Welcome back from the holidays! This week I would like to focus on getting you ready for possible studies and also some tips on how to make an application for scholarships and bursaries. As some of the companies are already advertising and we would like you to make use of every educational opportunity that’s out there.

There are many high school learners that do well in Grade 12 but end up staying at home because they did not apply at tertiary institutions or does not have the necessary funds to study.

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STUDY

It’s not so easy to navigate around current study opportunities with the radical changes to the system in South Africa and Namibia in recent years. If you follow the steps below, it will go a long way towards helping – one step at a time will get you there!

• Find out what type of career suits you (look at the previous newsletter on personality type)
• Understand what qualifications are open to you, based on your current results
• Check what qualification you would need for your career choice and decide on the most practical and best suited for you: university, university of technology, learnership etc.
• Once you have decided on the educational route, get as much information as possible on practicalities such as admission requirements, deadlines for application, fees, bursary schemes or student loans available, duration of the study and so on.
• If you don’t have the funds to attend the course of your choice, check out if you are eligible for a bursary, a student loan or a scholarship.
• Apply! Once you have reached your decision, don’t delay. Many educational institutions have very strict closing dates for applications.
Institutions & Funding

Further and Higher Education and Training
Universities and universities of technology are no longer the only institutions that offer recognized qualifications. Public FET Colleges and registered Private Further and Higher institutions and others also offer qualifications that will help you enter your chosen career.

Below, you find an overview of the main institutions:

• Universities; they offer degrees and the education is mainly theoretical and focused on research. They require a matric exemption for admission and depending on the course, have additional requirements regarding subjects and marks.
• Universities of Technology (the former Technikons): oriented towards professional qualifications, leading students quite directly into a career. To enter a university of technology, a matric certificate is required. Subject requirements and marks for courses vary.

Financial Aid
The majority of young Namibians cannot afford the costs of tertiary education. There are a number of sources of financial aid.

• Loans: The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) offers an opportunity to access a loan, part of which can be converted into a bursary depending on your end-of-year results. A loan is money you borrow to cover the costs involved with your higher education studies – the money has to be repaid, but only once you start earning a salary. Another option is to take out a student loan with a bank.

• Scholarships: scholarships can come from a variety of sources (eg. private companies, embassies, foundations, state owned enterprises etc.) and are awarded based on a number of criteria, including academic and sporting achievements. The best part is that they do not need to be repaid – but that is also why competition is fierce. Be prepared to actively seek for a scholarship rather than sit back and wait for offers to come in, even if your results are exceptional!

• Bursaries: are generally awarded to needy learners with good academic results which are considered capable of obtaining their degree in a minimum amount of time. There are often conditions attached. For example, the course of study that must be undertaken or the institution that must be attended. Sometimes, it is required that you work for the company that awards the bursary for a certain amount of time after graduation. Generally, the candidate’s progress is closely monitored and the bursary may be cancelled upon unsatisfactory results. There are also bursaries available for FET studies. Bursaries can come from different sources, for example from private companies, universities, government department etc.

When applying to any financial aid programme, make sure to adhere to the following guidelines:
• Apply early.
• Make sure you meet all deadlines.
• Complete forms fully and accurately.
• Sign and date the application. If you are under 21, a legal guardian(s) also has to sign.
• Respond quickly to requests for additional information from the study institution.
• In case of a (international) scholarship, verify the opportunity provider with either national or provincial departments.

Nearly every public higher education institution has a Financial Aid Office that deals with students’ questions and issues regarding loans, bursaries and scholarships.

Not all educational institutions offer all courses. Make sure you find out where the course that you would like to follow is offered. You can check by phone or by visiting a website. Write, in the table below, the education institutions that you would be interested in studying at and find their telephone numbers so that you can call them for application forms when they are available!
Allan Gray Fellowship

Eligibility: Interested candidates can apply for the Fellowship opportunity during their Grade 12 school year or during their first year of university. The Fellowship application is open to learners and students from Southern Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland.

Mandatory Requirements: Namibia Grade 12
- Citizenship of Namibia
- Belief in the future of your country
- Intention to study for a Commerce, Science (excluding Medicine), Engineering, Law or Humanities (majoring in Politics, Philosophy or Economics) degree at WITS, UJ, UCT, NMMU, Rhodes or UP
- Minimum B (Extended Level) or minimum 3 (High Level) average in Mathematics for Grade 11 results
- Minimum B (Extended Level) or minimum 3 (High Level) average in Mathematics (Grade 12 April results)
- Candidates must not be older than 21 years of age in 2013.

For Namibia: Download and complete an application form or email alvinah@allangrayobis.org or ndatalan@allangrayobis.org or call (061) 221103 to have an application form faxed to you. Submit a hardcopy application form by or before 28 June 2013 to 100 Robert Mugabe Street, Heritage Square Unit 1, Floor 1, Windhoek. Alternatively, post your application to P.O. Box 230, Windhoek, Namibia.

Provider: Allan Gray Orbis Foundation
For Which Country: South Africa
For Whom: International (Students from Southern Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland)
Description: The Foundation offers the exceptional Allan Gray Fellowship to Southern Africa’s pioneering bright young students. This initiative aims to develop students, known as Allan Gray Candidate Fellows, into Southern Africa’s future high impact entrepreneurial leaders. Every year, the Foundation selects the best and most ambitious Grade 12 and first year university students from Southern Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland to join its vibrant community of Allan Gray Candidate Fellows. The Fellowship includes comprehensive financial support alongside exposure to thought leaders, mentorship and entrepreneurial mindset development. Access to postgraduate funding is available to those who have excelled in their tertiary studies and the Fellows Programme. The Fellowship’s vision is to create and support a vibrant community of emerging high impact entrepreneurial leaders so that Candidate Fellows become individuals who will significantly impact and positively change the world around them. The Fellowship aims to support Candidate Fellows in their academic, personal and entrepreneurial leadership development whilst they are at university.

Number of award(s): The Allan Gray Orbis Foundation awards up to one hundred Fellowships every year.
Duration of award(s): The Fellowship runs throughout the year and includes seminars, guest speakers, experiential learning activities and project based deliverables.
What does it cover? The Allan Gray Fellowship covers the following:
- Financial assistance in terms of academic studies at a Southern African University (UCT, WITS, UJ, UP, Rhodes or NMMU) for the full length of the degree.
- Full cost of residence; cost of living stipend to meet the incidentals of normal life on campus.
- An Entrepreneurial and Personal Development Programme, which is overlaid on top of the Allan Gray Fellow’s undergraduate studies, running throughout the year. This will include seminars, guest speakers, experiential learning activities and project based deliverables.
- Mentorship, both from individually assigned Foundation employed staff, as well as business mentors, that will assist the Fellow in their development.

Deadline: Application deadline for Namibia is 28th June 2013
Some important Events to look forward to:

TUCSIN Alumni 2013

Always follow your dreams and believe in yourself - you have the ability to create a world of beautiful tomorrows. Congratulations & Happy Graduation!

Dr Wilfred Bezuidenhout, at his graduation last Thursday (23 May 2013) from the Univ. of Stellenbosh as a fellow of the college of Nuclear Physicians SA.

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We're on the web: www.tucsin.org as well as on Facebook

28, 29, 30 May 2013
Windhoek Country Club

TUCSIN 35th Anniversary
15 June 2013

We're on the web: www.tucsin.org as well as on Facebook