Makers of the Future

Tlogatloga e tloga kgale...

Your guide to skills, success and building the life you want

KAGISO TRUST

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The choices you make this year will change your life

Welcome to your matric year. This isn't just another year of school. It's the year you start building the future you want.

But here's the truth: **your future won't build itself.**

Every choice you make this year – how you study, when you ask for help, how you prepare for exams, which path you choose after matric – is like laying a brick. One brick doesn't look like much. But brick by brick, day by day, you're building something strong.

'Tlogatloga e tloga kgale modiši wa dikgomo o tšwa natšo šakeng'

Setswana proverb meaning 'Step by step, the cattle herder rises from the kraal'

What it means: Success doesn't happen overnight. It's built through consistent effort, one step at a time. The herder who walks the same path every day, tending the cattle with care, builds skill, confidence, and eventually success. Your matric year is the same. Small, consistent actions build towards something great.

5 truths about this year

Every plan needs a builder – and you're the builder of your year

This toolkit gives you the tools, but you have to pick them up and use them. Nobody can build your future for you.

Asking for help is not weakness – it's strategy

Builders use the right tools for the job. Sometimes the right tool is a teacher, a mentor, a friend or a counsellor. Use them.

You are capable of more than you think

Matric will push you, but thousands before you have walked this path and succeeded. You can too.

Your hands can shape your tomorrow

Whether you're solving maths problems, learning to code, training to weld or perfecting a recipe, your effort today creates your opportunities tomorrow.

Success has many faces

There isn't just one path to a good life. Technical and vocational education and training works for many. University degrees suit others. Apprenticeships, learnerships, entrepreneurship – they all work. What matters is finding YOUR path and walking it with purpose.

How to use this toolkit

This toolkit is your companion for the Further Education and Training (FET) phase and beyond. Use it to:

Plan your year

Develop study schedules, exam tips and monthly checklists to keep you on track.

Explore your options

Learn about ALL the pathways available after matric – not just university, but TVET institutions, learnerships, and more.

Make informed choices

Get real information about careers and what different qualifications actually offer.

Take action

Use checklists and action steps to apply for funding, choose courses and submit applications on time.

Find support

Access contacts for funding, mental health support, career guidance and more.

Don't just study hard, study smart

Success in matric isn't about studying 24/7. It's about studying strategically.

Here's your month-by-month guide to staying on track.

Start of the year

LAY YOUR FOUNDATION

- Get all your textbooks and materials
- Set up your study space at home
- Create a realistic weekly timetable
- Identify your strongest and weakest subjects
- Find a study buddy or form a study group
- Make sure you have all teacher contact details

March – April

BUILD MOMENTUM

- Start past paper practice (even if it feels early)
- Create summary notes for each subject
- Attend extra classes if available
- Complete all homework and assignments on time
- Review term 1 work before moving to term 2
- Ask for help in subjects where you're struggling

May – June

MID-YEAR EXAMS PREPARATION

- Revise all work covered in terms 1 and 2
- Practise exam technique (timing, question breakdown)
- Join study groups for difficult subjects
- Use exams to identify gaps in your knowledge
- After exams, analyse what went wrong and right
- Create an action plan to improve weak areas

July – August

WINTER BREAK AND TERM 3

- Use winter break to catch up on weak subjects
- Rest and recharge (breaks are important!)
- Start intensive revision of all subjects
- Practise past papers under timed conditions
- Create memory aids (flashcards, mind maps)
- Start preparing for prelim exams

September – October

THE BIG PUSH

- Complete all coursework and portfolios
- Focus on high-mark questions in past papers
- Attend all revision classes and consultations
- Revise for prelim exams using your summary notes and past papers
- After exams, analyse what went wrong and right

November

FINAL EXAMS

- Follow your exam timetable carefully
- Arrive early, bring all required materials
- Read questions carefully before answering
- Manage your time in each exam
- Don't discuss answers after exams (it causes stress)
- Rest well between exams

Recommended study techniques

Active recall (not just re-reading)

Don't just read your notes over and over.

Instead:

- Close your book and write down everything you remember
- Test yourself with past paper questions
- Explain concepts out loud to someone else
- Use flashcards to test yourself

Why it works:

Your brain has to work harder to retrieve information, which makes the memory stronger.

Spaced repetition (not cramming)

Don't study everything the night before an exam.

Instead:

- Review new material within 24 hours
- Review again after three days
- Review again after one week
- Review again before exams

Why it works:

Your brain needs time to move information from short-term to long-term memory.

Mix things up (not one subject at a time)

Don't spend four hours on one subject.

Instead:

- Study Maths for 45 minutes
- Switch to History for 45 minutes
- Switch to Life Sciences for 45 minutes
- Take a break, then repeat with different subjects

Why it works:

Switching between subjects keeps your brain engaged and helps you make connections.

Practise testing (not passive reading)

Don't just read the textbook.

Instead:

- Do past paper questions regularly
- Time yourself under exam conditions
- Mark your own work honestly
- Identify patterns in the types of questions asked

Why it works:

You learn exam technique and identify gaps in your knowledge early.

Time management: Your weekly study plan

Here's a realistic schedule that leaves room for life.

Monday–Thursday (school days)

After school (30 min)	Rest, eat, decompress
16:00–17:30	Study session 1 (2 subjects, 45 min each)
17:30–18:00	Break / chores / family time
18:00–19:30	Study session 2 (2 subjects, 45 min each)
Evening	Eat, relax, prepare for next day
Bedtime	22:00 (8 hours' sleep is non-negotiable!)

Friday

Lighter study evening	Review week's work (2 hours max)
Rest and socialise	You need downtime to recharge

Saturday

Morning (9:00–12:00)	Focused study (3 hours)
Afternoon	Free time / exercise / hobbies / family
Evening	Light review if needed, or complete rest

Sunday

Morning (9:00–12:00)	Study session (3 hours)
Afternoon	Prepare for the week ahead
Evening	Relax

Total study time: **20–25 hours per week** (sustainable and effective)

TIP: Include a 30 minute rest in between subjects with an activity that will stimulate the mind and body like a walk or exercise.

STUDY HACKS

5 quick wins

1. TEACH SOMEONE ELSE

Explaining a concept to someone else forces your brain to organise the information clearly.

2. USE MEMORY TRICKS

- Acronyms (e.g. ROYGBIV for rainbow colours)
- Rhymes and songs
- Visual associations
- Mind maps and diagrams

3. STUDY IN DIFFERENT PLACES

Your brain associates information with location. Studying in varied spots (in the kitchen, under a tree) helps memory.

4. START WITH THE HARDEST

Do your most difficult subject first when your brain is fresh.

5. REWARD YOURSELF

After completing a study goal, take a meaningful break. Your brain needs positive reinforcement.

The 45-minute rule

Your brain can only focus intensely for about 45 minutes. After that, you're wasting time.

Try this:

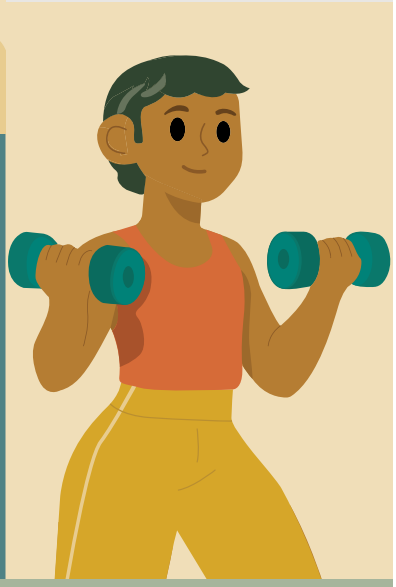
1. Study for 45 minutes with zero distractions (phone away!)
2. Take a 10-minute break (stand up, get water, take a short walk and stretch your body)
3. Start the next 45-minute session

Managing stress and protecting your mental health

Matric is stressful. That's normal. But you need to manage stress, not let it manage you.

