



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Where leaders learn

The Department of Computer Science

Rhodes University has a history of high achievement and is committed to meeting the challenges of the present and future. It is an internationally accepted education centre of excellence, which recognises its southern African setting and the need to meet international standards in an open society. The University is dedicated to cultivating intellects in people who will courageously pursue the truth whatever the circumstances.

Please read this handbook. It is designed to make your life easier and facilitate the smooth running of the Department.
We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Please refer to the online version of this handbook at
<http://www.ru.ac.za/computerscience/undergraduate/departmentalhandbook/>
for updated information about courses and related details.

Cover Photograph

The cover of this year's Handbook was inspired by an Honours research project conducted by Keagan Ellenberger in 2021, which looked at finding point sources in imperfect astronomical images from radio-telescopes (the original images from Keagan's research are shown on the back cover). The project is a good example of cross-disciplinary research (involving Physics and Computer Science in this case). These images show how the original signal source is blurred by interference from the atmosphere and other radio-frequency sources, leading to the image captured by a radio-telescope being "dirty".

Contacting the Department

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Welcome to the Department of Computer Science

Our era will be known in history as the age of Information & Communication Technology. In the Department of Computer Science, we are committed to preparing you for life in the Information Age.

Do you imagine yourself as a software developer, a project manager, a software engineer, network administrator, general ICT consultant, an entrepreneur in ICT sales and servicing, a systems analyst, the manager of an information systems department? Perhaps you are heading towards a teaching or academic career in ICT, a research oriented scientific occupation; or your aspirations might be for a career in commerce or finance, in the arts or social science, in pharmacy or medicine, in journalism or law. You may simply wish to be able to meet the growing challenges of information technology in your workplace. The inclusion of Computer Science in your degree will empower you to do all of this.

Information and Communication Technology is consistently changing our society by changing the way our economy, education system, social and cultural interaction works. This is particularly relevant to the kinds of activities graduates encounter in their day-to-day personal and professional lives. As technology progresses it will become increasingly important to have knowledge and understanding of the nature of technologies, and how they are changing. Anticipating these changes will enhance the choices you make in your personal and working life. Naturally, the more knowledge you have, the more you will be able to exploit the power of Information and Communication Technology.

We invite you to take advantage of being at one of the finest universities in Africa for studying the various aspects of Information and Communication Technology. A degree in Computer Science from Rhodes University is held in high esteem throughout the country and abroad.

The Department of Information Systems dovetails with and complements Computer Science at Rhodes University, and the two departments work closely together. The Computer Science Department offers a single semester course that prepares prospective Information Systems students for courses in their second year of study. Many students study Computer Science and Information Systems together as their major subjects, and this combined study of the two subjects can continue into postgraduate degrees. Whereas Computer Science concentrates on the technical aspects of software development and application, Information Systems addresses human, management and strategic aspects of Information Technology.

Computer Science is offered as a 3-year major course in the Faculties of Science, Commerce and Humanities.

Following the undergraduate degree, a fourth year Honours degree in Computer Science is offered. This course allows study in more specialised areas of computing, and introduces the concept of project work on a larger scale than is possible in undergraduate years. The fourth year of study also provides the minimum status needed for registration by professional bodies, and for international recognition (such as would be required to register as a graduate student at a foreign university).

The Department of Computer Science houses a strong postgraduate school which prepares MSc and PhD students. Work is particularly concentrated in the field of Distributed Multimedia, as Rhodes is sponsored as a Centre of Excellence in this area by Telkom SA and Infinera. The work of this centre incorporates Data Communications and Networks, Information Security, Image Processing, Audio Engineering, Parallel Computing, and ICT for Development. The Computer Science Department enjoys "grant receiving status", based solely on merit, from the National Research Foundation.

Our Department lays great importance on the teaching and learning processes in tertiary education, and is known for having some of the finest, most dedicated teachers in the country.

From the Head of Department's keyboard

After two rather chaotic and challenging years it seems that we will finally be returning to something closer to normal in 2022. That will be a huge relief for both students and lecturers who have missed the opportunities to engage face-to-face in lectures and practicals (we really do miss our students!). While technology has provided viable alternatives for teaching and learning during the pandemic, these are human, social activities, and technological methods are not as effective as in-person grappling with course material. Our mission in the Department of Computer Science is to empower you to use Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as effectively as possible, and to prepare you to develop the ground-breaking new systems that will continue to shape the future of our networked world.

Reflections

In 2021, we largely continued teaching and learning online, making use of the available ICT to ensure that our students received the best education possible. Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who engaged with new ways of doing things, and put in an enormous effort to develop effective forms of online teaching. I am also very proud of our students who adapted to strange and difficult circumstances, and committed themselves to continuing their education in unusual and uncertain conditions.

Sadly, some students continued to make poor choices, taking foolish short-cuts in their online learning, and the year was again marred by far too many cases of cheating and plagiarism. Thirty-three students were found guilty of plagiarism and cheating in various assignments and assessments, receiving penalties ranging from reduced marks, to no marks at all for assignments, to losing their DPs for the course. The Department remains firmly committed to ensuring that students have actually learned the material that has been covered in the curriculum, and to maintaining the integrity and value of the degrees awarded by the University. Students caught cheating will continue to face serious consequences for their actions.

The achievements of our top students during 2020 were recognised through the award of the following course prizes at an online celebration held during the April graduation period. Our congratulations go to these students for their outstanding performance in their courses.

- **Open Box Prize for Computer Science I:** Emily Morgan
- **Janinne Franke Prize for Computer Science II:** Jonathan Gouws
- **SAP Africa Prize for Computer Science III:** Alden Boby
- **SAP Africa Prize for the Best Progress in Computer Science:** Mpho Saba
- **Open Box Prize for Computer Science Honours:** Matthew Lewis
- **Janinne Franke Prize for the Best Computer Science Honours Project:** Ammaarah Desai

Staffing News

After many years of service in various roles, Prof Alfredo Terzoli retired at the end of 2021, and we wish him well in his retirement. As an Emeritus Professor, Alfredo will continue to contribute to the Department's research programme.

Prof Karen Bradshaw will be taking a very well-earned sabbatical in the second semester of 2022 to focus on her research.

Undoubtedly, 2022 will bring fresh challenges for all of us, as we manage the return to face-to-face teaching, learning and research activities, while still navigating the hazards of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Department, we are committed to doing all we can to educate and equip our students in their mastery of information and communication technologies. I wish you all the best for 2022: may it be a healthy and successful year for us all.



George Wells
February 2022

Departmental Vision and Mission

Our vision is to be a leading African university, providing globally respected education and research in Computer Science.

Our mission is to be a leading force in shaping the development of Computer Science, through appropriate high quality research and consulting, and through the education of a spectrum of graduate professionals, competent to meet the future computing needs of their disciplines.

FOUNDATIONAL POLICIES:

To achieve our mission and vision, we recognise that we must:

Curriculum:

1. Produce graduates who will have acquired sound practical skills, and who also have a healthy understanding of the theoretical basis of the subject, and the need to base technology on solid scientific principles.
2. Provide specialised programmes that cater for the different needs and abilities of a widely heterogeneous audience, allowing for the possibility of various entry/exit points.
3. Develop a syllabus in which all the various components interface in a properly defined and cohesive manner.
4. Encourage a culture of renewal by reviewing the curriculum periodically.
5. Attract postgraduate students, and foster post-graduate research in areas of Computer Science that can be realistically pursued.

People:

6. Encourage and reward excellence, and facilitate ongoing improvement of qualifications, standards of teaching and research, and publications.
7. Participate in the creation of computer-based systems relevant to industry and society at large.
8. Conduct research in areas that will enhance and promote the chosen emphases of the Department.
9. Foster a respectful and inclusive working environment in which interpersonal relationships between and amongst staff and students allow for the development of all parties as individual, innovative thinkers, but also as members of well-managed teams.
10. Engender a sense of passion for our discipline amongst our students and staff.

Facilities:

11. Provide the best possible facilities and support to promote research and teaching.

Publicity:

12. Attract a diverse body of engaged students of the highest possible calibre to the Department from all sectors of the local, national and international community.
13. Heighten the awareness of the unique possibilities afforded by the quality of our Department among learners, graduate students, prospective employers, and industry partners.

