

Dear 18twenty8 Team,

I am writing this letter to share my sincere gratitude for the incredible support I have received as a beneficiary of the 18twenty8 Financial Assistance Programme (FAP).

My journey with 18twenty8 began in July 2025. I was already pursuing my Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), but I was facing significant pressure about how I will manage the full cost of the degree. Receiving the bursary when I did was a huge moment for me; you stepped in exactly when I needed a crucial financial bridge, allowing me to complete my qualification without having to step back or worry constantly about fees.

The FAP has done much more than just cover my living allowance, accommodation and tuition fees. The relief from financial stress allowed me to truly focus and excel in my studies. The biggest thing I gained was peace of mind and confidence. But what truly stood out is the care and support I've received from the team. They even offered an exam preparation session to check up on my readiness and well-being, showing me that you care not just about my academic success, but also about my overall well-being. It's been amazing to feel so supported and encouraged throughout this journey. Your care and concern for my future, beyond just this academic year, have been truly inspiring.

As I look to the future, I'm excited to start my teaching career and make a positive impact on the lives of my students. I plan to continue studying and upskilling myself, with the ultimate goal of becoming a leader in the education sector. I'm passionate about inspiring young minds and empowering them through education, just as 18twenty8 has empowered me.

To the young women of South Africa, my advice is to commit fiercely to your education because it is your most powerful tool for change. Never let the fear of finances stop you from seeking opportunities. Be resilient, work hard, and never be afraid to ask for help - organisations like 18twenty8 are there to support women ready to rise.

Thank you again for investing in my future and for making me feel like a truly valued member of the 18twenty8 family. I am forever grateful.

Best regards,

Tebogo Mohlala