

MORETELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



FINAL BURSARY POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES

FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-2027

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CLAUSE	PAGE
1. PURPOSE	3
2. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY	3
3. SCOPE OF THE POLICY	3
4. DEFINITIONS	3
5. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK	5
6. TYPES OF QUALIFICATIONS COVERED BY THE POLICY	5
7. ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDY THE EMPLOYEE BURSARY	6
8. QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS	6
9. COMPLIANCE WITH JIPSA	8
10. COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY	8
11. BURSARY FUND	8
12. CRITERIA FOR THE GRANTING OF BURSARY	9
13. APPROVAL OF BURSARIES	10
14. AMOUNT AND PAYMENT	11
15. OBLIGATIONS	12
16. REPAYMENT METHOD	14
17. STUDY LEAVE	14
18. GRATUITY GESTURE	15
19. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY	15
20. COMMUNICATION	15
21. POLICY REVIEW	15
22. PENALTIES	15
23. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF POLICY	15

1. PURPOSE

Moretele Local Municipality acknowledges that South Africa is presently experiencing political, economic and social change in which human resource capacity plays a pivotal role in the upliftment of the society. This gives rise to a “change event network” which affects the community’s ability to adapt with technological, political, economical and social development. The changing environment requires the municipality to confront and adapt to change in order to continue with the delivery of quality services in an efficient and effective manner.

Moretele Local Municipality must develop effective mechanisms for dealing with change. One of these mechanisms is training and development, which is aimed at developing the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed by the municipal employees to cope with the changing work environment and continuous change in the communities they come from.

The municipality also acknowledges: -

- 1.1 The provision of Section 68 of Municipal Systems Act, which stipulates that the municipality must develop its human resource capacity to a level that enables it to perform the functions and exercise its powers in an economically effective and accountable way;
- 1.2 That capacity building, social and economic development cannot be separated from training;
- 1.3 That it is entitled to provide financial assistance to its employees for training and development in a manner that is sustainable, affordable and equitable.

This policy is developed in consideration of the definition of human resource development which is “the integrated use of training and development, organizational development and career development to improve individuals, group and organizational effectiveness”

2. OBJECTIVES OF BURSARY POLICY

The main objective is to create opportunities for employees to acquire the relevant qualifications so as to satisfy the human resource requirements of the municipality as well as the career development needs of the employees.

- To empower the employees with advanced skills to make meaningful contributions towards the upliftment of their communities in line with the Local Growth and Development Strategy and JIPSA. T
- To develop and build capacity of employees to perform their tasks in an effective, economic and accountable manner.
- To encourage employees to engage in or to continue studies to improve the quality of life of employees, their career prospects and labour mobility.
- To increase the levels of investment in education and training in the Moretele Local Municipality, and that the return on that investment be improved.
- To develop the skills and level of academic achievement of the Moretele Local Municipality workforce.
- To facilitate active learning in the workplace.
- To provide employees with opportunities to acquire new skills and knowledge.
- To encourages employees to participate in training programmes.
- To improves the advancement of previously disadvantaged employees.
- To meet the objectives determined by career paths, learnership contracts.
- To establish a pool of suitable candidates in order to support, inter alia, Succession Planning Policy.

The sub-objectives include the following:

- 2.1 To prepare employees for municipal development interventions;
- 2.2 To limit staff layoff and enhance staff retention
- 2.3 To maximize the ability of the municipality to provide quality and sustainable services to the community.

3. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

All officials of Moretele Local Municipality, who wish to further their studies by means of correspondence courses or by attending an after hour classes, or contact sessions, subject to the conditions contained in the scheme, qualify for partaking in the scheme. Contract employees with a contract duration of less than a year and Interns, will not qualify. This Bursary Policy will apply to all Employees regulated under the South African Local Government Bargaining Council.

4. DEFINITIONS

In this policy, unless the context indicates otherwise.

“Employee” As defined by the Labour Relations Act, any person appointed in the services of the municipality and includes those appointed as fixed term contract employees.

