

What is the No Student Hungry Bursary Programme about?

The programme was officially launched, with Prof Jonathan Jansen as the Champion of the programme, Mrs Grace Jansen as the patron, supported by Rudi Buys, former Dean of Student Affairs, and his wife, Dr Carin Bester.

Four volunteers embarked on a 33-day hike from Bloemfontein to Cape Town to raise awareness on student hunger. The team completed more than 1 000 km on foot.



The No Student Hungry Bursary Programme (NSH) was born from an initiative by Prof Jonathan Jansen to financially assist food insecure students at the UFS.

After a survey by the UFS Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, the programme grew in size and objective. The success of the programme became known across the country.

With the success of the NSH, a need was identified to have a national colloquium on food insecurity on university campuses in the country. The UFS hosted the first colloquium on this national social justice issue.

Research on food insecurity

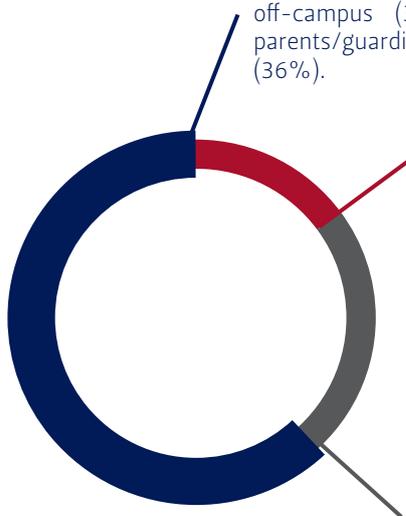
In 2013, a study was done by the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of the Free State (UFS) to identify and describe the prevalence and severity of food insecurity among students at the UFS. For the study, a self-reported electronic questionnaire was made available to all students. Food insecurity was assessed with the validated hunger scale of the Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit developed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

(Du Toit, E., Du Toit, M., Hildebrand, M., Raubenheimer, J., Van den Berg, V.L. & Van Heerden, R. 2013. Food insecurity among students registered at the University of the Free State in 2013.)

60%

Experience food insecurity with hunger

Most respondents were undergraduates (90%), lived in university residences (37.7%) or with other students off-campus (32.4%); and had their tuition paid by parents/guardians (47%), bank loans (10%) or bursaries (36%).



16%

Employed while studying

Respondents indicated that they worked about 19.1 hours per week, earning about R3 000 per month. Students reported that their jobs often interfered with their academic work.

21%

Financially supporting others

A fifth of the respondents indicated that they are supporting parents, siblings, and/or children financially. Up to 70% of the respondents said they often had to borrow money for food or sell belongings in order to buy food.

Six out of ten students do not know where their next meal will come from.



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