Staff of the Department



**PROFESSOR
GEORGE WELLS**

Head of Department

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Room: 007

Professor Wells is a graduate of Rhodes University. He completed his PhD degree in Parallel and Distributed Computing at the University of Bristol.

Research interests: Distributed and parallel processing, data communications, multimedia applications, Java.



**PROFESSOR KAREN
BRADSHAW**

On sabbatical Jul-Dec

E-mail: K.Bradshaw@ru.ac.za
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Room: 004

Professor Bradshaw obtained her PhD from Cambridge University through an 1851 Royal Exhibition Scholarship. She is also a Rhodes graduate with a Masters degree. Before returning to Rhodes, she lectured at the tertiary level within Southern Africa and has also worked in industry in both the UK and Zimbabwe.

Research interests: Distributed and parallel processing including GPGPU deep learning, robotics, computer simulation and modelling.



**PROFESSOR PHILIP
MACHANICK**

**CS M&PhD Co-ordinator
CS2 Course Co-ordinator
CS Tutor Co-ordinator**

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Room: 101

Professor Machanick obtained his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Cape Town in 1996, and holds MSc and Honours degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand and a University of Natal BSc, as well as a GCEd from the University of Queensland, Australia. He has worked at various universities in South Africa, and at Stanford University and the University of Queensland overseas. He is editor of the South African Computer Journal, and campaigns for rational science policy in areas like health, environment and clean energy and is a regular contributor on these topics to Mail&Guardian

Research interests: Computer systems, bioinformatics.



**PROFESSOR NOMUSA
DLODLO**

**Intro to ICT Course Co-ordinator
CS112 Course Co-ordinator**

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Room: 002

Professor Nomusa Dlodlo holds a PhD in Computer Science from the Liverpool John Moores University (United Kingdom), a Masters in Informatics from the Leningrad Engineering and Economics Institute (Russia), a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia), a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education from Rhodes University (South Africa).

Research interests: ICT4D including ICT in Education, ICT in Health, ICT in Business, Internet of Things for Development, Blockchaining



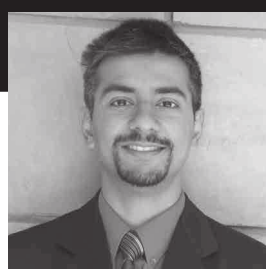
MR JAMES CONNAN

**CS1 Course Co-ordinator
Head of the Centre of Excellence**

E-mail: J.Connans@ru.ac.za
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Room: 108

Mr Connan holds an MSc in Computer Science from Stellenbosch University and is currently working towards his PhD.

Research interests: Computer vision, machine learning, ubiquitous computing, integration of signed and verbal communication.



DR YUSUF MOTARA

CS3 Course Co-ordinator

Email: Y.Motara@ru.ac.za
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Room: 025

Dr Motara is a graduate of Rhodes University with a PhD in Computer Science. He lectures occasionally, but prefers to teach.

Research interests: Functional programming, modeling, software development, computer science education.



DR DANE BROWN

CS Honours Project Co-ordinator

Email: D.Brown@ru.ac.za
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Room: 106

Dane Brown is a PhD graduate of Computer Science from Rhodes University. His PhD research on multi-modal biometrics involved comprehensive theory and application of various image processing and machine learning techniques. He also holds a Masters degree in Science from the University of the Western Cape. This involved parallel processing techniques on both the CPU & GPU within the scope of South African Sign language recognition.

Research interests: Image/signal processing, machine learning, information security and GPGPU.



DR ZELALEM SHIBESHI

Email: Z.Shibeshi@ru.ac.za
Phone: 046-603-8626
Room: 003

Dr. Shibeshi holds a PhD from Rhodes University, a BSc in Physics, an Associate Degree in Computer Science, and an MSc in Information Science, all from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He worked as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Fort Hare before joining Rhodes University.

Research interests: Multimedia Service Development and Real Time Communication, APIs for Telco Services, Machine Learning (especially NLP), Information Retrieval (IR), and IoT in Agriculture.



MR STONES DALITSO CHINDIPHA

CS Honours Course Co-ordinator

Email: S.Chindipha@ru.ac.za
Phone: 046-603-8293
Room: 006

Stones Dalitso Chindipha is a graduate of Rhodes University. He holds a Masters degree in Computer Science from Rhodes University which focused on exposing cyber security threats imposed by open source intelligence data. He is currently pursuing a PhD with Rhodes University which focuses on modelling IBR data for scalable collection of security threat intelligence data using small aperture network deployment.