Daily habits that help

- Sleep 7-8 hours: Your brain needs rest to remember what you studied
- Eat regular meals: Your brain runs on fuel, not fumes
- Move your body: Even 20 minutes of walking helps reduce stress
- Stay connected: Talk to friends and family, don't isolate yourself
- Limit social media: Especially during study time and before bed
- Practice breathing techniques to calm the mind



Warning signs

- Can't sleep or sleeping all the time
- Losing interest in things you used to enjoy
- Constant anxiety or panic attacks
- Feeling hopeless about the future
- Physical symptoms (headaches, stomach aches, chest pain)

Where to get help

ACADEMIC HELP

- Your teachers (during consultation times)
- School support programmes / extra classes
- Study groups and peer tutoring
- Online resources such as:
  - education.gov.za (search for Mind the Gap study guides)
  - siyavula.com for maths and science support
  - Vodacom e-Learning
  - Western Cape Education Department Grade 12 Subject Revision
- School counsellor or Life Orientation teacher
- SADAG (South African Depression and Anxiety Group): 0800 567 567 (toll-free)
- **LifeLine: 0861 322 322**
- Talk to a trusted adult: parent, family member, coach, mentor

EMERGENCY SUPPORT

Childline: 116 (toll-free, 24/7)
Stop Gender Violence: 0800 150 150 or *120*7867#

Remember: Asking for help is smart, not weak. Every successful person had help along the way.

Exam time: Turn knowledge into marks

Exams aren't just about what you've learned – they're about how you apply that knowledge under pressure.

THE WEEK BEFORE EXAMS

Do's

- Review your summary notes and past papers
- Focus on high-probability topics (what comes up often in past papers?) and use different sites for example Siyavula and Khan Academy to practise
- Practise exam technique (timing, question analysis)
- Prepare your materials (pens, pencils, calculator, student card)
- Confirm exam dates, times and venues
- Get 7 – 8 hours of sleep every night
- Eat meals at regular times
- Take short breaks for exercise or fresh air

Don'ts

- Try to learn new material, it's too late
- Pull all-nighters, you'll be too tired to think
- Skip meals or survive on energy drinks
- Isolate yourself completely
- Panic about what you don't know

THE NIGHT BEFORE EXAMS

Do's

- Prepare what you need:
  - Pens, pencils, eraser, sharpener, calculator, ruler and geometric instruments (if required)
  - Student examination number/Identity Document (ID) number
  - Water bottle (clear, no label)
- Pack your bag and place it by the door
- Set TWO alarms (phone + backup)
- Check transport arrangements
- Eat a good meal, keep hydrated and drink water
- Do a brief, calm review (20-30 minutes maximum)
- Skim through your summary notes
- Look at formulas or key concepts
- Prepare your outfit for tomorrow
- Relax for at least an hour before bed
- Listen to calm music, read something light, or talk to family
- Get to bed by 22:00 (you need quality sleep more than you need extra study time)

Don'ts

- Trying to memorise new information
- Social media scrolling
- Last-minute cramming
- Avoid energy drinks

CAN'T SLEEP? DON'T PANIC

- Lie quietly in bed, even if you're not sleeping – rest helps
- Practise deep breathing: breathe in for four counts, out for six counts
- Don't check the time repeatedly
- Remember: one night of poor sleep won't ruin your exam

THE MORNING OF THE EXAM

Do's

- Wake up at least 2 hours before the exam (rushing creates stress)
- Eat breakfast – even if you're nervous and not feeling hungry
- Do a quick mental warm-up
  - Skim one or two key concepts (5 minutes max)
  - Remind yourself of any formulas you tend to forget
- Dress comfortably. Layers are smart (exam venues can be hot or cold)
- Leave early. Aim to arrive 45 minutes before start time
- Bring everything on your checklist. Double-check your bag before leaving

Don'ts

- Do NOT cram. Your brain needs to be calm, not cluttered with last-minute information
- Do NOT try to learn anything new
- Don't overthink and get stressed
- Don't socialise unnecessarily
- Do NOT try to cheat because you will be disqualified!

IN THE EXAM HALL: YOUR STRATEGY

- **Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions**
- **Read the entire exam paper before you start writing**
  - How many questions are there?
  - How many marks per question?
  - Which questions are compulsory?
  - Which questions give you choices?
- **Choose your questions (if there are options)**
  - Pick the ones you're most confident about
  - Mark them clearly so you don't waste time deciding later
- **Start with what you know**
  - Build confidence with easier questions first
  - Don't get stuck on one hard question
- **Manage your time**
  - Check the clock regularly
  - If you're running out of time, move on
  - Come back to difficult questions at the end
- **Final checks**
  - Even if you finish early, review your answers
  - Check for careless mistakes
  - Make sure you've answered all required questions

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

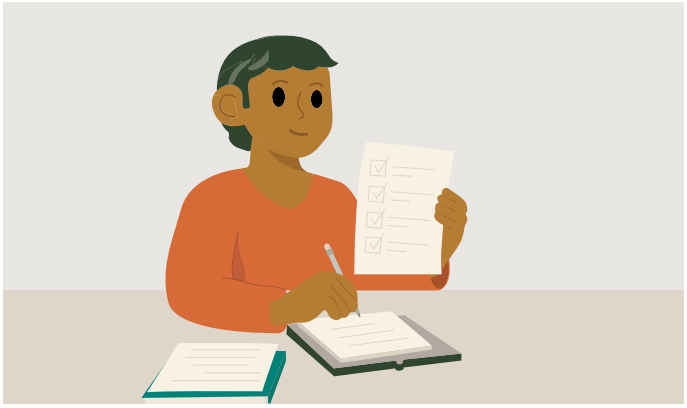
'I can't remember anything!'
- Take three deep breaths
- Start with what you DO know
- Trust your preparation – the information is there

'I'm running out of time!'
- Don't panic
- Move on to questions you can answer quickly
- Write brief, point-form answers for remaining questions
- Some marks are better than no marks

'This question is nothing like past papers!'
- Read it again slowly
- Break it into smaller parts
- Apply the principles you know
- Show your thinking process (you'll get marks for method)

'I need the bathroom!'
- Raise your hand calmly
- Go quickly and return
- Don't waste time stressing about lost minutes

'I feel sick/dizzy/panicked!'
- Raise your hand immediately
- Tell the invigilator
- Step outside for a moment if needed
- Breathe deeply, drink water



After matric: More than one way to build your future

Here's the truth: there is no single 'correct' path after matric. Technical and vocational education launches many people into successful careers. University works brilliantly for others. Some people learn on the job through learnerships or start businesses. Some take time to figure things out.

All these paths can lead to good careers, financial stability and meaningful lives. The question isn't 'What's the best path?' The question is **'What's the best path for YOU?'**

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

WHAT IT IS
Also called skills training, it's practical, hands-on, and aimed at specific careers and trades

WHAT YOU NEED
- Certificate pass (at least 40% in three subjects including Home Language)
- Some programmes will accept you even if you don't have a full matric

HOW LONG
- 1 year for National Certificate (NQF 4)
- 1–2 years for Higher Certificate (NQF 5)
- Includes workplace experience

BEST FOR
- Hands-on learners who prefer doing to reading
- People who need to start earning quickly
- Those interested in technical, creative or service careers
- Anyone who wants skills that make them immediately employable

CAREER EXAMPLES
Electrician, plumber, chef, tour guide, IT technician, bookkeeper, graphic designer, diesel mechanic, hospitality manager, fashion designer

REALITY CHECK
- Skills training is not 'second choice' – it's a different choice
- Many graduates earn more than university graduates
- Skills shortages mean high demand
- You can work and study further if you want

→ Please see pages 13–14 for more information on 99 in-demand jobs you can qualify for in one year and the skills South Africa currently needs.

UNIVERSITY

WHAT IT IS
Academic study leading to degrees (Bachelor's, Honours, Master's, PhD)

WHAT YOU NEED
Every course will have its own requirements, but these are the basics

- Bachelor's pass*: At least 40% in Home Language, 50% in four other high credit subjects, at least 30% in two other subjects
- Diploma pass*: At least 40% in Home Language, 40% in four other high credit subjects. Some programmes have additional requirements (e.g. maths for engineering)

*NB. Look at the minimum requirements and Admission Point Scores (APS) for the course you want to take across institutions Also note that Llife Orientation is not included/counted in APS.