“Employer” means Moretele Local Municipality

“Conditional Donation” means when the student is required to refund a bursary under certain circumstances included herein

“Council” means the Moretele Local Municipality Council

“Course duration” means the number of years allowed for completion of the course as provided for in the rules and regulations of the institution or stipulated in any law of the Republic of South Africa

“Bursary” means money given to an employee to help him/her pay for his/her studies

“Institution” means a University / Technikon or FET institution registered and approved by South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

“Examination” a final testing of the proficiency of knowledge of a student (oral or written) in a particular subject/module prescribed by the institution, towards the completion of a module or subject.

“Qualifications” means a Certificate, Diploma, Junior Degree, Honours degrees

“JIPSA” Means a Government Policy on Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition

“Neighbouring Institution” means institutions within the North West Province and Gauteng Province.

5. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- Skills Development Act
- Municipal Systems Act
- Labour Relations Act
- South African Qualification Authority

6. TYPES OF QUALIFICATIONS TO BE COVERED AND FUNDED

- First Bachelors Degree
- First Diplomas
- First National Higher Certificates
- First National Certificates
- Senior Certificates
- NQF Aligned & Competency Based Short Programmes

7. ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDY THE EMPLOYEE BURSARY

7.1 Every employee shall be eligible for study assistance in terms of this policy subject to the availability of a budget.

7.2 Priority will be given to a qualification within a scarce skills field as identified by the Moretele Local Municipality, the LGSETA and National Institutions.

7.3 Invitation for applications will be advertised on notice boards of MLM and its social groups.

7.4 Application forms will be available at human resource and all departments of MLM.

The HOD's of departments will be responsible for the dissemination of the information to all employees.

7.5 The administration (Human Resource Development) will develop a longlist according to qualifying criteria and submit report to Bursary Committee.

8. QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS

8.1 Only qualification standards that are recognized by the South African Qualifications Framework (or any applicable legislation).

8.2 Applications for bursaries must be submitted on the prescribed application form or on Collaborator and must reach the Human Resources Offices of Moretele Local Municipality Offices before closing date.

8.3 All applications will be assessed / prioritized, subject to availability of funds, in accordance with the following criteria:

Priority 1

- Employees that wish to study towards a qualification in a Scarce skills related field as identified by Moretele Local Municipality

- Employees who must obtain a qualification in order to meet the requirements of the post that they currently occupy.
- Employees who are currently in receipt of a bursary and must still complete their qualification.

Priority 2

- Employees who want to study towards their first qualification (including AET, Grade 12 and NQF level 4 qualification.)

Priority 3

- The priorities as identified in the relevant Workplace Skills Plan, Integrated Development Plan and Employment Equity Plan (including people with disabilities).

Priority 4

- Employees who are studying for self-development within the context of local government.

Designated Group Priority shall be given to employees from designated groups in order to enhance skills development in terms of employment equity measures provided for in the Employment Equity Policy of Garden Route District Municipality

9. COMPLIANCE WITH JIPSA

The awarding of a bursary also has to address the scarce skills in line with the JIPSA targets in the following areas relevant to municipalities namely:

9.1. Engineering studies for projects on towns and cities development needed by municipalities;

9.2. Management and planning skills in environment, finance, local economic development and public administration.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

10.1 The awarding of a bursary must holistically be able to address overall strategic objectives of the Local namely:

10.1.2. Qualifications funded must be able capacitate an employee to meaningfully participate towards the economic growth of the district.

10.1.3. Must provide the employee with opportunity to acquire and develop an institutional capacity, technology and skills that will facilitate rapid economic growth within the district.

11. BURSARY FUND

11.1. The Council may approve the establishment of a bursary fund budget vote and budget therein such sums of money as the council may determine from time to time.

11.1.1 And/or the Council has approved the utilization of the Training Budget as a source for the Bursary Fund. Other sources of funding may come from Lgseta, Government Departments and other entities

11.2. The Council may subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, annually approve a budget for the granting of bursaries to employees for the purpose of assisting them to follow an approved course of study at a learning institution.

