

I joined 18twenty8 in 2014 when NSFAS did not approve my funding request. I was raised by a single parent who relied mostly on a society scheme for survival. I was introduced to 18twenty8 by my first-year lecturer as she was aware that I was struggling financially and could not afford my university fees.

The bursary covered my university tuition, textbooks and a living allowance. I also received a laptop and a tablet for conducting my research (fieldwork) assignments. I was mentored by a Big Sister from Deutsche Bank who helped me to succeed in my studies.

I currently work at the South African National Council for the Blind as a facilitator and Assistant Researcher. I completed a short course in Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and am pursuing my Honours in Sociology - luckily, I got funding through the UNISA postgraduate bursary. I am a volunteer in Vodacom's Change the World programme and have joined the Fundza Literacy Trust as a fan writer.

I see myself having a PhD in Sociology, being a welfare practitioner who will contribute ideas and educational advice and being a community activist to ensure that everyone has access to free healthcare and education.

The 18twenty8 bursary allowed me to focus on my studies and what I am passionate about. Refiloe, I pray that the organisation grows and your generous acts are abundantly rewarded. Once again, thank you for the bursary. I am really grateful.