HOW LONG
- Diploma: 3 years
- Bachelor's degree: 3–4 years
- Honours: +1 year
- Master's: +1–2 years
- PhD: +3–4 years

BEST FOR
- People who love theory and research
- Careers requiring professional registration (doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers)
- Those who want to specialise deeply in a field

CAREER EXAMPLES
Doctor, lawyer, engineer, accountant, psychologist, town planner, journalist, researcher

REALITY CHECK
- University is expensive (even with funding)
- Takes 3–4 years before you can earn
- Not all degrees guarantee jobs
- You need strong academic skills and self-discipline

LEARNERSHIP / APPRENTICESHIP

WHAT IT IS
Learn a trade while working for a company – get paid while you learn

WHAT YOU NEED
- Matric certificate (level depends on the programme)
- Company willing to employ you as a learner
- Some programmes have aptitude tests

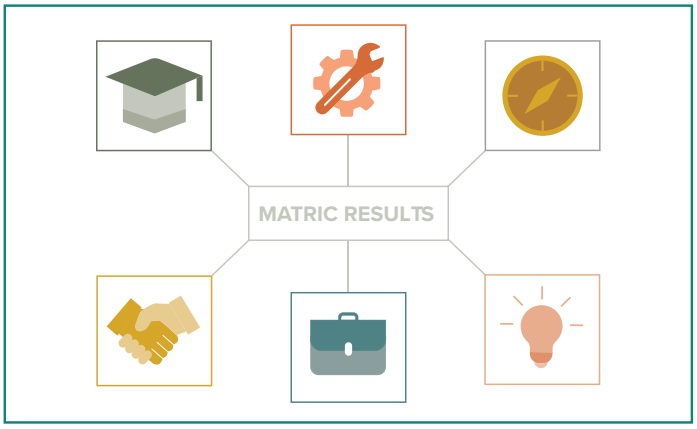
HOW LONG
- 1–3 years depending on the trade

BEST FOR
- People who learn best by doing
- Those who need to earn while learning
- Careers in manufacturing, mining, retail, hospitality, business

CAREER EXAMPLES
Artisan (electrician, fitter and turner, welder), call centre supervisor, retail manager, admin officer

REALITY CHECK
- Competition can be fierce
- You earn a stipend (less than full salary) while learning
- Companies often hire learners permanently after completion
- Strong route into skilled employment

WHERE TO LOOK
- Employment Services of SA
- Khetha education and training opportunities
- Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator
- Internships-SA
- Training Force
- SETA (Sector Education and Training Authority) websites
- Search for 'learnership' or 'apprenticeship' on job portals such as:
  - pnet.co.za
  - compujobs.co.za
  - careerjunction.co.za
  - careers24.com
  - za.indeed.com
  - jobmail.co.za
- Find more info about learnerships at setacareers.co.za



You don't have to decide your whole life right now

Most people change careers 3–5 times in their lifetime. Your first choice isn't your forever choice. What matters is taking the next step that moves you towards independence, skills and opportunity.

ENTRY INTO THE JOB MARKET

WHAT IT IS
Start working immediately in entry-level jobs

WHAT YOU NEED
- Matric certificate
- Some positions require specific skills or experience
- Good attitude and willingness to learn

BEST FOR
- People who need to earn immediately
- Those who want to gain experience before further study
- Building work experience while figuring out next steps

CAREER EXAMPLES
Retail assistant, receptionist, call centre agent, security officer, driver, waitron, administrative assistant

REALITY CHECK
- Entry-level jobs often have lower pay
- Room for growth depends on the company and industry
- Work experience is valuable – it can lead to internal promotion or further opportunities
- You can study part-time while working

TIP: Even 'entry-level' jobs can teach you valuable skills (customer service, time management, professionalism) that help you progress

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Start your own business

WHAT IT IS
Start your own business or freelance service

WHAT YOU NEED
- A product or skill that people will pay to have or use
- Basic business knowledge (you can learn this)
- Start-up capital (even small amounts can work)
- Determination and problem-solving skills

BEST FOR
- Self-starters who prefer independence
- Creative thinkers who see gaps in the market
- People with a specific skill to sell

BUSINESS IDEAS
- Services: tutoring, hairdressing, car washing, catering, photography, graphic design, coding
- Products: baking, crafts, clothing, beauty products
- Digital: content creation, social media management, app development

REALITY CHECK
- Most businesses fail in the first year
- Irregular income, especially at first
- You need discipline and business skills
- Support available: SEDA, Allan Gray Makers and local business hubs

TIP: Many successful entrepreneurs start small while working/studying, then grow their business over time

GAP YEAR WITH PURPOSE
Plan, save, prepare

WHAT IT IS
A structured year to work, volunteer, save money and plan your next move

WHAT YOU NEED
- A clear plan (not just 'taking time off')
- Goals for the year (save X amount, gain Y experience, apply for Z)

BEST FOR
- People who need time to decide on their path
- Those who need to save money for further study
- Anyone who wants work/life experience before committing to a path

HOW TO DO IT RIGHT
- Get a job (save money for next year's fees)
- Volunteer (gain experience and references)
- Research careers and courses
- Apply for funding while working
- Prepare for the following year whilst in the gap year
- Set a deadline (one year, then commit to next step)

REALITY CHECK
- It's only worthwhile if you use it purposefully
- It's risky if you have no plan
- Many people return stronger and more focused
- Don't let one year become three years of drifting

The truth about 'success'

Success is NOT
- Only measured by university degrees
- Having the same career for 40 years
- Following the path your parents want
- Doing what everyone else is doing

Success IS
- Finding work that uses your strengths
- Earning enough to support yourself and your goals
- Continuous learning and growth
- Contributing value to society
- Building a life you're proud of

99 in-demand jobs you can qualify for in one year

Here's something that might surprise you: the Department of Higher Education and Training has identified 99 skills-based occupations in high demand that you can qualify for within just one year.

Not three years. Not four years. One year.
And here's another fact: **Businesses are desperate for these skills right now!**

According to the 2025 Xpatweb Critical Skills Survey, 89% of companies report that unfilled skills vacancies are negatively affecting their business operations – causing lost productivity, project delays and reduced innovation.

Translation: There are jobs waiting for people with the right skills. Jobs that pay well. Jobs with growth potential. Jobs that the economy needs to function.

WHAT EXACTLY IS TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET)?

Instead of focusing on theory and textbooks (like university), it focuses on practical skills you can use immediately in the workplace.

Think:

- Hands-on training in workshops and labs
- Real workplace experience as part of your course
- Industry-recognised qualifications
- Skills that employers are looking for

Busting the myths

MYTH 1: Skills-based training is for people who aren't smart enough for university

REALITY: Skills training is for people whose intelligence shows up differently. Some people are brilliant with their hands. Some solve problems by building things. Some think spatially, mechanically or creatively. Skills training recognises and develops these forms of intelligence, which are just as valuable as academic intelligence.

MYTH 2: They're not 'real' qualifications

REALITY: Technical and vocational education qualifications are registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) just like university degrees. A National Certificate is NQF Level 4 (the same as matric). A Higher Certificate is NQF Level 5. They're nationally recognised and internationally benchmarked.

MYTH 3: You can't earn good money with skills

REALITY: Many people with practical skills training out-earn university graduates.

- A qualified electrician can earn R15 000–R25 000 per month.
- A diesel mechanic: R18 000–R30 000.
- A chef in a good hotel: R12 000–R25 000.
- Experienced professionals earn significantly more.

MYTH 4: It's only for trades like plumbing and welding

REALITY: Technical and vocational education includes trades, yes, but also Information Technology (IT) and software development, hospitality and tourism, business and finance, media and design, health and safety, agriculture, and much more. The range is huge.

MYTH 5: You can't study further

REALITY: Skills-based qualifications can lead to university if you want. You can also do Higher Certificates, Advanced Certificates and Diplomas. Many people start with skills training, work for a few years, then study further part-time while earning.

The bottom line

Skills training is not 'plan B'. It's a strategic choice for people who want to:

- Get qualified quickly
- Learn by doing, not just by reading
- Enter careers with high demand and good earning potential
- Start earning sooner rather than later

The skills South Africa needs right now

Remember those 99 occupations in high demand? Here's how they break down:

ARTISAN TRADES

(22% of all critical skills shortages)

- Electrician, plumber, welder, carpenter, bricklayer
- Millwright, fitter and turner, boilermaker
- Diesel mechanic, auto mechanic, panel beater
- Solar installer, pipefitter.

WHY DEMAND IS HIGH:
South Africa has a 20-year skills gap in trades. The National Development Plan targets 30 000 new artisans per year by 2030, but we're far behind. An ageing workforce, emigration and too few young people entering trades means massive demand.

WHAT YOU NEED:
69% of artisan roles require only NQF Level 4 or below, meaning you can qualify in one year or less.

ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING

- Mechanical engineering technician, electrical technician
- Industrial machinery mechanic, maintenance technician
- CNC operator, production supervisor

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

- Chef, tour guide, flight attendant
- Hotel manager, event coordinator

BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATION

- Office administrator, bookkeeper, payroll clerk
- Personal assistant, call centre supervisor
- Stock controller, purchasing officer

ICT & DIGITAL SKILLS

- IT support technician, network administrator
- Software developer, data analyst
- Web designer, digital media specialist

HEALTHCARE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Community health worker, emergency care practitioner
- Aged care assistant, first aid officer

And many more across: agriculture, security, sales and marketing, media, construction, transport...

89%

of businesses say unfilled skills positions are hurting their operations. That means opportunity for YOU if you have the skills they need.

Why employers love people with skills

Businesses consistently report that TVET graduates:

HIT THE GROUND RUNNING
They have practical skills from day one

UNDERSTAND WORKPLACE CULTURE
They've already done workplace training

NEED LESS TRAINING
They're not learning everything from scratch

FILL URGENT SKILLS GAPS
Particularly in artisan and technical roles

HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE
They've deliberately chosen skills-based careers

'One learns from books and example only that certain things can be done. Actual learning requires that you do those things.'

– Frank Herbert

The bottom line

Skills training is not about settling. It's about strategy.

- You get qualified faster
- You start earning sooner
- You develop skills the economy desperately needs
- You have excellent job prospects
- You can always study further later

South Africa needs makers, builders and doers. Getting a skill is how you become one.

Real people, real success

CHRISTOPHER RAMCWANA obtained a National Diploma in Business Management from Vuselela TVET College in North West in 2006. He is now a Human Resources Development Officer at Royal Bafokeng Platinum in Rustenburg, and he has a master's degree in education.

Read more here

SIMNIKIWE NGCAWS completed a National Certificate (Vocational): Finance, Economics and Accounting Level 4 and Accounting Technician AS(SA) Level 4 at False Bay TVET College in Cape Town. She is now an Accounting Clerk at Esterhuyse and Associates.

Read more here

SENZO NHLAKANIPHO NXUMALO obtained a diploma in Farming Management from Majuba TVET College in KwaZulu-Natal then secured a 12-month internship with LB Pork, a leading piggery in Minnesota, US, where he is gaining experience in commercial farming.

Read more here

AYANDA MONA studied Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Ekurhuleni East TVET College in Gauteng and went on to qualify as a Refrigeration Mechanic (Commercial). For the past four years she has been a Refrigeration Mechanic at Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa.

Read more here

CHRISTINA MIYAMBO studied early childhood development at South West Gauteng TVET College in Soweto. In 2023 she opened her own business, the Unique Kids Day Care Centre, where she looks after more than 40 children.

Read more here

NJABULO MTSHALI studied to be a Management Assistant at Elangeni TVET College in KwaZulu-Natal and is now the Zulu NPO Coordinator for We Are Durban, an NGO focused on uplifting communities in Inanda, Ntuzuma and KwaMashu.

Read more here

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'We want to get people through from learning to earning as soon as possible'

– Vijayen Naidoo | CEO, Quality Council for Trades and Occupations

Read more here

Finding your path – a decision tool

Now that you've seen all your options, it's time to figure out which path fits YOU. There's no algorithm that can make this decision for you. But asking yourself the right questions will help you see which direction makes the most sense.

PART 1: KNOW YOURSELF

Answer these questions honestly. There are no 'right' answers – just YOUR answers.

Your learning style

HOW DO YOU LEARN BEST?

- ☐ I learn by doing and practising
  ➜ Hands-on training (skills, learnerships, apprenticeships)
- ☐ I learn by reading, researching and analysing
  ➜ Academic study (university)
- ☐ I learn by watching others then trying myself
  ➜ On-the-job training (learnerships, direct employment)
- ☐ I learn best with structure and clear instructions
  ➜ Formal training programmes (skills, university)
- ☐ I learn best when I'm solving real problems
  ➜ Entrepreneurship, workplace training

Your interests

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING? (NOT WHAT YOU'RE 'SUPPOSED' TO ENJOY – WHAT DO YOU LIKE?)

- ☐ Working outdoors
- ☐ Working with technology/computers
- ☐ Helping or caring for people
- ☐ Creating food or experiences
- ☐ Building or constructing things
- ☐ Working with numbers
- ☐ Solving puzzles or problems
- ☐ Working independently
- ☐ Working in a team
- ☐ Leading or organising others

Your strengths

WHAT ARE YOU NATURALLY GOOD AT? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Working with my hands
- ☐ Solving technical problems
- ☐ Working with people
- ☐ Creating or designing things
- ☐ Analysing data or information
- ☐ Writing or communicating ideas
- ☐ Organising and planning
- ☐ Building or fixing things
- ☐ Understanding how systems work
- ☐ Thinking creatively

Now look at your checks. Do you see a pattern?

- Mostly hands-on/technical?
  ➜ Skills training, apprenticeships, trades
- Mostly analytical/research?
  ➜ University (sciences, social sciences, business)
- Mostly creative/design?
  ➜ Skills (design, media, culinary), university (arts, architecture)
- Mostly people-focused?
  ➜ Skills (hospitality, health care), university (teaching, psychology, social work)

Which subjects do you like?

Sometimes it's easier to eliminate what you definitely don't want. Cross out anything you know isn't for you, and see what's left.

PART 2: KNOW YOUR SITUATION

Your circumstances matter. Be realistic about:

Your academic performance

BE HONEST ABOUT YOUR MATRIC RESULTS:

- ☐ I'm getting 70%+ in most subjects
  ➜ You have options: University, skills training, whatever fits your goals
- ☐ I'm getting 40–60% in most subjects
  ➜ You qualify for university diplomas, skills training, learnerships
- ☐ I'm getting 30–40% in most subjects
  ➜ Focus on skills training, learnerships, work experience
- ☐ I'm struggling to pass
  ➜ Don't panic. Talk to your teachers. Consider direct employment and part-time study, or a gap year with purpose

IMPORTANT: Your matric percentage doesn't define your potential. Many successful people had average or poor matric results but excelled once they found the right training that matched their learning style.

Your financial reality

WHICH STATEMENT IS MOST TRUE FOR YOU?

- ☐ My family can support me financially for 3–4 years of study
  ➜ More flexibility in choosing (university, skills training, gap year)
- ☐ My family can help a bit, but I'll need funding/bursaries
  ➜ Apply for NSFAS or other funding for university or skills training
- ☐ I need to start earning as soon as possible
  ➜ Skills training (one year), learnerships (earn while learning), direct employment
- ☐ I can work part-time while studying
  ➜ Part-time skills courses, evening classes, distance learning

Your timeline

HOW SOON DO YOU NEED TO BE EARNING MONEY?

- ☐ I can wait 3 – 4 years
  ➜ University degree is possible
- ☐ I need to earn within 1 – 2 years
  ➜ Skills qualifications, learnerships
- ☐ I need to start earning within six months
  ➜ Direct employment, short skills courses, start a business
- ☐ I need income immediately
  ➜ Get a job now, study part-time later

Your support system

WHO'S IN YOUR CORNER?

- ☐ I have family who support my choices
- ☐ I have teachers/mentors who can guide me
- ☐ I have friends on similar paths
- ☐ I'm figuring this out mostly alone

If you checked the last one: You're not alone. Many people navigate this without much support. That's exactly why resources like NSFAS, career counsellors and community programmes exist. Use them.

Also try:
The National Career Advice portal
FundiConnect's career quiz

PART 3: MAKE A SHORTLIST

Based on your answers above, which pathways make the most sense for YOU right now? Write them here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

> Study everything,
> but study yourself first.
>
> – Ralph Smart

PART 4: THE DECIDING QUESTIONS

For each pathway on your shortlist, ask yourself:

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS:

- ☐ Do I meet the entry requirements (Admission Point Scores)?
- ☐ Can I afford it (or get funding)?
- ☐ Where is the nearest college/university/training provider?
- ☐ What are the application deadlines?
- ☐ Do I know anyone who's taken this path successfully?

GUT-CHECK QUESTIONS:

- ☐ Can I see myself doing this for the next 1-3 years?
- ☐ Does this path use my strengths?
- ☐ Will this lead to work I'd actually enjoy?
- ☐ Am I choosing this for ME, or because someone else wants me to?
- ☐ If I imagine myself in five years on this path, does it feel right?