11.3 The number of bursaries granted by the Council annually shall be determined by the availability of funds. "limited to the applicants for their first degree or formal qualification: only one National Diploma, one National Certificate, only one degree, etc

12. CRITERIA FOR THE GRANTING OF BURSARY

- 12.1. Bursary shall be granted to an employee for any course, which is relevant employee's functions and /or his specific role description in the municipality, promoting the JIPSA objectives and addressing priorities as indicated in the District Growth and Development Strategy and the District Development Model, including more critically the IDP
- 12.2. Bursary shall be granted to an employee for a course or programme that is relevant for the career path planning of that particular employee notwithstanding, clause 4 and 5 above.
- 12.3. Bursary shall be granted to employees who;
- 12.3.1 Have registered with an institution which is approved by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)
 - 12.3.2. Have applied in writing for a bursary on the prescribed application form
 - 12.3.3. Indicate satisfactory performance in their studies. That is passing at least 75% of the prescribed courses for the year
 - 12.3.4. Have signed bursary agreement setting out the terms and conditions of the bursary awarded and repayment processes.
 - 12.3.5. Have registered with the "institution neighbouring" the Local municipality, the Municipal Manager shall apply his/her discretion where an employee has registered with an institution outside those referred to as "neighbouring institutions" but within the Republic of South Africa.

13. APPROVAL OF BURSARIES

13.1. The Municipal Manager shall appoint a Bursary Committee to be constituted by three Officials to serve as an advisory Committee and recommend the awarding/ none awarding of bursaries to them.

13.1.1 And/or the awarding of the bursary shall solely be the responsibility of the HR & Corporate Services Directorate including the administration thereof.

13.2. Each application assessed by the Skills Development Facilitator (HRD Manager) shall have a recommendation/approval by the Director/Manager of the applicant and the Director of HR & Corporate Services shall authorize the utilization of the vote for the particular applicant/applicants.

13.3. The authority to award bursary in terms of this policy is delegated to the HR & Corporate Services Director with the Municipal Manager giving the final approval.

13.4. An employee aggrieved by the non-approval of his application for a bursary by the Municipal Manager shall make a full presentation in writing to Mayor stating clearly the reasons for his dissatisfaction, and the decision of the Mayor shall be final.

14. AMOUNT AND PAYMENT

14.1 The amount awarded to an employee shall depend on the approved qualification, subject to admission by a recognised institution, for a particular first Certificate, Diploma or Degree, per annum to a maximum of R65 000.00 for an employee

14.2. The payment shall be made directly to the institution on behalf of the employee, and the following shall be conditions of the bursary provided to the institution;

- 14.2.1. That no refund shall be paid by the institution to the employee;
- 14.2.2. All balances in the student account at the end of the academic year shall be paid back to the Municipality;
- 14.2.3. That the institution and the employee (the employee to also take accountability of declaring other bursaries) shall inform the Municipality in instances where the employee has more than one bursary or another source of funding except for MLM bursary.
- 14.3. The amount shall only be for registration, tuition (excluding books) and examination.
- 14.4. No subsistence and traveling allowance or any other expenditure shall be paid for except payment as mentioned in clause 9.3 above.
- 14.5. Payment shall be made subject to the submission of the Admission letter, information on registration, tuition (excluding Books) and examination fees and a fully signed bursary agreement.
- 14.6. No payment shall be made for the following year of study provided:
- 14.6.1. Previous examination results are submitted by the employee to the Directorate Human Resources and Corporate Services;
- 14.6.2. All the subjects/modules have been passed or back-payment has started or an arrangement has been made with the Directorate: Budget and Treasury for the repayment of the fees for subjects/modules that the employee has failed provided that at least 75% of the prescribed courses for the year has been passed by the employee as contemplated in clause 7.3.3 above.
- 14.6.3. The Municipality will not pay for the failed modules/subjects, the employee shall undertake to pay for those courses he/she failed,

including any re-examination, whereas the Municipality shall pay for courses in the next phase with the exclusion of the failed modules/subjects

15. OBLIGATIONS

15.1 THE EMPLOYEE'S OBLIGATIONS

15.1.1 Upon receiving a bursary from MLM an employee commits him/herself that she/he will not receive any form of a bursary or funding from other schemes.

15.1.2 The employee shall apply and register for himself or herself at the Institution for the qualification and shall undertake all studies and do all things necessary to obtain the qualification.

