



# Applications open for scholarship in renewable energy industry

The Globeleq Scholarship Fund, South Africa's renewable energy industry's flagship scholarship programme, has announced the opening of its upcoming 2022 academic year applications.

“This tertiary education funding vehicle is actively contributing towards the country’s transformation agenda and the Just Energy Transition, by supporting 100% black youth and mostly women beneficiaries, setting an ambitious target not only for the renewable energy industry, but for other sectors who are striving to support our country’s developmental agenda,” said Hlengiwe Radebe, Economic Development Director for Globeleq South Africa.

The GSF Engineering fund is designed to support the renewable energy sector and ensure a pipeline of qualified talent. It is offered nationally through institutions offering mechatronic or electrical engineering and is specifically aimed at students studying mechatronic or electrical engineering.

The GSF Scarce Skills fund is specifically offered to students in the Northern and Eastern Cape wishing to pursue degrees or certificates in education, agriculture or nursing. These areas need these types of skills to support regional economic development.

The third fund, namely GSF Communities, supports localised development, as it is offered to students residing within a 50km radius in which Globeleq’s renewable energy power plants operate.

“Our national footprint gives our economic development programmes reach across vast areas of the country, coupled with an ability to target specific rural beneficiary communities from the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape all the way to the country’s northern Limpopo Province and Free State. This means that our scholarships can be truly localised and support the development of scarce skills to bring about real development and socio-economic interventions,” added Radebe, speaking about the GSF Communities programme that is open to students who reside within a 50km radius of either Jeffreys Bay Wind Farm, De Aar Solar Power, Droogfontein Solar Power, Klipheuwel Wind Farm, Aries Solar Power, Konkoonsies Solar Power, and Soutpan Solar Power.

Since 2016, the GSF recipients have been 100% black youth and over 55% female for the last three years. The programme utilises a less conventional and holistic approach to funding, by typically not only focusing on academic achievement, but rather on financial need, location of the students and gender to demonstrate its commitment to increase the cache of women engineers in the country and to the sector.

The GSF has adjusted over the years, to consistently provide young people with exposure to the renewable energy industry, as well as offering opportunities through an internship programme for beneficiaries to gain the necessary work experience. Specifically, the opportunity for national diploma students to complete their required in-service training and thereby fill the technical skills gap within the renewable energy industry.

Applications close on 29 October 2021.



Kethian Douwire, a Globeleq Scholarship Fund Communities recipient from Caledon in the Western Cape.