If you're still unsure: Get help

TALK TO PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU

- Teachers (especially your Life Orientation teacher)
- Family members whose judgment you trust
- People working in careers that interest you
- Career counsellors (many schools have them, or check community centres)

INTERVIEW PEOPLE

- Find someone doing a job you think you'd like
- Ask them: How did you get here? What do you wish you'd known? What's the day-to-day really like?

TEST YOUR INTERESTS

- Volunteer or shadow someone in the field
- Do a short skills course, there are many available free online
- Try a part-time job in that industry

REMEMBER: You don't have to be 100% certain. You just need to make the best decision with the information you have NOW. You can always adjust later.

IF YOU'RE STILL STUCK: Visit the National Career Advice Portal

YOUR ACTION PLAN

Based on everything you've considered, what's your NEXT STEP?

Write it here (Be specific):

_____

_____

_____

When will you do it? (Set a deadline)

_____

Who can help you? (Name a person or resource)

_____

_____

Decision scenarios: Who sounds like you?

SCENARIO 1

Thabo

PROFILE:
- Getting 50–60% in most subjects
- Good with his hands, loves fixing things
- Family needs him to earn soon
- Enjoys practical work more than theory

BEST FIT: Skills training – Electrical or Mechanical Engineering Technician

WHY: 1-year qualification, high demand, good earning potential, hands-on learning

NEXT STEP: Apply to skills college, explore NSFAS funding (see page 27)

SCENARIO 2

Lindiwe

PROFILE:
- Getting 75%+ in most subjects
- Loves biology and helping people
- Wants to be a doctor
- Family can support her for a few years but needs funding

BEST FIT: University – Bachelor of Medicine (with NSFAS or bursary)

WHY: Matches her passion and academic strength, stable career path

NEXT STEP: Research university requirements, apply for NSFAS and medical bursaries early

SCENARIO 3

Sipho

PROFILE:
- Getting 40–50% in most subjects
- Not sure what he wants yet
- Needs to start earning to help at home
- Good with people, interested in business

BEST FIT: Learnership in retail or business admin OR direct employment + part-time study

WHY: Start earning while gaining experience, figure out interests, study further when ready

NEXT STEP: Apply for retail learnerships, look for entry-level office jobs, research part-time skills courses

SCENARIO 4

Zanele

PROFILE:
- Getting 55%+ in most subjects
- Creative, loves cooking
- Dreams of owning a restaurant
- Family can support her for 1–2 years

BEST FIT: Skills training – Hospitality/Culinary Arts

WHY: Learn professional cooking skills, get workplace experience, network in the industry, foundation for future business

NEXT STEP: Research hospitality training programmes, look for industry mentors, start planning business long-term

Timing is everything: Your application calendar

GRADE 11 UP TO FEBRUARY OF THE MATRIC YEAR

START RESEARCHING OPTIONS

- Explore university and technical and vocational training websites (see page 22-26)
- Attend career days at your school
- Talk to people in careers that interest you
- Start gathering documents (see checklist on page 20)

MARCH - MAY

UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS OPEN

- Apply to universities online
- Apply for NSFAS (opens April/May each year)
- Don't wait for final results – apply NOW
- Apply to 3–5 universities/programmes (backup options)

IMPORTANT: Most universities have May-September deadlines. Don't miss them!

Please visit page 26 for the full list of universities

MAY - AUGUST

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS OPEN

- Apply to colleges online or in person
- If NSFAS supports the course you are interested in, apply for funding
- Visit campuses if possible
- Apply to multiple colleges/programmes

JUNE - SEPTEMBER

COMPANY LEARNERSHIPS ADVERTISED

- Check company websites (Eskom, Transnet, mines, retailers, manufacturers)
- Check SETA websites for learnership opportunities
- Prepare your CV. Ask a teacher to help, get tips at the website of the SA Government or use FundiConnect's CV generator
- Register on job portals such as:
  - pnet.co.za
  - compujobs.co.za
  - careerjunction.co.za
  - careers24.com
  - za.indeed.com
  - jobmail.co.za

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

FINAL EXAM PREPARATION

- Focus on your exams (this is your priority!)
- Double-check that all applications are submitted
- Keep documents ready for when results come

DECEMBER

WAIT FOR RESULTS, PREPARE FOR NEXT STEPS

- Matric results released (usually mid-January)
- Have your documents ready
- Be prepared to act quickly once results are out

JANUARY

RESULTS OUT, FINAL APPLICATIONS, REGISTRATION

- Get your results (online and certified copy from school)
- Apply for any late application opportunities
- Accept offers and register
- Finalise funding (NSFAS, bursaries)

LATE APPLICATION NOTE:
Some colleges and universities accept late applications in January if spaces are available

If you miss a deadline or don't get accepted

DON'T PANIC. YOU HAVE OPTIONS:

- Late applications (January, if there are spaces available)
- Apply for the following year while working
- Consider a different programme or institution
- Look for learnerships or employment
- Take a gap year with purpose (work, save, reapply)

One setback doesn't end your future.
Adjust and keep moving forward

What you'll need when you apply

Get these ready NOW. Don't wait until the last minute.

Essential documents

REQUIREMENTS WILL VARY FOR DIFFERENT COURSES AND BURSARIES, BUT YOU'LL NEED THESE FOR EVERYTHING

- ☐ Certified copy of your ID
  - Get it certified at a police station or commissioner of oaths (free and valid for 3 months)
  - Get five copies (you'll need several)
- ☐ Matric results / statement of results
  - June results (to apply with)
  - Final results (when they come out in January)
  - Certified copies
- ☐ Proof of residence (not older than three months)
  - Municipal account, lease agreement, or affidavit from traditional leader
- ☐ Parents'/guardians' ID copies (if you're under 21 or applying for funding)
- ☐ Parents'/guardians' proof of income (for NSFAS and bursaries)
  - Payslips (last 3 months), or
  - Bank statements, or
  - Affidavit if parents are unemployed

Additional documents

(DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU'RE APPLYING)

- ☐ Academic record (all high school results)
  - Request from your school
- ☐ Curriculum vitae (CV)
  - Needed for learnerships and some bursaries
  - Keep it to 1–2 pages
  - Ask a teacher to review it
- ☐ Motivation letter (for bursaries and some programmes)
  - Explain why you want to study this field
  - What are your goals?
  - Why should they choose you?
- ☐ References/recommendation letters
  - From teachers, principals or community leaders
  - Ask well in advance (at least two weeks)
- ☐ Passport-sized photos (6–8 copies)

Digital essentials

- ☐ Email address (create it if you don't have one)
  - Use a professional name
  - Check it DAILY during application season
- ☐ Cellphone number that works
  - Institutions will SMS or call you
  - Keep airtime/data loaded
- ☐ Scanned copies of all documents
  - Save as PDFs on your phone/computer
  - Most applications are online

Where to apply

TVET COLLEGES (50 NATIONWIDE)

Applications open: May–August

Apply: Online or in person at college campuses
To find your nearest technical and vocational education and training college, see pages 22-26.

UNIVERSITIES (26 NATIONWIDE)

Applications open: April–May (for following year)

Apply through: Each university's website
For full list, visit Universities South Africa (usaf.ac.za)

LEARNERSHIPS & APPRENTICESHIPS

Where to find them:

Company websites: For example Eskom, Transnet, Sasol, Anglo American, major retailers (Shoprite, Pick n Pay, Woolworths), banks (FNB, Standard Bank, Nedbank)
SETA websites (21 Sector Education and Training Authorities covering different industries)

Job portals: For example Indeed, Pnet, CareerJunction
Government portals: For example sayouth.mobi, Employment Services of SA and National Youth Development Agency

NSFAS (NATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SCHEME)

What it covers: Tuition, accommodation, meals, books, transport

Who qualifies: Students from households earning R350 000 or less per year

Covers: University and technical and vocational education and training college fees

Applications open: April/May each year

Apply online: nsfas.org.za
NSFAS contact centre: 08000 67327 (toll-free)
WhatsApp: 063 093 5671
USSD: *120*67327#
Telegram: myNSFAS

Important NSFAS tips

- Apply BEFORE you get your matric results (you can apply with June results)
- You can apply even if you're not sure where you'll study yet
- Keep checking your application status online
- Respond quickly to any NSFAS requests for documents

See page 27 for more on funding

Common mistakes to avoid

MISTAKE 1:

☒ Waiting until after matric results to apply

☑ Apply during the year with your mid-year results. Late applications have limited spaces.