15.1.3 The employee shall ensure that he/she is conversant with the Bursary policy and shall also undertake to acquaint him/herself with such amendments as may from time to time be made to the policy.

15.1.4 The employee shall not have the right to cede or assign his/her rights or obligations under the Bursary agreement or in any way pledge the monies paid to or on behalf of him/her in terms of the Bursary Agreement.

15.1.5 The employee shall not have a right to change courses and or qualification approved and funded by the Municipality without a written consent by the Municipal Manager.

15.1.6 At the end of each academic year, within 15 working days after the publication of the examination results by the Institution, the Employee shall provide the HRD Manager with evidence of his/her results in the course of study towards the qualification undertaken by him/her during that year.

15.1.7 After completing his /her studies the Employee shall undertake to remain in the employment of the Municipality for the period equivalent to that of his/her study using Municipal Bursary Fund, during such period no further bursary shall be granted by MLM.

15.1.8 Fixed term contract employees shall not be affected by clause 10.1.7 if the end of service with the Municipality is due to expiry of his/her employment contract, where benefiting employees leaves before the end of the contract clause 10.1.9 should apply.

15.1.9 An employee leaving the municipal employment at any time before the expiration of the period of service mentioned in 10.1.7 above, shall pay the Municipality the bursary amount in full for the outstanding years.

15.1.10 In the event the employee leaves the Municipality while on study bursary the Municipality shall terminate the bursary and evoke clause 10.1.7.

15.1.11 The employee shall be responsible for own transportation and accommodation if required and the employer shall not reimburse any expenses as a result of the employee acquiring accommodation and transportation

15.2 EMPLOYER'S OBLIGATIONS

15.2.1 The Employer undertakes to pay timeously all financial commitments resulting from approved bursaries

15.2.2 All institutions will be verified to establish their registration with Higher Education Council, SETA's to ensure that all qualifications obtained are valid and credible

16. REPAYMENT METHOD

16.1. The bursary awarded to the employee is immediately repayable after non-compliance with clause 10.6 above and/ or immediately when it is evident that the employee has failed certain modules or subject as contemplated in clause 9.6.2

16.2. The employee shall repay the full amount owing to the municipality at that stage. Repayment shall be done in equal instalments, calculated by the municipality commencing the first day following the month in which the employee failed to submit results and or failed subjects/modules as contemplated in clauses 9.6.2. and 10.6.

16.3. The repayment instalment shall equal the number of years during which the bursary was granted.

17. STUDY LEAVE

17.1. The employee shall be entitled to an examination leave for the date(s) as contained in the municipal approved Leave Policy, upon which he/she is required to present him/herself for an examination as prescribed by the Institution plus one day study leave prior to the examination date.

17.2. Where employees are required to attend contact lessons, study leave shall be provided for 50% of the lessons' days and the other 50% shall be the employee's holiday leave. Employees must provide Moretele Local Municipality with proof of attendance on return from contact lessons.

18. GRATUITY GESTURE

18.1 No gratuity will be paid to the employee upon completion of their studies. This is so, as to enable the Municipality to equitably distribute the financial resources to an anticipated increased volume of interest.

19. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

This policy will be implemented and effective once approved by Council.

20. COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to all Municipal employees using the full range of communication methods available to the municipality.

21. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary.

22. PENALTIES

Non-compliance to any of the stipulations contained in this policy will be regarded as misconduct, which will be dealt with in terms of the Disciplinary Code.

23. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy shall be implemented on 1st July 2026 and shall be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that is in line with the municipality's strategic objectives and with legislation.

"APPLICATION FORM"

MORETELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



APPLICATION FORM FOR A BURSARY: EMPLOYEES

YEAR: 2026/2027

NB: Please write clearly, answer all the questions fully and attach supporting documents where required.

1. PARTICULARS OF STUDY

Institution:.....

Student number (if any):

Course:

Duration of the course.....

Subjects/ modules (Year Applying For)

Cost

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

TOTAL AMOUNT APPLYING FOR:.....

Motivation:.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Title:.....Surname:.....Initials.....

First names:.....

Employee No:

Identity No:

Position.....

