



SIMON'S TOWN SCHOOL  
**LAWHILL MARITIME CENTRE**  
Investing in a future maritime generation since 1995



October 2025

## **BURSARY FEES - 2026**

The Lawhill Maritime Centre wishes to thank you for interest in helping us **invest in a future maritime generation**.

Your support will make it possible for us to build on a 30-year track record of successfully preparing young people for future careers in the maritime and related industries. *If not familiar with our programme, please do take a moment to visit our website and Facebook pages, as well as our Youtube channel.* <https://www.youtube.com/@lawhill>

*The channel includes a short video about our programme:* [https://youtu.be/Bbe6z0u\\_xUM?si=Yg1SKgy-Bx8WCRgy](https://youtu.be/Bbe6z0u_xUM?si=Yg1SKgy-Bx8WCRgy)

Although we are part of a Government School, the STS Lawhill Maritime Centre receives *no direct Government funding and is currently entirely reliant on the industry and individual donors to support its operation and maintain the high standards associated with our programme (this, despite facing increasing costs for food, utilities, fibre, transport, medical care etc)*

[AN 18A TAX CERTIFICATE IS PROVIDED FOR ALL BURSARY SPONSORSHIPS.](#)

## FULL BOARDING AND TUITION FEES

To adequately accommodate the educational, welfare and safety needs of the young people placed in our care, **our bursary fee for 2026 will be R109 400 per student, per annum. This is an increase of R4800 per student per annum (up from the R104600 fee charged in 2025) and represents a 4.59 percent increase in the fee.** As a comparison, the combined 2024 tuition and boarding fees of other Government subsidised schools in Cape Town is well over R120 000 per annum.

### How we calculate the bursary fee:

The annual bursary fee is based on the **ACTUAL costs**, divided by the number of students which will be accommodated in the **boarding programme**. Eg if total operating costs are R6 million and we accommodate 60 students, the bursary fee will be R100 000 per student.

The fee for the following year is decided in OCTOBER and is based on 10 months ACTUAL costs, plus two months anticipated costs. **Our main goal is to cover our operating costs in full and to encourage as many companies and individuals to sponsor students by charging as low a fee as possible.**

Based on actuals to date, it is estimated that the **2025 total operating expenses will be no more than R6 696 000** (fyi: 2024 costs were R6 093 241,01 so this is a 9,89 percent increase). In order to reduce the fee increase for 2026, we plan to accommodate additional boarders next year as the standard of applicants is very high and more students will help us to share the costs across more sponsors.

At this stage, we anticipate that our **2026 total expenses would be a minimum of R6 782 800** – this is a **1,3 percent increase** up from the R6 696 000 anticipated 2025 total expenses. We are looking into a number of options to reduce expenditure as much as possible, and hope that these will be realised.

### **WHAT THE BURSARY FEE COVERS:**

- Providing 24-hour care and supervision to boarding students for approximately 200 school days per year.
- Tuition (school fees for maximum 9 subjects) as well as full boarding costs (which includes all accommodation costs and three nutritious meals a day, 7 days a week)
- Salaries covering the costs of specialist maritime educators, a small team of support staff as well as payment for administrative services provided by Simon's Town School's Bursar.

- Ad-hoc costs associated with our maritime extra-mural programme which comprises swimming, rowing, diving, motorboating, sailing etc. These costs are in addition to those covered by the various programme sponsors. (Please see our YouTube Channel for video on our different extra-mural programmes).
- Lawhill building maintenance. Our building is 15 years old and is in need of major renovation in certain areas. The fee covers routine maintenance costs, but unfortunately not large/unplanned/emergency repairs to the building. Funds for these need to be raised separately.
- Student access to computers, printers and high-speed fibre as well as the professional maintenance of these essential services and items. Our student computers are about 8 years old so we do anticipate the need to replace them with refurbished laptops in the near future.
- Transporting students to industry outings and events as well as to doctors, dentists and other specialists – and more!

The bursary fee mentioned above excludes transportation (bus tickets and shuttle costs) four times a year for students who live away from Cape Town. This cost is only applicable to those who live within two or more hours of our hostel. The Lawhill invoice for 2026 will include the 2026 bursary fee as well as any BUS COSTS incurred for your student (and not yet paid to Lawhill) as well as an ESTIMATE OF 2026 BUS FEES. At the end of 2026, we will provide a statement which will indicate ACTUAL expenses and if there is a debit or credit due. Please contact us if you have any queries regarding the above arrangement, which has been put in place to assist us in managing our cash flow.

[We encourage bursary sponsors to commit to providing a bursary for the full three-year programme and hope that this will be something your organisation can, and will, consider.](#)

For budgeting purposes, we suggest the following budget for a three-year bursary from 2026 to 2028

- **2026 Fee – R109 400, per student, annual charge** - Tuition and boarding fee excluding transport costs.
- **2027 Fee** – Estimated max R114 000 per student, annual charge -Tuition and boarding fee. To be confirmed October 2026
- **2028 Fee** - Estimated max R119 000 per student, annual charged. Tuition and boarding fee. To be confirmed October 2027.

**Total = maximum R342400 (excluding transport costs) for a full three year commitment.**

Please budget an additional R30 000 per student per year for the bus transport costs for students to return home for the holidays. *Please note however that we will only invoice you for ACTUAL costs incurred and you are also only invoiced for students who are required to travel back home. Travel costs vary according to season/travel time as well as destination and it is not possible to provide a fixed rate. Please be assured that we do negotiate special rates with the service providers and will always, in the interest of student safety and cost savings, aim to have students travel outside of peak times (whenever possible).*

**Kindly note – we always welcome additional, ad-hoc financial contributions to supplement our budget, especially to cover:**

- unexpected emergency medical costs (as many families do not have medical aid)
- provision of Mental Health support (professional psychological support)
- Emergency building maintenance
- IT and WIFI upgrades

Unfortunately, we are not able to budget adequately for the above items as it is difficult to know what the demand for emergency health and maintenance services will be.

Thank you once again for your support and interest in our programme.

We look forward to your continued support as we work together to increasing the employment prospects of our youth and in doing so, help grow the South African economy and alleviate the scourge of poverty negatively impacting so many lives.

