



Since 2001

Dear FAPSA Members

It is our pleasure to inform you that the dates and venue for the 2023 annual Conference and AGM has been confirmed. **The 2023 event will be held on Wednesday 4 – Friday 6 October 2023 at The Gold Reef City Theme Park Hotel, Gauteng.**

Over the past few years, we have always aligned our conference theme in line with the current challenges or circumstances that we faced within our sector. In 2016 our theme was, “**#Crossroads: Where to next?**” in 2017, our theme was, **#Free Education and our role**”, in 2018, “**#Free Education – The Impact**”, and 2019 “**#Free Education – The Future of the Financial Aid Offices**”.

The 2023 and 19<sup>th</sup> FAPSA Conference’s theme is **#Empowering Futures: Fostering Inclusive Innovation in Financial aid**. This year’s conference will be revolving around the idea of using innovative approaches to make financial aid more accessible, equitable, and supportive for all individuals seeking education and opportunities. Combining innovation and inclusivity in financial aid, institutions and organizations can transform the landscape of education, ensuring that no deserving individual is left behind due to financial limitations. This theme serves as a guiding principle for stakeholders in the education and financial sectors to collaborate and drive positive change in the lives of students and their communities.

We as FAPSA believe that our theme for this year’s conference clearly indicates that we still have a long way go. The Financial Aid Offices (FAOs) continue to be left out of critical decision-making processes. We have throughout the past few years emphasized on the importance of communication from NSFAS to FAOs in line with the demands and the implementation of Free Higher Education.

Thought leaders will be sharing their wealth of knowledge with the delegates. This year’s conference will take the form of an evolving conversation bringing together DHET, NSFAS, USAF and the members within the student funding sector.

**The programme:**

The conference will include a break-away discussion session where delegates will get the opportunity to network and exchange best practices.

Topics that are identified that could be included on the programme are:

- The role of Financial Aid Offices
- State of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and its impact on student and university debt

However, most importantly, you as members are sincerely requested to **submit topics related to student funding and practices that you would like to be discussed** during the programme.

If you would like to propose a speaker whom you know is knowledgeable about any of the listed topics, your input will be most welcome. The deadline for submissions is **16 August 2023**.

**Exhibitors**

Associate Members and prospective Associate members, as well as other service providers, are also invited to set up an exhibition stall (one exhibition table and 2 chairs are provided) at the conference as per the attached exhibitors' fees. The number of representatives of exhibitors that attend the conference as per the package chosen, will not have to pay registration fees in addition to the package fee.

**Official invitation letter:**

The official invitation letter and the final programme will be circulated to all FAPSA members soon.

**Costs:**

The workshop registration fee for the 3-day workshop will be **R6 000.00 (early bird registration fee)** and **R6 930.00 (late registration fee)** No VAT applies as FAPSA is not a registered VAT Vendor.

**Online Registration:**

Delegates will be able to do their registration and make payments online. We will communicate when the online registration is open. The online platform will include registration, dietary requirements, and clothing sizes.

Yours sincerely

Mr Pontsho Mosoue  
FAPSA President

4 August 2023