Directorate.....

Postal address:.....

.....

 Postal code:
 Home address:

 Postal code:
 Contact telephone/cell no:

3. EDUCATIONAL PARTICULARS – TERTIARY INSTITUTION
(Please attach a copy of proof of admission, if applicable)

Highest Qualification.....
 Current Studies (If any)
 Duration of the Current Course.....
 Subjects already passed (attach official results)

APPLICANT _____
DATE

4. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- Have you applied for the bursary before, Yes/No
- If Yes, were you approved, Yes/No
- If Yes, how much was approved: R.....
- Name of the programme:
- Institution Attended:
- Status of the programme

Completed	Terminated	In Progress	
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Please tick the applicable column

- **Attach the recent year end results/academic record for approved bursary**
- **The form must be completely filled and signed with initials on each page at the bottom right corner**
- **Failure to submit required documents will results in your application not considered**

5. APPROVALS

FOR OFFICE USE – DIRECTOR/MANAGER FOR:

(state the Unit or Department)

Application Recommended / Not Recommended

Amount Recommended:.....

Institution Recommended

COMMENTS

.....
.....

.....

DATE

.....

SIGNATURE

FOR OFFICE USE – : DIRECTOR FOR HR & CORPORATE SERVICES

Application Recommended/Not Recommended

Amount Recommended.....

Institution Recommended **COMMENTS:**

.....
.....

.....

DATE

.....

SIGNATURE

FOR OFFICE USE – MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Application Approved / Declined

Amount Approved:.....

Institution Approved:

COMMENTS

.....
.....
.....

.....

Date

.....

MUNICIPAL MANAGER

6. THE EMPLOYEE'S OBLIGATIONS

The employee undertakes that:

6.1 Upon receiving a bursary from MLM an employee commits him/herself that she/he will not receive any form of a bursary or funding from other schemes.

6.2 The employee shall apply and register for himself or herself at the Institution for the qualification and shall undertake all studies and do all things necessary to obtain the qualification.

6.3 The employee shall ensure that he/she is conversant with the Bursary policy and shall also undertake to acquaint him/herself with such amendments as may from time to time be made to the policy.

6.4 The employee shall not have the right to cede or assign his/her rights or obligations under the Bursary agreement or in any way pledge the monies paid to or on behalf of him/her in terms of the Bursary Agreement.

6.5 The employee shall not have a right to change courses and or qualification approved and funded by the Municipality without a written consent by the Municipal Manager.

6.6 At the end of each academic year, within 15 working days after the publication of the examination results by the Institution, the Employee shall provide the Council with evidence of his/her results in the course of study towards the qualification undertaken by him/her during that year.

6.7 After completing his /her studies the Employee shall undertake to remain in the employment of the Municipality for the period equivalent to that of his/her study using Municipal Bursary Fund, during such period no further bursary shall be granted by MLM.

6.8 Fixed term contract employees shall not be affected by clause 10.7 if the end of service with the Municipality is due to expiry of his/her employment contract, where benefiting employees leaves before the end of the contract 10.9 should apply.

6.9 An employee leaving the municipal employment at any time before the expiration of the period of service mentioned in 10.7 above, shall pay the Municipality the bursary amount in full for the outstanding years.

6.10 In the event the employee leaves the Municipality while on study bursary the Municipality shall terminate the bursary and evoke clause 1.7.

7. REPAYMENT METHOD

7.1. The bursary awarded to the employee is immediately repayable after non compliance with clause 10.6 above and/ or immediately when it is evident that the employee has failed certain modules or subject as contemplated in clause 9.6.2 of the policy

7.2. The employee shall repay the full amount owing to the municipality at that stage. Repayment shall be done in equal

installments, calculated by the municipality commencing the first day following the month in which the employee failed to submit results and or failed subjects/modules as contemplated in clauses 9.6.2. and 10.6.

7.3. The repayment installment shall equal the amount of years during which the bursary was granted.

SIGNED BY: _____ **ON THIS DAY** _____ **OF**
_____ **20** _____

WITNESSES:

1. _____ 2. _____ **NAME &**
SURNAME NAME & SURNAME

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE