



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Where leaders learn

ORIENTATION INFORMATION

For Exchange and Study Abroad Students

2012: SEMESTER 1

A product of
The International Office

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Welcome to Rhodes University! We hope that you will enjoy your stay here.

This booklet contains important information regarding your study at Rhodes. Please keep it in a safe place and refer back to it should you have any queries.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the International Office. We are situated in the Eden Grove building on Lucas Avenue.

Our email address: internationaloffice@ru.ac.za

Our website: www.ru.ac.za/international

Our Facebook page: [Rhodes University International Office](#)

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Rhodes University Numbers

International Office: 046 603 8217

Campus Protection Unit (CPU): 046 603 8146 / 8147 (Help desk), 046 603 8999 (Emergency)

Health Care Centre: 046 603 8523 or 082 801 1409

Counselling Centre: 046 603 7070

Psychological Emergencies Line: 082 803 0177

Get Home Safe Service: 084 869 9679 (Operates Wed, Fri and Sat 22h00-03h00)

Rhodes' Transport Office: 046 603 8234

Grahamstown Numbers

Police: 10111

Emergency: 10177

Ambulance: 083 708 2928 or 046 622 7976 (Medlife), or 082 911 (Netcare 911)

Fire Brigade: 046 622 4444

Other Useful Numbers

ABSA Health Care Consultants: 0860 100 380 or email absahealthcare@absa.co.za

Home Affairs Helpline: 0800 601 190

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE'S ADDRESSES

Postal Address (For normal mail):

International Office, Rhodes University
PO Box 94
Grahamstown
6140
SOUTH AFRICA

Physical Address (Your parents/friends can use this to send packages to you via courier or registered mail):

International Office
Eden Grove Building
Lucas Avenue
Rhodes University
Grahamstown
6140

IMPORTANT DATES

There are a few important dates that you should diarise:

Public Holidays:

21 March - Human Rights Day
6 April - Good Friday (Friday before Easter Sunday)
9 April - Family Day (Monday after Easter Sunday)
27 April - Freedom Day
1 May - Workers Day
16 June - Youth Day

Please note: On public holidays, all businesses, banks and the University are closed.

Orientation Week: 6 – 10 February

Commencement of Lectures: Monday 13 February

Last day to change courses: Friday 24 February

Please note that after this date, you will be allowed to drop courses, but you will not be allowed to pick up any new courses.

Please come to the International Office to change courses.

April Vacation: 31 March – 15 April

Swot Days: Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June

Exams: Saturday 2 June – Friday 22 June

Expected notification of credits: 16 July

Please note that your transcript will be sent directly to your home institution, not directly to you (except if you are an independent study abroad student), and only once your Rhodes student account is settled.

ARRIVAL AT RHODES UNIVERSITY

Airport Collection

Upon arrival at Port Elizabeth Airport, you will be collected by Blunden Shuttles. If required, they can be contacted at 046 622 7939 (Grahamstown Office) or 041 451 4803 (Head Office – 24 hours).

Port Elizabeth Airport is tiny, so do not worry about getting lost. Just collect your bags, and walk out the nearest door – you'll see all the shuttles, taxis and cars waiting there.

Arrival in Grahamstown

On arrival in Grahamstown, the shuttle will drop you off at your allocated residence. (Please consult your welcome letter for the name of your residence.) As it will be orientation for all the first year students, the residence's sub-wardens and house committee will be there to welcome you.

You will need to present yourself to the International Office at the times given in your Welcome Letter in order to register administratively, so that your meals will become available. Please ask the warden or sub-warden at your residence for directions: we are located in the Eden Grove Building on Lucas Avenue. If you arrive after 17h00, come to us the next day as soon as you have woken up. The warden / sub-warden at your residence will know that you are arriving late so do not worry about not getting in.

You will need to bring the following with you to Administrative Registration:

1. Your passport with your valid study visa/permit.
2. Your welcome letter that provides your student number.
3. Confirmation of membership to a South African Medical Aid (Provided by the ABSA Health Care Consultants).
4. A smile! You will be photographed for your student ID card.

Once registered, you will be able to access your meals, and within two days, you will gain Internet access.

Orientation

There will be a number of events happening over your Orientation week. Most important will be your meetings with the International Office, which will concern your Administrative Registration and your Curriculum Approval. Please consult our International Office programme – the events we have organised for you are compulsory and you will be at a disadvantage should you not attend.