Research interests: Network security, information security, information security analytics, big data analytics, cyber threat intelligence, malware analysis



PROFESSOR ALFREDO TERZOLI

Emeritus Professor

E-mail: A.Terzoli@ru.ac.za

Professor Terzoli obtained a Laurea in Physics from the University of Pavia, Italy. He moved into computing soon afterwards, working for the private sector for a while. He was originally attracted to Rhodes University by the possibility to mix Computer Music and Artificial Intelligence, as well as to experience life in Africa.

Research interests: ICT for development, telecommunications.



PROFESSOR BARRY IRWIN

Visiting Professor

E-mail: B.Irwin@ru.ac.za

Professor Irwin is a PhD graduate of the Department of Computer Science at Rhodes University. He spent sixteen years at Rhodes University. He has spent several years engaging in the network and cyber security field, particularly within the telecommunications and financial services sectors. He is currently the Head of the Cybersecurity Program at Noroff University College, Norway, where he specializes in the domains of Cyberwarfare and Active Network Defense.

Research interests: Network security, cyber threat intelligence and indicators of compromise, data visualisation, malware and information warfare.



DR ALAN HERBERT

Visiting Researcher

Email: A.Herbert@ru.ac.za

Alan Herbert is a graduate of Rhodes University. He completed his PhD in distributed hardware accelerated network event analysis. He currently works in industry, in the area of Information Security and Analysis.

Research interests: Networks, network security, information security, application specific hardware development (both FPGA and MCU based), high performance clusters and mathematical application to big data.



MR BILLY MORGAN

Manager: ICT

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Room: 022

Mr Morgan has a background in electronics and worked in industry for a number of years before taking a position at Rhodes University. He is a graduate of Rhodes University in Computer Science and Information Systems.

Research interests: Developing workspace integrated solutions to streamline business processes.



MR CHRIS MORLEY

Senior ICT Specialist

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Room: 026

After working in industry in the UK for a number of years, Mr Morley completed his BSc(Honours) in Computer Science in 2003.

Research interests: Wireless and broadband technologies.



MRS JILL JAPP

Senior ICT Specialist

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Mrs Japp obtained a BCom degree in Computer Science and Information Systems from UPE (now NMMU) in 2002. She started her career in IT support in Durban, working for a software development company. After relocating to PE as an IT Consultant for the SpecSavers group, she moved to Grahamstown to take up the position of Software Support Consultant in the IT Division at Rhodes University at the end of 2004. She joined the department in January 2007 as ICT Specialist.

Research interests: Digital design and forensics.



MRS CARO WATKINS

Departmental Manager

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Room: 011

Mrs Watkins is a Computer Science graduate of UCT and worked in the IT industry for 15 years as a programmer, analyst and later as a project and support manager. She now manages the administration for the Department.



MS MICHELLE COUPÉ

Office Administrator

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Room: Reception

Ms Coupé handles the finances and meeting minutes for the department.

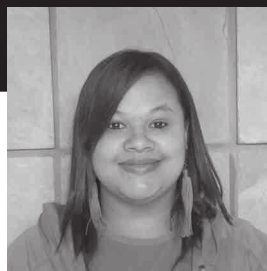


MRS HEIDI MYBURGH

Admin Assistant

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Room: Reception

Mrs Myburgh handles the student marks and also shares responsibility for the secretarial functions in the department.



MS CARON KARA

Receptionist / Secretary

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Room: Reception

Ms Kara shares responsibility for the secretarial functions in the department.



MS VIVIAN KILA

Service Staff

Departmental Dynamics

COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT

One of the distinctive features of Rhodes University is the accessibility of the academic staff. We strive to run an open and approachable department, and encourage feedback on all aspects. We are eager to know about problems you might have that pertain to our courses. Please approach the appropriate people with your concerns. If you don't know who the appropriate person is, the departmental secretary is a good place to start.

In addition to academic support, Rhodes University has structures for dealing with crises that may be affecting your personal and academic lives. We encourage you to make use of the Student Advisor's office and the various counselling facilities that exist on campus. These facilities may also refer you to other divisions on campus that can help out with your particular needs.

