food Science • Food Technology • Biotechnology • Food Production Management • Food Safety	• Accounting • Finance • Marketing • Business Studies	• Production Management • Packaging and Operation Management • Occupational Health and Safety • Supply Chain and Logistics

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	• Food Quality auditors • Food Systems		• Environmental Science/Health • Human Resources Management • Chemistry • Information Technology
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QUALIFYING CRITERIA:

The FoodBev SETA has allocated funding for bursaries as follows:

- **Proof of Income:** Applicants must provide evidence that their parents' or guardian's combined annual income is less than R650,000.
- **Application Submission:** The institution's bursary office must submit vetted applications from eligible students seeking financial assistance for their studies.
- **Eligibility:** Students must be accepted or registered at a university or TVET College for the 2026 academic year.
- **Bursary Coverage:** The bursary will cover tuition fees, books, accommodation, and meals, where applicable, based on valid proof and accredited accommodation.
- **Study Requirements:** The funding is available for full-time studies at a recognized and accredited South African public University or TVET College.
- **Eligibility for Funding:** The bursary is open to South African citizens or permanent residents only.
- **Exclusions:** Students who have other sources of funding are not eligible, and applicants must declare any previous funding received.
- **Preference:** The SETA reserves the right to prioritize certain designated groups.
- **Obligations:** The bursary office is required to submit the funded students' results to the SETA after each academic year completed.

NB. Please note that the completed form must be accompanied by the following student/learner information:

- Certified copy of highest qualification
- Certified ID Copy
- Proof of admission/registration
- Proof of income: Proof that the joint income threshold (bracket) of the student's parents or guardian is less than R650 000 per annum.
- Student statement

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