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Teaching at Rhodes

Rhodes is one of the smallest universities in South Africa, with just over 7000 students. We also have a very high percentage of international students – approximately 20%. The norm in South Africa is between 5% and 10%. We view the small size of the university as a distinct advantage, and for the past few years, Rhodes has had the highest undergraduate pass rate in South Africa and the highest research output per academic staff in the country. The student to lecturer ratio is 15:1, which ensures that our students have a close interaction with their lecturers. All courses are presented in English (apart from courses in the School of Languages, some of which are presented in the language studied). Our academic year begins in February and we operate on a two semester system, with partial semesterisation of courses. The first semester runs from February to June and the second semester from July to November.

Rhodes University has six faculties, the largest of which is the Humanities faculty. Short-term students predominantly take courses in the Humanities faculty. It should be noted that not all courses in all faculties are available to short-term students.

Lectures and Tutorials

Lectures are 45 minutes long with a 10 minute break in-between. Courses at first and second year level will usually meet 4 times per week (ie. 4 lecture periods per week). Courses at third year level may meet more often, up to 8 times per week.

In addition to lectures, students are required to attend tutorials, which are small discussion groups. You will be assigned tutorial times by your departments. Some courses also have practical lessons – like tutorials, you will be assigned practical times by your departments. Please make sure that you find out when and where your tutorials are: to do so ask the secretary of each department.

Lectures are generally held in the mornings, with tutorial or practical sessions held in the afternoons. Each department has their own attendance requirements – please take note of these in the relevant departmental handbooks. For most departments, attendance at tutorials and practicals are compulsory, and some also require attendance at lectures.

Please peruse the Lecture Timetable in the 2012 University Calendar.

Please note the following:

A { } bracket indicates alternate tutorial times – following your departmental registration, your department will allocate you to one of these times, based on your lecture schedule.

For example, Drama 1 has a total of eight weekly tutorial sessions scheduled on eg. Monday periods 9 and 10, Tuesday periods 9 and 10, Wednesday periods 9 and 10, and Thursday periods 9 and 10. The Drama department will assign you to ONE of these periods.

A [] bracket indicates a repeat lecture – i.e. the lecture is repeated in both lecture periods. Students are asked to commit to certain times and to follow that particular “stream”.

For example, Sociology 1 usually has the following lecture periods: Monday period 2 OR 3, Tuesday period 3 OR 4, Wednesday period 4 OR 5 and Thursday period 5 OR 6. You would attend ONE per day.

Once you have decided on your courses, fill in your lecture and tutorial slots in the timetable that was in your welcome pack and ensure that you do not have a clash. Note: A clash between a lecture and a tutorial is not taken as a reason to miss the tutorial – you are required to change your tutorial time.

Each course will have its own minimum requirement of work that a student needs to meet called a “DP” (Duly Performed), which will involve details such as how many classes and tutorials you need to attend in order to be allowed to write the final examinations. This is normally about 80%. If your DP certificate is withdrawn you will not be allowed to write the final examination and you will not receive a credit for that course.

Please ensure that you are aware of the DP requirements for each course. For example, making sure you know the dates that assignments are due and when tests will be written. Should you fail to hand in an assignment timeously or write a test, it is likely that you will lose your DP.

Should you need to be absent from a lecture, tutorial, or test, you will need to get a “Leave of Absence” (LOA) slip signed by the relevant Head of Department. You can usually get these from the Secretary or Office Administrator of each department. You may also have to provide a doctor’s note, or get the LOA signed by your warden or a staff member at the Health Care Centre.

Registration and Course Approval

Please note: As an international exchange or study abroad student, your course selection is facilitated through the International Office and not through the Faculty Dean. You may be told by your House Warden, house committee members or other students that ALL students are required to get curriculum approval via their Faculty Dean or Faculty representative. This only applies to degree-seeking students and does not apply to short-term exchange and study abroad students.

There are four parts to the Registration process: (1) Administrative Registration, (2) Departmental Visits, (3) Curriculum Approval, and (4) Tutorial Sign-up.