MISTAKE 2:

☒ Only applying to one place

☑ Apply to 3–5 options. Have backups.

MISTAKE 3:

☒ Missing deadlines

☑ Set phone reminders.
Check deadlines multiple times.

MISTAKE 4:

☒ Incomplete applications

☑ Double-check that all documents are attached before submitting.

MISTAKE 5:

☒ Not following up

☑ Check your emails and application status regularly. Respond to any requests immediately.

MISTAKE 6:

☒ Giving up if you don't get your first choice

☑ Many successful people didn't get into their first-choice institution. Your second or third choice can work out brilliantly.

MISTAKE 7:

☒ Not applying for funding

☑ Always apply for NSFAS and bursaries.
Don't assume you won't qualify.

Quick tips for successful applications

- ✓ **START EARLY**
  Don't wait until the last week
- ✓ **READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**
  Each institution is different
- ✓ **KEEP COPIES**
  Save confirmation emails and reference numbers
- ✓ **BE HONEST**
  Don't lie on applications (they check)
- ✓ **PROOFREAD**
  Check spelling and grammar (ask someone to review)
- ✓ **FOLLOW UP**
  If you haven't heard back in 4 weeks, call or email
- ✓ **HAVE A PLAN B, C, AND D**
  Don't put all your hopes on one option
- ✓ **ASK FOR HELP**
  Teachers, career counsellors, parents can assist

South Africa's TVET colleges

With 50 institutions and hundreds of campuses, there's bound to be one near you.

Eastern Cape	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
BUFFALO CITY TVET COLLEGE	Cnr Lukin Road & King Street, East London	043 880 0177 bccollege.co.za	King Street: 043 880 0177 Mdantsane: 043 880 0177 St Marks: 043 880 0177 Selborne: 043 880 0177
EASTCAPE MIDLANDS TVET COLLEGE	Edison Street, Uitenhage	041 995 2000 emcol.co.za	Brickfields Road, Uitenhage: 041 995 1800 Charles Goodyear, Uitenhage: 041 995 2210 Heath Park, Bethelsdorp: 041 405 1450 High Street, Uitenhage: 041 995 2250 Makhanda: 046 602 4100 Middle Street, Graaff-Reinet: 049 807 1292 Park Avenue, Uitenhage: 041 995 2901 Thanduxolo, Kwanobuhle: 041 995 3500 Woeke Street, Graaff-Reinet: 049 807 1200
IKHALA TVET COLLEGE	Zone D, Gwadana Drive, Ezibeleni, Queenstown	047 873 8800 ikhala.edu.za	Aliwal North: 051 634 1035 Ezibeleni: 047 873 1293 Queenstown: 045 838 2593 Queen Nonesi, Ndenxe: 045 838 2593 Sterkspruit: 051 611 0205
INGWE TVET COLLEGE	Badibanise Village, Mount Frere	039 940 2142 ingwecollege.edu.za	Maluti: 039 940 2142 Mount Fletcher, Tlokoeng: 039 940 2142 Mount Frere, KwaBhaca: 039 940 2142 Ngqungqushe, Lusikisiki: 039 940 2142 Siteto, Bizana: 039 940 2142
KING HINTSA TVET COLLEGE	218 Mthatha Road, Butterworth	047 401 6400 khc.edu.za	Centane: 047 498 4900 Dutywa: 047 489 1101 Msobomvu, Butterworth: 047 491 9824 Teko, Butterworth: 047 491 9847/22 Willowvale: 047 499 1007
KING SABATA DALINDYEBO TVET COLLEGE	R61 Queenstown Road, Cicira Village, Mthatha	047 505 1000 ksdcollege.edu.za	Libode: 047 555 7941 Mapuzi, Coffee Bay: 047 575 9044 Mngazi, Libode: 047 575 9044 Mthatha: 047 505 1000 Ngcobo: 047 548 1467 Ntabozuko, Xhora: 047 577 8904 Zimbane, Mthatha: 047 537 4901
LOVEDALE TVET COLLEGE	1 Amatola Row, King William's Town	043 642 1388 facebook.com/LovedaleTVETCollege/	Alice: 040 653 1171/2 King William's Town: 043 642 3838 Zwelitsha: 040 654 1516
PORT ELIZABETH TVET COLLEGE	1 Richmond Park Drive, Richmond Hill, Gqeberha	041 509 6000 pecollege.edu.za	Dower: 041 509 6200 Iqhayiya: 041 509 6450 Kemsley Park: 041 509 6076 Russell Road: 041 509 6300 Victoria: 041 509 6305

Free State	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
FLAVIUS MAREKA TVET COLLEGE	Cnr Fichardt & Bell streets, Hertzog Street, Sasolburg	016 976 0815/29 flaviusmareka.net	Kroonstad: 056 212 5157/8 Mphohadi: 056 214 1111/1341 Sasolburg: 016 976 0815/29
GOLDFIELDS TVET COLLEGE	36 Buren Street, Flamingo Park, Welkom	057 910 6000 goldfieldstvet.edu.za	Tosa, Thabong: 057 910 6700 Welkom: 057 910 1600
MALUTI TVET COLLEGE	Mampoi Road, Phuthaditjhaba, QwaQwa	058 713 6100 malutitvet.co.za	Wessels Street, Bethlehem: 087 941 6839 Harrismith: 058 622 2785 Kwetlisong, Witsieshoek: 058 713 6655 Bonamelo, Phuthaditjhaba: 058 713 1391 Sefikeng, Witsieshoek: 058 713 6064 Itemoheleng, Phuthaditjaba: 058 713 0296 Lere La Tshepe, Poelong: 058 713 6611
MOTHEO TVET COLLEGE	Cnr St Georges & Aliwal streets, Bloemfontein	051 406 9300 motheotvet.edu.za	Botshabelo: 051 813 9010 Bloemfontein: 051 411 2000 Hillside View, Bloemfontein: 051 409 3300 Thaba Nchu: 051 873 3655 Zastron: 060 371 5196

Gauteng	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
CENTRAL JOHANNESBURG TVET COLLEGE	5 Ubla Avenue, Parktown, Johannesburg	011 351 6000 cjc.edu.za	Alexandra: 010 045 1063 Ellis Park: 010 045 1061 Langlaagte: 010 045 1067 Parktown: 010 045 1060 Riverlea: 010 045 1062 Smit Street, Braamfontein: 010 045 1064/5 Troyeville: 010 045 1066
EKURHULENI EAST TVET COLLEGE	Sam Ngema Road, 700 Scheme, Springs	011 730 6600 eec.edu.za	Brakpan: 011 730 6600 Benoni: 011 730 6600 Daveyton: 011 730 6600 Kwa-Thema, Springs: 011 730 6600
EKURHULENI WEST TVET COLLEGE	Cnr Flag & Rose-Innes roads, Driehoek, Germiston	011 323 1600 ewc.edu.za	Alberton: 010 023 7371 Boksburg: 010 101 0974 Germiston: 010 023 3760 Kathorus, Katlehong: 010 023 3762 Kempton, Kempton Park: 010 023 3691 Tembisa: 010 023 3763/079 972 9534
SEDIBENG TVET COLLEGE	37 Voortrekker Street, Vereeniging	016 422 6645 016 420 2520 sedcol.co.za	Heidelberg: 016 349 1022 Sebokeng: 016 420 2520 Vereeniging: 016 420 2520 Vanderbijlpark: 016 933 5644
SOUTH WEST GAUTENG TVET COLLEGE	0822 A Molele Street & cnr Koma Road and Molele Street, Molapo, Johannesburg	010 141 1000 swgc.co.za	Dobsonville: 086 176 8849 George Tabor, Dube: 086 176 8849 Molapo: 010 141 8000 Roodepoort: 086 176 8849 Roodepoort West: 010 141 3000 Technisa, Randburg: 010 141 1200
TSHWANE NORTH TVET COLLEGE	Cnr Kgosi Mampuru & Pretorius streets, Pretoria	012 401 1600 tnc.edu.za	Mamelodi: 012 401 1800 Pretoria: 012 401 1601 Rosslyn: 012 401 1750 Soshanguve North: 012 401 1999 Soshanguve South: 012 401 1900 Temba: 012 401 1700
TSHWANE SOUTH TVET COLLEGE	85 Frances Baard Street, Pretoria	012 401 5000 tsc.edu.za	Atteridgeville: 012 373 1200 Centurion: 012 660 8500 Odi, Mabopane: 012 725 1800 Pretoria West: 012 380 5000
WESTERN COLLEGE FOR TVET	42 Johnstone Street, Randfontein	011 692 4004/82 westcol.co.za	Carletonville: 018 787 4102 Krugersdorp: 011 953 1140 Krugersdorp West: 011 660 1709 Randfontein: 011 693 3608/9 Westonaria: 011 784 1089