ADMINISTRATION

Our departmental administrators are Ms Michelle Coupé, Mrs Heidi Myburgh and Ms Caron Kara. Theirs are the friendly faces in the Hamilton Building reception. You should consult them about any general administrative matter (submitting leave of absence forms, collecting handouts, looking for lost property, and so on) during office hours.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

During the first few weeks of the year, we ask each class to elect a class representative to liaise with the Department on issues of common concern to the class as a whole. We encourage you to communicate with your class representative, but this should not preclude individuals from approaching the staff of the Department directly.

SUBJECT LECTURERS

Concerns about specific subject topics should be directed to the lecturer presenting that topic. They are present at practical sessions as well as lectures, and you should arrange an appointment with them at a convenient time if you need anything more than a quick reply. While we welcome your feedback, it should be remembered that courses cannot be tailored to individual preferences.

TUTORIAL ASSISTANTS

All undergraduate classes have tutors who are senior students in the Department. They assist with laboratory sessions and tutorials. Please make use of these tutors during the times that they are available. Please respect their time outside of official tutorial and practical slots; the graduate tutors are also at Rhodes to work on their degrees, and when you see them sitting in the laboratory late at night, it means that they are under pressure of their own work, not waiting to help you with your uncooperative computer.

COURSE CO-ORDINATORS

You should approach your course co-ordinator with any issue that you cannot take to your current lecturer, or that concerns the structure of the course as a whole.

Course co-ordinators for this year:	CSc1L	Prof Nomusa Dlodlo
	CSc112	Prof Nomusa Dlodlo
	CS1	Mr James Connan
	CS2	Prof Philip Machanick
	CS3	Dr Yusuf Motara
	Honours	Mr Dalitso Chindipha/Dr Dane Brown
	MSc & PhD	Prof Philip Machanick

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGER

Mrs Caro Watkins is the departmental Admin Manager, and deals with student problems that cannot be solved by the administrators.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

The Head of the Department is your final recourse in the Department, and should generally be approached only when the other avenues have not solved your problem, or when referred by a lecturer. Please email him to make an appointment to see him.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

Please report faults in the Hamilton labs to cis-support@ru.ac.za. Please note that students are **not allowed** to attempt to repair any piece of hardware themselves. Even if you are technically very competent, this could lead to problems with our insurance company.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

In the Department of Computer Science, we regularly ask you to fill in course assessments, and your responses are taken seriously. Please fill in your course assessments as conscientiously as you can. They are extremely valuable in improving our courses and facilities.

INTERNET DISCUSSION GROUPS AND MAILING LISTS

Forums are available to students to air their views. Staff members enter into these discussions from time to time, but the forum really belongs to you. Class mailing lists are used for staff to communicate with you.

RESOURCES

Textbooks: Textbooks are available from Van Schaik Bookstore.

Library: The University Library has an excellent holding of Computer Science textbooks.

RUconnected: The Departmental RUconnected pages have all relevant information regarding the courses, often including course notes and additional readings.

ROSS: Please ensure that you check these pages regularly and ensure that all discrepancies in marks are reported to the secretaries.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE (LOA)

Leave of absence will only be granted for health and tragic reasons, e.g. death in your immediate family, and almost never for occasions such as attending interviews, sporting functions, weddings, religious and cultural events or other social occasions. As preparation for entering the workplace as a professional, we expect you to make every reasonable effort to meet deadlines, and to observe professional standards for requesting time off for genuine illness. Please apply for them at reception. They are not granted until they have been signed by a member of the Department.

Tests

If you are granted an LoA for a test, you will receive the average of all your tests for the semester. Should you miss more than one test, you will receive zero for subsequent tests.

Practicals

For the first-year courses (CSc1L, CSc112, CSc101 and CSc102), if you are granted an LoA for a practical, you will receive an average of your practicals for that section. You will be given an average for at most two practicals. All missed practicals thereafter will receive zero. For senior courses (CS2 and CS3), you need to ask your lecturer for an extension in writing to allow you to complete the practical in your own time. The extension is granted at the lecturer's discretion. Normally, a maximum extension of one week will be granted for this purpose.