1. The International Office staff will take all the Exchange and Study Abroad students to the Administrative Registration.
2. You are required to meet with the Head of the Academic department to obtain permission for a particular course. The Head of Department must grant written permission for you to attend the course. You will have the opportunity to visit various academic departments on **Thursday 9 February**.
3. The signed permission slips from each Head of Department need to be returned to the International Office so that courses can be registered onto the central University computer system. This is referred to as Curriculum Approval and takes place on **Friday 10 February** at the International Office.
4. In addition to registering courses at the International Office, you will need to be assigned to a tutorial group. Please check with your department with regards to these groups. Some departments require passport size photographs – if you need photographs, please first check with the International Office as we may have additional photographs on file. Please also enquire from each department as to the lecture venue for your lectures so that you are prepared for lectures on the first day of term.

Lectures commence on Monday 13 February.

Please note that the onus is on you to ensure that any courses taken at Rhodes are acceptable for transfer credit to your home university. The International Office is happy to help you with any problems you may have in this regard. Please note that the deadline for any changes in courses is **Friday 24 February**.

Transfer Credits and Academic Transcripts

Credit weighting for Exchange or Study Abroad students is calculated on a similar basis to the American system to facilitate transfer of courses and grades. All exchange or visiting short-term students are required to take a full-time course load (equivalent to 16 semester hour credits per semester) for the duration of the semester. You may drop to 12 credits per semester with the permission of your home institution only. This permission needs to be emailed to the International Office for our records (internationaloffice@ru.ac.za).

Courses at first and second year level are weighted at 4 semester credit hours and courses at third year level are weighted at 8 semester credit hours. Where a course is divided into papers (sub-courses), students are required to take all necessary papers to make up the full semester course. Individual course approval is subject to permission from the relevant Head of Department, class space, lecture time-tabling, and prerequisite restrictions.

You will only receive credits for each course if you have completed the DP requirements, written the exams, and passed the course (on the Rhodes' standards). Should you fail (which is a mark below 50%), this will be reflected on your transcript, and Rhodes will not alter this.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the courses you take will be recognised by your home institution.

If you would like to have a course registered on a pass/fail basis, you are required to get permission from your home institution. Your home institution must inform our International Office via email before Friday 24 February. This can only be done in certain instances.

Your transcript will be prepared once your exams have been marked. This takes two to three weeks after the end of exams. Once the International Office has received your transcript, it will be sent directly to your home institution, except for independent study abroad students. Your home institution will release your transcript to you at their discretion.

Your transcript WILL NOT be released if there are any fees outstanding.

Examinations

Examinations are written from **Saturday 2 June – Friday 22 June**. You are required to write examinations at the end of the semester and may not leave the University before all your examinations have been completed.

Please note that most marks for a course are derived from the exam and not from continuous assessment. Visiting students often find that learning for exams takes more time than they are used to.

Exams are written from Monday to Saturday. Please note that exams need to be written on the specified date – no alternate arrangements can be made. Should you miss an exam, you will require a doctor's note. You may have to write two exams on the same day, so please plan your studying accordingly. Should you have two exams scheduled for the same exam session, you will be required to write both exams on the same day, and will not be allowed to leave the stipulated exam venue. You will have to notify the Registrar about your clash so that arrangements can be made.

The exam timetable is released between the middle and end of the third term and will be available online (<http://www.scifac.ru.ac.za/examtime.htm>). Ensure that you regularly check the timetable since some of the information may change as problems arise. Take time to familiarise yourself with the rules and regulations concerning examinations. The date to report clashes will also be given on the timetable.

Do not make any travel arrangements to leave Grahamstown before the end of the exam period until the final exam timetable has been released.

Student Cards

You will be issued with a student card when you register at Rhodes, and you are required to carry it at all times. In addition to being a form of identification on campus, student cards are also used for making photocopies at the Library and for printing in the computer laboratories. Charges are levied for both photocopies and printing, and students are required to “load” money onto printing accounts. This can be done at the Cashier's Office, which is located in the Student Bureau, Eden Grove. Students normally load R50-00 at a time, either by paying cash or by debiting student accounts. It can also be done via ROSS (Rhodes Online Student System: <https://ross.ru.ac.za/>). Note that it takes a day for any funds to be reflected. Unused funds on your printing balance will be credited to your student account at the end of the semester.

Should you lose your student card, you can replace it at the Student Bureau for a small charge.