KwaZulu-Natal	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
COASTAL TVET COLLEGE	50051 Mfundi Mngadi Drive, KwaMakhutha	031 905 7000/1 coastalkzn.co.za	Appelsbosch: 031 002 7654 As-Salaam, Braemer: 031 023 0283 Durban: 031 002 7653 Ubuhle Bogo, KwaQiko: 031 023 0975 Umbumbulu, KwaMakhutha: 031 905 7200 Umlazi-BB: 031 002 7655 Umlazi-V: 031 002 7648 Swinton, Mobeni: 031 002 7650
ELANGENI TVET COLLEGE	15 Portsmouth Road, Pinetown	031 492 4363 elangeni.edu.za	Inanda: 031 492 4385 KwaDabeka, Clermont: 031 492 4393 KwaMashu: 031 492 4396 Mpumalanga, Hammarsdale: 031 492 4389 Ndwedwe: 031 492 4395 Ntuzuma: 031 492 4397 Pinetown: 031 492 4381 Qadi, Botha's Hill: 031 492 4390
ESAYIDI TVET COLLEGE	5 Nelson Mandela Drive, Port Shepstone	039 685 5482/3 esayiditvet.co.za	Clydesdale: 073 411 8438 Enyenyezi: 039 685 5482 Gamalakhe: 039 318 1433 Kokstad: 039 940 5279 Port Shepstone: 039 685 4824 uMzimkhulu: 039 940 4221
MAJUBA TVET COLLEGE	83 Allen Street, Newcastle	034 326 4888 majuba.edu.za	Centre for People Development, Madadeni: 034 329 2004 Dundee: 034 212 2815 Majuba: 034 318 3041 IT and Business, Newcastle: 034 318 1206 Newcastle: 034 318 3041 Newcastle Training Centre: 034 318 2021 Occupational Programmes Unit, Madadeni: 034 314 1045 Open Learning Unit, Madadeni: 034 314 1044

KwaZulu-Natal	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
MNAMBITHI TVET COLLEGE	77 Murchison Street, Ladysmith	036 631 0360 mnambithicollege.co.za	Estcourt: 082 899 1392 Ezakheni A: 036 636 2733 Ezakheni B: 036 636 1017 Ezakheni E: 036 634 1020 Ladysmith: 036 637 4282
MTHASHANA TVET COLLEGE	266 South Street, Vryheid	034 980 1010 mthashanacollege.co.za	Babanango Skills Centre: 035 835 0200 Emandleni, Ulundi: 035 879 1061 Kwa-Gqikazi, Nongoma: 035 831 3202 Maputa, Thandizwe: 035 813 0100 Mashiyinduku Skills Centre, Vryheid: 084 657 6165 Nongoma: 035 831 6032/31/19 Nquthu: 034 271 1514 Vryheid: 034 981 5337 Vryheid Engineering: 034 980 1018
THEKWINI TVET COLLEGE	262 D'Aintree Avenue, Asherville, Durban	031 250 8200 thekwini.edu.za	Asherville: 031 250 8200 Cato Manor: 031 273 3650 Centec, Roseglen: 031 203 5500 Melbourne, Dalbridge: 031 327 5700 Springfield: 031 263 7700 Umbilo: 031 205 6841
UMFOLOZI TVET COLLEGE	58 Naboomnek, Arboretum, Richards Bay	035 902 9501 umfolozicollege.co.za	Bambanani, Jozini: 035 902 9530 Chief Albert Luthuli, KwaDukuza: 035 902 9528 Eshowe: 035 902 9526 Esikhawini, Richards Bay: 035 905 9525 Isithebe: 035 628 0065 Mandeni: 035 902 9527 Nkandla: 035 902 9529 Richtek, Richards Bay: 035 902 9500 Sundumbili: 032 061 0020
UMGUNGUNDLOVU TVET COLLEGE	44 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg	033 341 2100/2214 utvet.co.za	Edendale, Pietermaritzburg: 033 816 8605 Midlands, PMB: 033 341 2180 Msunduzi, PMB: 033 341 2100 Northdale, PMB: 033 341 2260 Plessislaer, PMB: 033 341 2260 Greytown: 072 600 4770

Limpopo	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
CAPRICORN TVET COLLEGE	16-18 Market Street, Polokwane	015 283 3300 capricorncollege.edu.za	Polokwane: 015 283 3300 Ramokgopa: 015 526 2750 Senwabarwana: 015 505 3172 Seshego: 015 230 1800
LEPHALALE TVET COLLEGE	Cnr Nelson Mandela & Ngwako Ramatlhodi streets, Onverwacht	014 763 2252/1014 leptvetcol.edu.za	Lephalale: 014 763 2252 Modimolle: 014 717 3807
LETABA TVET COLLEGE	1 Claude Wheatley Street, Abor Park, Tzaneen	015 307 5440 letcol.co.za	Giyani: 015 812 3221 Maake: 015 355 3429 Modjadji: 015 328 3605 Tzaneen: 015 307 5440
MOPANI SOUTH EAST TVET COLLEGE	Cnr Combretum & Haarlem streets, Phalaborwa	015 781 5721/5 mopanicollege.edu.za	Mosate Hotel School: 015 781 1377/8 Phalaborwa: 015 781 1377/8 Sir Val Duncan, Namakgale: 015 781 1513/4
SEKHUKHUNE TVET COLLEGE	Motetema-A	013 269 0278 sekhukhunetvet.edu.za	Apel, Ga-Nchabeleng: 013 269 0021/0278 CN Phatudi, Burgersfort: 013 269 0021/0278 CS Barlow, Groblersdal: 013 269 0021/0278 Skills Centre, Groblersdal: 013 269 0021/0278
VHEMBE TVET COLLEGE	Stand No. 203, Unit A, Sibasa	015 963 7000 vhembecollege.edu.za	Makhado satellite: 015 963 7000 Makwarela, Sibasa: 015 963 3490/1 Mashamba: 015 873 7904/5/6 Mavhoi, Dzanini: 015 963 7270 Musina: 015 963 7000 Shingwedzi, Sibasa: 015 963 7000 Thengwe, Tshilamba: 015 963 72580 Tshisimani, Tshakuma: 015 581 6009/10
WATERBERG TVET COLLEGE	Cnr Totius & Hooge streets, Mokopane	015 492 9000 waterbergcollege.co.za	IT and Computer Science Centre, Mahwelereng: 015 483 0090/1 Lebowakgomo: 015 633 6772/0 Mokopane: 015 483 0090/1 Thabazimbi: 014 880 0222

Mpumalanga	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
EHLANZENI TVET COLLEGE	29 Bell Street, Mbombela	013 752 7105 ehlanzenicollege.co.za	Barberton: 013 880 2008 KaNyamazane, Mbombela: 013 794 3767 Mapulaneng, Acornhoek: 013 590 0016 Mashishing, Lydenburg: 013 880 2003 Mlumati, Malelane: 013 880 2004 Mthimba, Hazyview: 013 591 0874 Mbombela: 013 880 2006
GERT SIBANDE TVET COLLEGE	18A Dr Beyers Naudé Street, Standerton	017 712 9040/58 gscollege.edu.za	Balfour: 017 200 0785 Ermelo: 017 811 5824 Evander: 017 632 2388 Perdekeop: 066 145 5588 Sibanesetfu, Glenmore: 017 887 9980 Standerton: 017 712 9040
NKANGALA TVET COLLEGE	Cnr Frans & Susanna streets, Witbank	013 690 1885 ntc.edu.za	CN Mahlangu, Siyabuswa: 013 973 9113/4/5 Middelburg: 013 243 2148 Mpondozankomo, Ackerville: 013 699 0302/1113 Waterval Boven: 013 658 4703 Witbank: 013 656 2597