INTERVARSITY PROGRAMMING COMPETITIONS

The Department enters a number of teams into the Standard Bank IT Challenge and the ACM South Africa Programming Contest, held during the first and second semesters respectively. Both competitions have worthwhile prizes up for grabs. If you are interested in getting together a hot team of programmers for either or both of these competitions, they will be advertised during the year.

Since 2014, the Department has also been involved in the cluster competition run by the Centre for High Performance Computing (CHPC). Students in their second year are eligible to enter this competition, which involves attending a week long Winter School on high performance computing (HPC) and then physically assembling a cluster of computers on which to run various HPC benchmarks. National winners are eligible to compete at the international HPC cluster competition.

Reminders and details of the competitions will also be circulated a few weeks in advance of the actual dates.

BURSARIES

Full details of the bursaries available to students at Rhodes can be obtained from the Financial Aid Office in the Main Admin building. Several companies offer contractual bursaries to Computer Science students (these are the kind that you have to work back), and details of these will be emailed to students as they become known.

MONITORING YOUR PROGRESS

Practical marks are not a reliable indicator of what your final performance in the course is likely to be. A combination of your test mark and your practical mark (in the ratio of exam to semester mark weightings) is a more reliable indicator. These marks are almost always released on ROSS and/or RUconnected.

DP requirements exist to help ensure that you keep up with the course. Failure to meet these requirements can severely affect your chances of being permitted to write the exams. The onus is on you to ensure that you are meeting the requirements! Attitudes at university are rather different from those in many schools. If you show little interest, or skip classes, you may find that the staff show no sympathy when you fail. Since computer studies are not offered in all schools we have to start by accommodating many of the students who may have had little or no experience with a keyboard. Initially courses may seem "easy" to some, but it is unwise to develop bad habits because you think it is a "walk in the park". Our experience has shown that good Computer Science students come to lectures and keep up with their work. **BE WARNED** - the pace hots up and it is very easy to be left behind if you don't stay on top of the workload.

Did you know that if you work harder, you will pay lower tuition fees? Rhodes University offers tuition fee rebates for undergraduate students who achieve good marks. Similarly, Rhodes offers scholarships for postgraduate degrees based on previous academic achievement. Details are available from the Financial Aid office, or from the Division of Students Affairs.

SMOKING

There is a no smoking policy in Rhodes University buildings. If you want to smoke, please do so outside of the building, at least 10 meters away from any entrance or window.

EATING AND DRINKING

Eating and drinking is not allowed in the labs under any circumstances.

UNDERGRADUATE LABORATORIES

The Jacaranda Laboratory will be the venue for service course practicals. The Jacaranda laboratory, along with the Union, the Eden Grove and Fountain labs, are general undergraduate laboratories, exclusively for the use of Rhodes students. As such they are YOUR LABORATORIES, and you need to take responsibility for keeping them tidy and pleasant to work in.

The Undergraduate Laboratories in the Hamilton Building are exclusively for the use of currently registered Computer Science 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students, as well as Information Systems 202 and 3rd year students. We also accommodate other Computer Science and Information Systems courses where possible. Since it is your lab, you are entitled to ask anyone who is not a Computer Science or Information Systems student, or is doing something that is clearly not part of their Computer Science or Information Systems assignments to vacate a workstation so that you can make use of it. We will support you when you do this, so don't be shy.

The Hamilton labs will be closed for maintenance after the last CS/IS exam and for the long vacation, as well as occasionally during term time at the discretion of the technical section. Please report faults in the Hamilton labs to cis-support@ru.ac.za.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property, e.g. USB drives, pencil cases, books, keys, cell phones, cell phone chargers, clothes etc, that you pick up in the lab, should be handed in to the Hamilton reception. After a week, personal items will be sent to Campus Security.

EQUIPMENT

The undergraduate and postgraduate labs in the Department of Computer Science house up-to-date personal computers and high-end research equipment. The Windows operating system has a broad range of installed software to support the students' learning. Postgraduates get to choose and install their own operating system that is best suited to the work they do.

The high-end research equipment is specialized. For example, the audio networking research group has access to a range of modern mixing consoles, control stations, and high speed audio networking cards and equipment. Other groups and interest areas like Security, Mobile, GPGPU, Robotics, Image Processing, Networking, and our Telkom Centre of Excellence are also appropriately equipped for their respective work.