Residence and Meal Access

As of 2010, Rhodes uses fingerprint access for the residences and the meals. Each student staying in residence has their fingerprints recorded in an electronic reader during registration. This has replaced the “dallas chip” system.

Library

The main library is situated in the middle of campus. It provides many resources, including access to many electronic journals. Please ensure that you attend the Library workshop that appears on your Orientation programme. During this workshop, you will be introduced to the library system, and shown how to use the electronic resources.

The library allows books to be taken out for different times. Most books can be loaned for two weeks. Popular books will only be loaned out for 48 hours. Some courses will reserve books for their students on short-loan: these books are loaned out for an hour, and may not be removed from the library.

Library times:

Term time:

Mon – Thurs : 08h30-22h30

Friday: 08h30-18h00

Saturday: 09h00-21h00

Sunday: 13h30-17h30

Examinations:

Mon – Thurs: 08h30-24h00

Friday: 08h30-21h00

Saturday: 08h30-21h00

Sunday: 13h30-21h00

Vacations:

Weekdays: 08h30-17h00

Saturdays: 09h00-12h30

Before you can borrow books from the Library, you will need to sign on as a borrower. You will need to present your student ID card for this, but as the University relies on data from the Registrar's Division being transferred to the Library system, there will be a day or two's delay between your University registration and your ability to sign up at the Library.

For more information, visit their website: <http://www.ru.ac.za/library>

Internet and the QUOTA system

Rhodes University has several computer labs from which you can connect to the Internet, the most popular being the Jacaranda ("Jac") Labs on Artillery Road by the School of Languages, the Eden Grove Labs in the Eden Grove Building, and the Union Labs in the Bantu Stephen Biko Building (previously "the Union") on Prince Alfred Road.

It is also possible to connect from your own computer in your residence room. To do this, you need to sign up for Student Networking (previously "Resnet"). You need to speak to your Student Networking Representative – each house has one. Ask your sub-warden who the Student Networking "Rep" is. You will need a flylead to connect to the Rhodes network, which you can buy from the IT Shop (situated in the IT building on Artillery Road), and which can be debited to your student account as a miscellaneous cost.

The cost of signing up for Student Networking is R1 088-00 for one year. This can be debited to your student account as a miscellaneous cost. Unfortunately this is the standard cost and the IT Division will not make exceptions for short-term students.

You can find out more about student networking here: <http://www.ru.ac.za/studentnetworking>

If you have problems with your network connection or other technical problems, approach your Student Networking Rep for help first. If s/he cannot help you, contact student support:

studentsupport@ru.ac.za

The Help Desk (in the basement of the Bantu Stephen Biko Building – which is next to the pool) is also open at the following times, so take your computer to them for help:

Monday & Wednesday:	19h00 – 21h00
Tuesday & Thursday:	13h00 – 15h00 & 19h00 – 21h00
Friday & Saturday:	closed
Sunday:	13h00 – 15h00

During registration and orientation week, the Student Help Desk will be open at the following times: **05 – 11 February 2011: 13:00 – 15:00**

Please note: The Student Help Desk is closed during University vacations and may also be closed during examination periods.

EMAIL

Please note that Rhodes considers email as their primary mode of communication, and all communication from the University and the International Office will be sent to your Rhodes' student email account. Ensure that you check your Rhodes' student email account regularly.

Your address will be: studentnumber@campus.ru.ac.za eg: g12a1234@campus.ru.ac.za

QUOTA

It is important to note that Rhodes uses a **quota** system to manage its Internet bandwidth. Internet bandwidth in South Africa is still very expensive, and as a result Rhodes has limited Internet bandwidth. Due to this, Rhodes allocates each user with a portion of the Internet bandwidth ("quota"). Once you have used up your quota, you will be denied access to the Internet. The quota is calculated on a two-week sliding scale, so that it is your total use for the last two weeks that determines your access. As you get close to using up your quota, you will experience a delay in your connection, and once you reach your quota, you will be cut off until your total use decreases again. You will find that watching videos, using Skype and other Internet media applications (MSN voice and video chat, Internet radio, etc), and browsing media-heavy sites will quickly deplete your quota, so be careful. Due to this, Skype is not recommended, and you will be shown a warning before visiting sites like Facebook and YouTube.

Sites on the Rhodes intranet do not count towards your quota, so even if you have used up your quota and have been denied access to the Internet, you will still be able to access your student email, the library, and all Rhodes sites.