Northern Cape	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
NORTHERN CAPE RURAL TVET COLLEGE	1 Steve Naude Street, Blydeville, Upington	054 332 4711 ncrtvet.com	De Aar: 087 188 2066 Kathu: 087 188 2064 Kuruman: 087 188 2065 Namaqualand, O'Kiep: 087 188 2067 Upington: 087 188 2062
NORTHERN CAPE URBAN TVET COLLEGE	35-39 Long Street, Albertynshof, Kimberley	053 839 2060 ncutvet.edu.za	City: 053 839 2000 Moremogolo: 053 802 4700 Phatsimang: 053 802 4700 All Kimberley

North West	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
ORBIT TVET COLLEGE	Fatima Bhayat Street, Rustenburg	014 592 7014/5500 orbitcollege.co.za	Brits: 012 381 5700 Mankwe: 014 555 2900 Rustenburg: 014 597 5502
TALETSO TVET COLLEGE	761 Setlogelo Drive, Montshiwa Unit 2, Mafikeng	018 384 2341 taletso.edu.za	Lehurutshe: 018 363 3411 Lichtenburg: 018 632 4317 Mafikeng: 018 384 0555
VUSELELA TVET COLLEGE	8 Bram Fischer Street, Klerksdorp	018 406 7800 vuselelacollege.co.za	Jouberton: 018 465 3133 Klerksdorp: 018 464 0300 Matlosana: 018 406 9801 Potchefstroom: 018 293 0352 Taung: 053 995 1376

Western Cape	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
BOLAND TVET COLLEGE	85 Bird Street, Stellenbosch	021 741 3000/1 bolandcollege.com	Caledon: 021 741 3002 Paarl: 021 741 3003 Stellenbosch: 021 741 3004 Strand: 021 741 3005 Worcester: 021 741 3006
COLLEGE OF CAPE TOWN FOR TVET	334 Albert Road, Salt River, Cape Town	021 404 6700 cct.edu.za	Athlone: 021 637 9183 City: 021 462 2053 Crawford: 021 606 5133 Gardens: 021 461 9418 Gugulethu: 021 638 3131 Pinelands: 021 531 2105 Thornton: 021 531 9124 Wynberg: 021 797 5540
FALSE BAY TVET COLLEGE	Main Road, Muizenberg	021 787 0800 falsebaycollege.co.za	Fish Hoek: 021 784 4300/021 782 0144 Khayelitsha: 021 361 3430/021 360 5000 Mitchells Plain: 021 391 0717 Muizenberg: 021 788 8373 Westlake: 021 701 1340/021 700 6400
NORTHLINK TVET COLLEGE	80 Voortrekker Road, Bellville	021 970 9000 0860 065 465 northlink.co.za	Belhar: 021 952 2113/9 Bellville: 021 951 2231 Goodwood: 021 591 3181 Parow: 021 931 8238 Protea, Bellville: 021 946 2250 Tygerberg, Panorama: 021 524 2200 Wingfield, Goodwood: 021 591 9207

Western Cape	ADDRESS	CONTACT	CAMPUSES
SOUTH CAPE TVET COLLEGE	46 Hibernia Street, George	044 874 2360 sccollege.co.za	Beaufort West: 023 449 1140 Bitou, Plettenberg Bay: 044 533 2388 George: 044 874 2360 Hessequa, Riversdale: 028 713 4775 Mossel Bay: 044 693 2613 Oudtshoorn: 044 272 2110
WEST COAST TVET COLLEGE	2 Loedolf, Malmesbury	022 482 1143 westcoastcollege.co.za	Atlantis: 021 577 1727 Citrusdal: 022 921 2457 Malmesbury: 022 487 2851 Vredenburg: 022 713 3167 Vredendal: 027 213 5673

...and where to find a university

Find a list of the 26 public universities by visiting: Public Universities

There are also many private higher education institutions. Visit: universities.co.za or Private Colleges SA

The TVET reforms: Why now is a great time

The government and industry have recently reformed TVET to make it more relevant and effective:

NEW QUALIFICATIONS
(Quality Council for Trades and Occupations - QCTO)

- More emphasis on practical skills, less on theory alone
- Integrated assessments (test theory AND practice together)
- Only teaching courses the economy actually needs

FLEXIBLE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

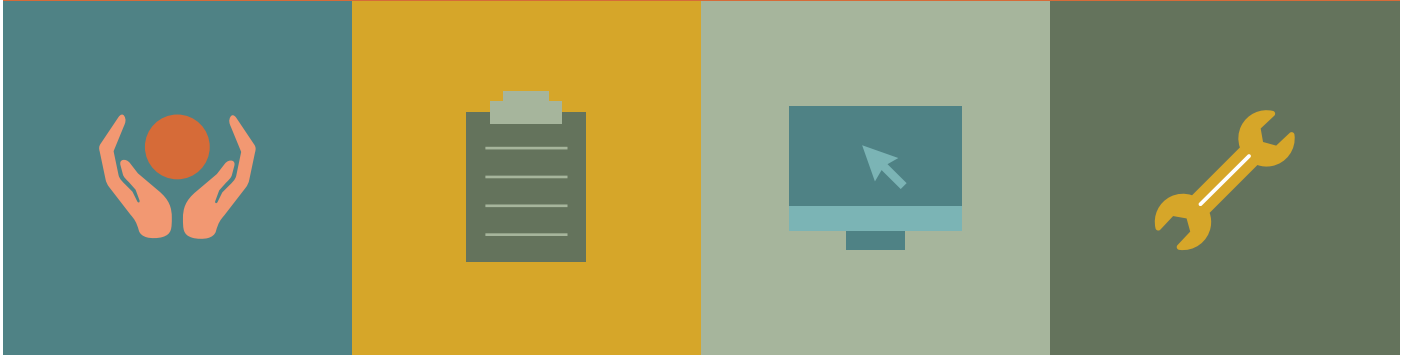
- You only need the level of maths/science required for your specific trade
- Not everyone needs matric-level maths to become an electrician or chef
- 'Learning to earning' pathways prioritised

INDUSTRY ALIGNMENT

- TVET colleges work directly with businesses
- Courses designed around what employers need
- Guaranteed workplace experience as part of training

BETTER FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- Government investing in modern workshops and labs
- Industry donating equipment and expertise
- Online learning options expanding



Funding your future

Let's be honest: money is one of the biggest barriers to further education in South Africa. But here's the good news: if you're willing to do the work to apply for funding, there ARE options.

You don't need rich parents to study after matric. You need information, determination and the willingness to apply for every opportunity available.

NSFAS: Your first stop

THE NATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SCHEME IS A GOVERNMENT BURSARY THAT COVERS:

- Tuition fees (full cost)
- Accommodation (if you need to live away from home)
- Meals / food allowance
- Book allowance
- Transport allowance
- Personal care allowance

Who qualifies for NSFAS?

YOU QUALIFY IF:

- ☐ You are a South African citizen
- ☐ Your combined household income is: R350 000 per year or less
- ☐ You are applying to a public university or TVET college
- ☐ You are registering for an undergraduate qualification (first degree/diploma/certificate)

How to apply for NSFAS

STEP 1: CREATE AN ACCOUNT
- Go to: nsfas.org.za

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION
- Answer all questions and upload required documents

STEP 3: CHECK YOUR APPLICATION STATUS
- Log in regularly to check progress

STEP 4: ACCEPT YOUR OFFER
- If approved, you'll receive a funding offer

When to apply

Applications open April/May each year for the following year. The application deadline is in mid-November.

Bursaries and scholarships

If NSFAS doesn't cover you (or you want additional funding), look for bursaries here:

- zabursaries.co.za
- bursaries.co.za
- bursariesportal.co.za
- studytrust.org.za

Your future starts with one step

You've reached the end of this toolkit, but you're standing at the beginning of something extraordinary: **your future**. Right now, 2026 might feel overwhelming. Matric. Exams. Big decisions about what comes next. It's a lot. But you don't have to have it all figured out today. What matters is taking the next right step. Studying for that test. Researching one college. Having one conversation with a teacher. Filling out one application.

Your path doesn't have to look like anyone else's. Every path can lead to meaningful work, financial stability, and a life to be proud of. South Africa needs your unique talents, your questions, your determination. You are the makers of our future. So take a deep breath. Use this toolkit. Ask for help when you need it. And remember: you've got this.

The Kagiso Trust team

KAGISO
TRUST

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