All computing facilities are networked, and all students are granted access to the Internet. Our networking facilities are excellent.

Computer facilities are granted to all users of the system for education purposes only, on the understanding that they will be used only by the person to whom they were granted. See the "Acceptable Use Policy" below. At the same time, we like to encourage those students who wish to get computer experience outside the narrow confines of the course exercises. You are welcome to work on extra-mural projects, as long as you accept that students doing course-related academic work must be given priority in a crowded lab environment.

Students should ensure that their work is backed up regularly. Having your own external hard drive or USB stick will come in handy.

PRINTING

Laser printing is available on all floors in the Hamilton Building, and in the general labs. Students need to transfer funds via ROSS, and MUST specify which labs they will be printing in. Please remember that computer paper costs money and has an impact on the environment; try to keep paper wastage down.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP) FOR RHODES UNIVERSITY COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

To obtain permission to use the general computing facilities, you need to agree to adhere to the following conditions:

- Only staff and students of the University are allowed to use the computing facilities. No one else may be present in the laboratories without permission.
- You may not allow another person to use your facilities, or make use of facilities allocated to another person (i.e. don't log in using someone else's login credentials).
- Equipment is to be used responsibly. Don't meddle with parts of the computing systems to which you do not have the right of access. Do not attempt to bypass security mechanisms put in place by the IT Division of the University.
- The software and manuals made available for your use are the property of Rhodes University. You may not make copies of them, or remove them from the premises, without written permission.
- You are required to observe instructions that are issued specifying ways in which the facilities shall be used.
- Anyone who violates these conditions will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Rhodes University accepts no responsibility for the integrity of computing facilities. You should keep your own backups of valuable work.
- These conditions of use may be varied from time to time at the discretion of the IT Director.
- Permission to use the computing facilities will normally be granted for one calendar year at a time.

This is a simplified version of the acceptable use policy - the full version is more wordy, and can be found at <http://www.ru.ac.za/aup/>. Before you are allowed to make use of computing facilities, you have to agree to adhere to the full version, and to cooperate fully with any inquiry into your use of Rhodes's facilities.

ADDITIONAL NOTES REGARDING THE USE OF HAMILTON BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

- All of the standard Rhodes University AUP rules apply to the facilities in the Hamilton Building.
- The Hamilton Building infrastructure exists in part to support your courses in the Department of Computer Science. You are encouraged to make use of the facilities to store your coursework, but you are advised not to store personal or private data or email on the systems or servers as the administrative policy is one where the Systems Administrators have complete access to everything. We routinely inspect data stores for contraband files and may need to inspect user profiles if diagnosing problems.
- While we take reasonable measures to ensure the integrity and safety of the data stored on our servers, we do not make any guarantees about this. Keep your own backups of data that you cannot afford to lose.

A more detailed series of notes regarding the infrastructure, services and facilities available in the Hamilton Building may be found at <http://www.ict.ru.ac.za/>. This resource will be updated from time to time, so it is worth reviewing occasionally.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

To keep all practicals in step with lectures for each week, practicals that fall on a public holiday will be held on an alternative weekday from 7pm -10pm as follows:

If a public holiday falls on a	The practical will be rescheduled on
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday	Following Tuesday night Following Thursday night Previous Monday night Previous Tuesday night Previous Wednesday night

Plagiarism Policy

Students are referred to the University's Policy on Plagiarism, which gives full details of the processes to be followed in cases of plagiarism. This document serves to give specific details of the Department's implementation of this policy, and is subject to the provisions of the University policy and any changes that may be made to it.

(See https://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/institutionalplanning/documents/policies/Common_Faculty_Policy_and_Procedures_on_Plagiarism.pdf)

DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM

The University defines plagiarism quite simply as "taking and using the ideas, writings, works or inventions of another, from any textual or internet-based source, as if they were one's own". In Computer Science, "ideas, writings, works or inventions" includes computer programs, or parts of computer programs. One of the most common instances of plagiarism encountered in Computer Science is the unacknowledged submission of part or all of another person's work as one's own work for practical assignments. This, or any other instance of plagiarism (e.g. unacknowledged referencing or direct quotation), is taken very seriously by the Department and by the University.