Your quota applies whether you use your own computer or the lab computers. You can monitor your quota usage at this site: www.ru.ac.za/quota

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Student Fees

Independent Study Abroad students: You are required to pay tuition fees, accommodation fees, the international surcharge, the exchange administration fee, and all miscellaneous fees.

Students from our partner institutions: Depending on the type of exchange or study abroad agreement that Rhodes University has with your home institution, you may be exempt from paying tuition fees to Rhodes, or you may be exempt from paying tuition and accommodation fees to Rhodes. You will be expected to pay for all miscellaneous fees as well as the exchange administrative fee.

The exchange administrative fee: This is a non-refundable fee that covers application fees, administrative costs, and initial arrival costs.

Miscellaneous fees include: departmental handouts costs, books, society and club fees, printing charges, photocopying charges, student networking charges, items bought from the IT shop, charges for lost keys or student cards, library fines, and so on. Students can debit their student accounts throughout the semester with various miscellaneous costs.

You are also liable for all travel costs, personal living expenses, and medical insurance. Note: You should have paid your Medical Aid directly for your medical insurance before your arrival in South Africa.

Important note: Your transcript will not be released until your student account has been settled. You are expected to settle your account before you leave Rhodes at the end of your semester. It is recommended that you pay your tuition, accommodation fees (if you are liable for these), and your exchange administration fee before you arrive. You would have received a proforma invoice from our office indicating your financial responsibilities before your arrival. You will also need to settle any miscellaneous fees at the end of the semester before you leave South Africa.

Meal refunds: Please note that International short-term Exchange or Study Abroad students **DO NOT** qualify for meal refunds.

You can pay your fees via credit card or direct bank transfer. Should you wish to pay via a credit card, please visit the Student Fees office in the Main Administration Building on Drostdy Road.

Bank Details:

Bank:	First National Bank
Branch:	Grahamstown
Bank Address:	High Street, Grahamstown
Account Name:	FNB Student Fees Account
Account Number:	621 455 04553
Branch Code:	210717
Swift Code:	FIRNZAJJ
<u>Reference Number:</u>	Your student number (e.g. 612A1234)

If you are uncertain what your institution will cover in terms of costs, please ask us at the International Office. If you would like an invoice detailing what you owe, please send us an email requesting one (internationaloffice@ru.ac.za).

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Residences

You are likely to be staying in a residence whilst on campus. Students are accommodated in private rooms in same sex residences on campus, easily in walking distance from lecture venues and from town. The University has twelve Halls of residence and each Hall comprises three or four houses of between 50 and 120 students, grouped around a central Dining Hall.

Each residence has its own culture and we encourage our students to get involved in the various events that will be held at each residence. Rhodes University has students from a diverse range of backgrounds, with 20% of our students being from Africa and the rest of the world. Residence activities are a perfect opportunity to get to learn not only about the South African culture, but about other cultures. There will be inter-res sporting activities, various community engagement projects, and several cultural activities – get involved!

The support system of the residences is set up as follows: there is a Hall Warden, three or four House Wardens, several sub-wardens, and a House Committee, any of whom will be able to offer you assistance. Your residence Warden or sub-warden will advise you on matters such as:

- meal times, meal choice and meal bookings (with fingerprint access);
- laundry arrangements;
- the various residence rules to which you will be expected to adhere to. Note particularly that there are “visiting hours” and outside of these hours, friends and partners will not be allowed in the res. This is for safety and study reasons, and there will be strict penalties should you ignore these rules.

Meals are planned on a two-week cycle, and for lunch and supper, a student can choose from one of six meal types. Meal preferences can be changed via ROSS (<https://ross.ru.ac.za/>) at any time during the semester, but please note that it takes two days for this change to be reflected.

The meal booking system allows for full-time students to unbook meals to a certain limit and obtain a cash refund at the end of the year. Please note that this is NOT permitted for international short-term students.

Rooms in residence are equipped with all the basic furniture. Curtains and bedding (duvets, sheets, pillow slips and pillows) are supplied, but towels are not. All residences are equipped with a microwave for reheating food and each residence has at least one refrigerator. No student is permitted to have a refrigerator in his/her room. Washing machines and tumble driers are available in designated laundry areas in residences but you will need to supply your own washing powder and fabric softener.

