

Mehr Mittel für Studierende - Bildung

[az.com.na/nachrichten/mehr-mittel-fr-studierende2020-06-19](https://www.az.com.na/nachrichten/mehr-mittel-fr-studierende2020-06-19)



Allgemeine Zeitung

NAMIBIA



19 June 2020 | education

More funds for students

Student funds, NUST and UNAM receive almost N \$ 2.78 billion

Innovation is the foundation of progress, and higher education is the key to development. Therefore, the department receives 4.4 percent of the total funds in the current draft budget - a sum of 3.22 billion Namibia dollars, which is slightly more than last year.



The Minister for Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Itah Kandjii-Murangi.
Photo: Nampa archive

By Clemens von Alten, Windhoek

The two universities, NUST and UNAM, as well as the student finance fund NSFAP are to receive a total of 2.78 billion Namibia dollars, or 86 percent of the total budget earmarked for the department in the 2020/21 draft budget. This comes from the speech by the Minister for Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Itah Kandjii-Murangi, which she gave at the National Assembly on Monday.

"Higher education, technology and innovation are the cornerstones on which the Namibian transformation to a knowledge-based and industrialized economy will be based," said the minister. "We need diversified and professional human capital and an innovation-promoting system based on technology, research and science." In her speech, the politician emphasized that universities are the driving force for innovation and enable education and the exchange of expertise.

According to the minister, there are a total of 16 higher education institutions, two of which are public universities: University of Namibia (UNAM) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). "There are currently 67,000 students registered in the country, of which two thirds (67%) are female," said Kandjii-Murangi. "More than half study at either UNAM (28323 students) or NUST (12500), while the private International University of Management (IUM) has 10171 students." According to her, science, technology, engineering, and math courses are available 21 percent off, Masters and doctoral theses only 3.7 percent.

In the current draft budget, the University of UNAM will be allocated around 900 million Namibia dollars, while NUST will receive almost 504 million Namibia dollars. Significantly more funds are made available to the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF): 1.26 billion Namibia dollars. "The state study fund supported 27385 students with Namibia \$ 1.076 billion," said the minister, "and 14783 new students with Namibia \$ 496 million in the period 2019/20." The need for student financing is "rapidly" increasing and therefore new strategies are needed to guarantee the sustainability of the NSFAF fund. "We have started to collect debts," Kandjii-Murangi announced.

A considerable amount was also allocated to the training authority: "The Namibia Training Authority (NTA) receives 425.9 million Namibia dollars," said the minister. The aim is to implement the TVET concept (Technical, Vocational Education and Training) - an integrated system for coordinated vocational training. "To do this, we want to upgrade existing Vocational Training Centers and build new VTCs," said the politician. "The earthworks at the Nkurenkuru, Kunene and Keetmanshoop centers have already been completed." She also said that the agency received \$ 431.7 million in Namibia in the past financial year in the form of training levies (VET Levies).