General Information (accommodation/transport)

Much of the Grahamstown community is geared toward accommodating students, with many houses being rented out as digs, garden flats leased out and rooms in or sections of houses sub-let to students.

**What exactly is an ‘Oppidan’ and what are ‘digs’?**

All students who do not live in a Rhodes residence are known as Oppidans, oppidan being the Old English for ‘town-dweller’, as in a student at Rhodes boarding in the town. Digs refers to the actual accommodation you will live in, which does not form part of the residence system. Over a thousand students live in digs, flats, or at home if they’re from Grahamstown and this number is growing every year.

The Oppi Committee is available for information regarding accommodation the Secretary, Mrs Karen Van Heerden, may be contacted by e-mailing [oppidan.secretary@ru.ac.za](mailto:oppidan.secretary@ru.ac.za) or visit Oppidan website ([www.ru.ac.za/oppidan](http://www.ru.ac.za/oppidan)).

There are also local estate agents who advertise accommodation through various local newspapers and there are various notice boards within Grahamstown and on Rhodes campus that frequently advertise.

Pam Golding Ashlea 082 826 3409; 084 511 1519

grahamstown@pamgolding.co.za

Just property Sharine 074 930 9203; 078 286 8056

RAY.GHT@JUSTLETTING.CO.ZA

Independent Property Consultants Monika 082 855 0015; 072 621 2846

Info@ipcgrahamstown.co.za

Remax office 046 622 6061 or 079 491 8355

www.remaxfrontier.co.za

Southeby’s Hayley 083 565 5039; 082445 9839

**How much does accommodation usually cost?**

Accommodation in Grahamstown can cost you anywhere between R1500.00 further out of town and from R2500.00 per room and up if you live in town.  Bachelor Flat in town from R2500 out of town and up to R3500; a one bedroomed unit **from** R3500 in town. You must be aware of extra charges that may be exclusive of rent. These are:

* Lights and Water - budget between R400.00 to R650.00 per month (pre-paid).
* Refundable Deposit – estimated R1500 – R3000 – This goes to the local municipality to have the electricity & water connected should the advert not indicate ‘pre-paid meter’. Students sharing a house would normally share this cost.

**I have seen in some ads the phrases ‘Post Grad’ or ‘Mature student’ preferred. What does this mean?**  
‘Post Grad’ means that students who are doing either their honours or masters or PhD degrees are being sought for the house. Mature students would normally indicate students in their 3rd or 4th year of university or a student over 20 years of age.

**Is accommodation furnished?**

Most of the houses are unfurnished and would indicate that there is no furniture in the house unless otherwise stated. Please check whether there is a stove and fridge. If not these would have to be bought. Should the advert state ‘partly’ furnished, please check with the landlord/lady or estate agent what furniture is provided. Not all houses or flats have off street parking, so please check this as well.  
  
**I don’t own a car and need an indication as to how far digs is from campus roughly?**

This varies tremendously. Walking comfortably to campus from digs can range from 10 minutes to 45 minutes, depending on the distance of digs. The SRC does have a bus service and the Oppidans have their own bus that runs in the evening from the library. The operating times are 17h00 & 22:00. This service is generally for students working in the library and not a general bus service. The bus leaves every hour on the hour daily.

With regard to food, Rhodes University does have the option of eating some meals in residence dining halls, but there are a limited number of vacancies. Oppidans also have their own dining hall. The meals are good value for money and a wide range of menus are offered. The person to contact about the cost and availability is Renette Kleinhans: +27 46 603 8608, or you can email [meals@ru.ac.za](mailto:meal@ru.ac.za)

**What other expenses am I likely to incur?**

Basic survival costs would include:

* Food (this can vary from R2500 - R3500 per month)
* Laundry (laundries charges from R120 per wash(5kg) excluding ironing)
* Domestic help (Ranges from R130 - R200 per day)
* Transport TAXI within Grahamstown (R35 - R50 per trip depending on distance from campus)
* Transport Grahamstown - Port Elizabeth airport - R250 - R750; depending if you are sharing

Contact: Blunden 041 451 4803 or 041 581 4566 odette@blunden.co.za

JC Shuttle 083 590 2169 or 083 444 8226 [jcshuttle@vodacom.co.za](mailto:jcshuttle@vodacom.co.za) (local transport and to PE)

Leslie Kortrooi 083 762 9164 (local transport and to Port Elizabeth)

Mark Bridger 083 721 2296 (local transport and to Port Elizabeth)

Go Travel 046 622 2235