The House Warden or sub-warden will be able to advise/assist you should you need medical attention or have any special requests.

Holiday Accommodation

Over the April vacation, you will be expected to vacate your room. You will be allowed back into your residence the day before term starts (**Sunday 15 April**).

If you would like to stay over the vacation, you need to apply for holiday accommodation, and you will be charged an extra fee (which will not be covered by your home institution). It is likely that you will have to move to a different residence for the vacation. To apply for holiday accommodation, please go to the Student Bureau in Eden Grove and complete the Late Departure and Early Arrival Form.

Over the vacation period, most short-term students travel around South Africa and possibly even visit our neighbouring countries. The International Office website (www.ru.ac.za/international) has listed some useful links for travelling in South Africa, under "Links." Note that all travel expenses incurred are your responsibility.

In June, you will be expected to vacate your room two days after your final exam. This applies to all students, and is aimed at ensuring that the residences are conducive to studying over the exam period.

Transport

Grahamstown is a very small town, so you will be able to walk everywhere easily. However, for safety reasons, please note that you should avoid walking alone, particularly at night. In recognition that there are safety concerns, the Dean of Students Office provides a free *Get Home Safe* service to students who find themselves in difficulty late at night. The service operates only on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights between 22h00 and 03h00. Please phone 084 869 9679 should you require this service.

For a full time taxi service, you can sign up for Rhode Trip. Rhode Trip is a taxi/shuttle service provided to students for a nominal fee. It can take you anywhere in Grahamstown. You simply send a text or call them and they will collect you and drop you off. Once you have signed up for the service, you will be given the number to text/call. See their website for more details: www.rhodetrip.co.za. You can debit this cost to your student account. Note that it is considered a miscellaneous cost and you would be liable for it. Their offices are next to the FNB ATM machine in the Steven Biko building. Their email is: info@rhodetrip.co.za and contact number: 082 925 5971.

Other taxi services (ideal for transport to the airport, for example) are JC Shuttles and Blunden Coach Tours. Both companies will require you to pay directly:

JC Shuttles Tel: 046 622 2481 or 083 590 2169

Blunden Coach Tours (next to Spur)

Web: <http://www.blunden.co.za/news/20-blunden-opens-in-grahamstown>

Tel: 046 622 7939

Email: reservations@blunden_tours.co.za, marlene@blunden.co.za or Odette@blunden.co.za

Note that at the beginning and end of term, Rhodes University offers transport to Port Elizabeth airport for R110-00 (one-way). You have to book in advance, via ROSS (<https://ross.ru.ac.za/>), or you can email the Transport Office: Student.transport@ru.ac.za. If you fail to book in advance (less than 7 days before you wish to travel), or if you do not fill the seat that you booked, you will be fined.

If you would like to travel around South Africa, there are a variety of options available to you. Some useful sites:

- Alternative Route (hostel guide): <http://www.alternativeroute.net/>
- Budget Car Rental can be contacted at: (046) 603 8109
- Coast 2 Coast (hostel guide): <http://www.coastingafrica.com/>
- Greyhound (bus travel): <http://www.greyhound.co.za/>
- Nomad Africa (Guided Tours): <http://www.nomadtours.co.za>
- Travelstart (for cheap airfare): <http://www.travelstart.co.za/index.jsp>

Safety

Visiting students regularly ask about crime as South Africa unfortunately has a very high crime rate. While Grahamstown is smaller, and is to a degree safer than many of the big cities, students should still be aware that there is a risk. Grahamstown and Rhodes students are affected by petty crimes such as theft, as well as more serious crimes such as rape. You should be cautious and follow basic safety precautions such as:

- ensure that your room is locked when you are not in the vicinity;
- avoid lonely places, particularly at night;
- do not walk alone at night, even on campus;
- do not ever hitchhike;
- try not to have your valuable items in sight when you are in public;
- do not leave valuable items near your windows, even if you are not on the ground floor;
- lock your laptop to your desk, even in your room (laptop locks are available from the IT shop);
- be aware of your surroundings and people around you;
- keep your bags zipped closed when walking in town;
- never let people you do not know into your residence.

Rhodes has a **Campus Protection Unit (046 603 8146 / 8147 (Help desk), 046 603 8999 (Emergency))** located just next to Hobson Hall. The Unit is open 24 hours per day and provides highly visible patrols on campus. Students can arrange for a guard to walk them home at night from anywhere on campus. If you are in immediate physical danger, go to a safe place and call them to come to help you.

