

30 January 2025

Dear 18twenty8

I applied to the financial assistance programme because I was in need of funding and I saw that 18twenty8 funds underprivileged female students who are passionate about their studies and want to make a difference in their communities, which is me.

The program helped me with funding my tuition fees, accommodation, food allowance and with a brand new laptop. It also helped me with emotional support such having a mentor through the Big Sister Network.

I receive a lot of support such as the check-in sessions which connected us with each other and kind of reminded us about our future plans. In another check-in session we discussed about my well-being; how I was doing and how do I cope with stress or pressure and what resources do I have to take care of my mental health. I also received support through the Big Sister Network where I had a mentor who advised me on certain matters and gave me tips on self-discipline and independence. And since we were alike it was easy to communicate with her and she understood me. I also received a preparation for exam session where we discussed about my preparation plan for exam; where is my best place to study; e.g in the library/lab instead of my room and how do I study best; with study groups or alone.

My real passion is Neuropsychology, I want to diagnose and treat neuropsychological disorders but I took a different route. I did three majors in my undergrad that is isiXhosa, Chinese and Psychology. I chose these subjects because I saw a connection between language and psychology as we use language to express our thoughts and feelings. With my honours in isiXhosa I plan to teach the language and also be part of research that intellectualises our African languages so that they can be used in higher domain areas such as education, health, which will make speakers of the African languages to be proud of them instead of undermining them.

With my future plans, I am planning to study Chinese Honours this year because I also want to teach it as a foreign language in South Africa and the programme will give me an opportunity to study in China in the 4th term. Afterwards I plan to continue with my psychology path until I obtain my Neuropsychology qualification.

Yours sincerely

Zukhanye Mxutu