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In the cases of assault or rape, go straight to the Health Care Centre

Tel: 046 603 8523 After hours: 082 801 1409

Venue: Lucas Avenue (the road up to the 1820 Settler's national Monument, or accessed from the car park behind Oriel House).

Our trained nurses will assist and advise you with any medical, psychological and legal procedures that you may need to take. Your privacy will be respected and you will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

The formal policy for sexual harassment and sexual assault response is available here: <https://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/deanofstudents/documents/policies/Sexual%20assault.pdf>

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Medical Matters

Malaria: Grahamstown is in a malaria-free area of South Africa – Malaria is only a concern if you travel in the northern part of South Africa (the Limpopo province, particularly the Kruger National Park). Consult a medical doctor to find out more about the preventative measures you can take.

HIV/AIDS: HIV in South Africa is a serious health risk and affects people of all races, sexualities and ages. If you are sexually active, please practice safe sex – condoms are freely available in the residences (usually in the bathrooms) and in the library bathrooms. For more information on the Student HIV/AIDS Resistance Campaign, see <http://sharc.soc.ru.ac.za/>.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FEEL ILL

The Health Care Centre: The Rhodes Health Care Centre is the first place to go to if you are feeling sick. It is run by qualified nursing sisters who can attend to minor ailments, dispense medicines, render first aid and also remove stitches, dress wounds and give injections. Clinic times are set, but there is a sister on duty or on call 24 hours a day, so emergencies can be dealt with at all times.

Contact: **046 603 8523** After hours: **082 801 1409**

The Health Care Centre has an in-patient facility, which is available free of charge to all students in residence. There are 16 beds for in-patients suffering from infectious diseases or ailments, and for those recovering after surgical procedures. It is also a haven for those suffering from stress, anxiety or depression.

Finally, please note that the Health Care Centre offers confidential, free HIV and pregnancy testing.

The Health Care Centre can be reached from Lucas Avenue (the road up to the 1820 Settler's National Monument) or from the car park behind Oriel House.

Doctors and Pharmacies: Should you require a doctor, you should see the doctor you were designated when you signed up for Medical Aid. This should be on your membership letter. If you need to make an appointment, the International Office is happy to assist. You will need to supply proof of membership (either your membership card or confirmation letter) for the doctor's office.

There are a number of pharmacies (drug stores) in town:

Wallace's Pharmacy	Peppergrove Mall	046 622 7320
Clicks' Pharmacy	42 High Street	046 636 1264
Grahamstown Pharmacy	117 High Street	046 622 7116
RET Butler Pharmacy	110 High Street	046 622 7305

For other medical services available in Grahamstown, please see:

<http://www.ru.ac.za/studentzone/studentlife/medicalservices>

Should you need assistance regarding your Medical Aid, you should contact our ABSA Health Care Consultant. She can assist you if you require a refund, if you need authorisation for certain medical procedures, or if you have general queries. She can be contacted on marinda.potgieter@absa.co.za or +27 (0)41 396 5596. Alternatively, email absahealthcare@absa.co.za or call 0860 100 380 (while in South Africa).

Counselling Centre: Rhodes also has a counselling centre situated on the Top Floor of the Bantu Stephen Biko Building (previously “the Union”), which is a good place to go if you are experiencing emotional or psychological problems. It offers personal counselling and short-term psychotherapy which is provided free of charge. Crisis intervention is available in conjunction with other campus services.

Opening Times: 8h30 – 13h00 and 14h00 – 17h00 on weekdays

Contact during working hours: 046 603 7070

The 24 hour emergency line is: 082 803 0177

Email: counsellingcentre@ru.ac.za

Sport Clubs and Societies

There are a number of sports clubs on campus, including a well-equipped Health Suite. For further details, please see <http://www.ru.ac.za/sportsadmin/>. Sports Administration is the place to join any sport clubs.

A wide variety of student societies are active on campus. The Student Representative Council (SRC) Office, located in the Bantu Stephen Biko Building, will be able to give further information and assist you in joining societies. Society and Club membership fees vary from approximately R70-00 to R350-00 depending on the society/club and costs will be debited to your student account as miscellaneous costs, for which you are liable.

Poverty

Grahamstown has a very high unemployment rate and you will confront poverty every time you go into town. The majority of our citizens subsist on state pensions, and medical and welfare grants for their sole income. There are a large number of street children. There are opportunities to volunteer or give money to one of the many charitable organisations that are devoted to looking after street children.

Volunteer Work

Rhodes University offers students an opportunity to do volunteer work and help the community of Grahamstown. There are a variety of projects to choose from, which work to improve the psychological and material welfare of people in need, and help is always appreciated!

For those interested in doing volunteer work, please visit the Centre for Social Development (CSD) on Prince Alfred Street, or email them.

Website: <http://www.ru.ac.za/csd>

Contact: csd@ru.ac.za and 046 603 8573

Please also visit the Community Engagement website for more information on how Rhodes University staff and students get involved in various projects: <http://www.ru.ac.za/communityengagement/>.

Language

South Africa has 11 official languages. You will get by perfectly adequately with English in the Eastern Cape. You are likely to hear Afrikaans and isiXhosa spoken in Grahamstown.

We follow the British spelling of English in many words. It differs from the American spelling of several words, mainly those with z's in them (eg. organise), and words like "colour." Certain American terms (eg. "the drug store") will not be known here and might occasion blank looks.

You may hear some of the following local words:

Braai	=	barbecue
Ja	=	yes
Robot	=	traffic light
Just now	=	does not mean immediately, but in the next while
Now now	=	also does not mean immediately, but in the next while
Shame	=	used to denote sympathy

People tend to abbreviate words. Some of the common ones which you will hear on campus are:

Res.	=	residence
Tuts.	=	tutorials
Socs.	=	student societies
San.	=	the Health Care Centre
Vac.	=	vacation
DP	=	Duly Performed certificate

Money Matters and Units of Measure

South Africa uses the Rand. R1-00 consists of 100 cents.

Foreign currency – US Dollars, British Pounds, Euros etc. cannot be used as legal tender in the country. Most major credit cards are generally accepted throughout – ideally VISA or MASTERCARD. Banks will convert travellers' cheques and cash foreign currency, but stores and shops will not. ATM machines will recognise major credit cards.

There are four banks in town, should you require them:

Standard Bank	High Street
First National Bank	High Street
ABSA	High Street
Nedbank	High Street

South Africa is decimalised and has been since 1960. Hardly anyone will understand miles/pints etc. Distances are measured in meters/kilometres; fluids in litres; weight in kilograms.

Weather

Grahamstown has weather rather than a climate! The weather fluctuates wildly here, and a bright and sunny day may end with a rain storm. Cold fronts sweeping in from the southern oceans affect the weather throughout the year. It is quite common for temperatures to vary from 30 down to 15 degrees Celsius (about 90 – 50 F) in a few hours. Summers are warm or hot and fairly wet, and winters are cool.

Please note that you need to use a good sun block in South Africa or you could get badly sunburnt. One does tend to “burn” more easily here than in the northern hemisphere, particularly in the summer months.

Post

Post can take between 10 and 14 days for overseas mail to arrive. Parcels are likely to be inspected by customs and high charges are often levied by customs on the value of parcels entering the country. We recommend that for all parcels sent, you ensure that the sender obtains a tracking number, to help you trace your parcel.

Should you require items to be posted to you, you can use either your residence’s postal address, or the International Office’s postal address (see page 4). If you use the International Office postal address, we will email you when your letter or parcel arrives.

Feedback

The International Office appreciates feedback. At the end of the semester, we will send out an exit questionnaire, which you can complete (anonymously if preferred) and give back to us. We are also always keen for stories and photographs to put on our website. If at any time you have something you would like to share, that you think future students would like to know about, please feel free to email us and we will post it online.

You can currently see some photos and stories at this address:

<http://www.ru.ac.za/international/internationalstudents/exchangeandstudyabroad>

Extending your stay

Should you wish to stay longer than your study visa permits, you will have to apply for either an extended study visa (should you wish to stay another semester at Rhodes) or a visitor’s visa at the Port Elizabeth Home Affairs. Please ask the International Office for advice regarding this, or call the toll-free Home Affairs number: 0800 601 190.

Note that you will not be permitted to stay without your host institution’s permission.

Have a lovely stay in South Africa!

NOTES