UNLESS EXPLICITLY PERMITTED TO DO SO BY THE RELEVANT LECTURER, STUDENTS SHOULD NEVER SUBMIT ANYTHING THAT IS NOT THEIR OWN WORK FOR ANY ASSIGNMENT. IF A STUDENT IS IN ANY DOUBT AS TO THE LEGALITY OF THE USE OF ANY MATERIALS OR ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FOR AN ASSIGNMENT THEY SHOULD CONSULT THE LECTURER FOR CLARIFICATION.

Students should also note that assisting someone else to commit plagiarism (e.g. by providing them with your work, which they then submit as their own) is just as serious an offence as the act of plagiarism itself, and will be dealt with in the same way, and will face the same penalties.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

All cases of plagiarism are subject to disciplinary procedures as laid down in the University's Plagiarism Policy, and are handled by the Department's Plagiarism Committee.

Plagiarism Committee

The Department Plagiarism Committee consists of two independent members of the academic staff, appointed by the Head of Department. The Department Admin Manager may also be in attendance at the hearing to provide administrative support.

Classification of Plagiarism

The University Policy categorises plagiarism into three classes:

- A. First time, minor infringements. These are handled directly by the staff member who detects the offence, or who set the assignment. A student who wishes to appeal a Category A offence may write to the Head of Department, and the Departmental Plagiarism Committee will hear the matter.
- B. Repeated minor offences, minor offences at senior levels, or first-time, more serious offences. These will be reported to the Head of Department, and referred to the Department Plagiarism Committee for a hearing.
- C. Major, extremely serious infringements, such as plagiarism in assignments that comprise more than 30% of the final mark. These will be referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Plagiarism for a hearing.

Penalties

For Category B offences, the Department Plagiarism Committee shall consider the case and make a decision on the severity of the offence and, where appropriate, the penalty to be applied. The usual scale of penalties is as follows:

- First, minor offence: a drastically reduced mark (often zero) will be awarded for the entire assignment for all students involved.
- Second offence, or major offence: loss of the DP certificate for the course.

The usual penalties may be increased or reduced at the discretion of the Department Plagiarism Committee depending on the facts of each individual case. Offences older than two years will not be held against you.

You will receive a finding in writing, including reasons if the Department Plagiarism Committee finds against you, within five (5) days of the hearing.

Appeals

A student may appeal the findings of the Department Plagiarism Committee or the penalty imposed to the Head of Department. The HoD in consultation with the Department Plagiarism Committee will consider the appeal and make a final decision (if the HoD is the complainant, another senior member of the academic staff will take his/her place).

NOTE: A possible reason for appeal is for a student whose work has been used to submit proof that their involvement in the plagiarism incident was without their knowledge or active participation. In such cases the marks for the assignment will usually be reinstated, or the withdrawal of the DP certificate reversed. Appeals for partial marks to be awarded for the assignment will not be considered.

Final Appeal

The final decision of the Department Plagiarism Committee may be appealed to the University's Senate Standing Committee on Plagiarism. However, students should note that very serious penalties may be applied by the Senate Committee, and that this is not a step to be taken lightly. An appeal must be lodged within five (5) days of receiving written reasons for the Department Plagiarism Committee's decision.

Reporting

Students should also note that all cases of plagiarism are recorded and are reported to the Senate Standing Committee on Plagiarism periodically. Should your DP be removed, it will be indicated on your academic record.

DP Regulations

The University has a system whereby students who perform badly, or who do not meet minimum attendance standards, are not granted a "DP Certificate" ("DP" stands for Duly Performed). Without the "award" of such a certificate – they do not actually exist in paper form – a student is not permitted to write the final and crucial qualifying examination in the particular subject. You are expected to attend all class lectures, tutorials, and practical sessions. The requirement that you submit all assignments and tests is strictly enforced. In particular, each practical assignment must be completed and submitted on or before the due date specified for that assignment. Usually you are given about a week to complete each exercise, and even if you are ill at the time of a practical class you will normally be expected to make up the work in your own time.

Besides the "official" tests as scheduled in this handbook, lecturers are free to set other tests at very short notice. These also fall within the rules laid out here.

DP REGULATIONS FOR CSC1L1, CSC112, CSC101 & CSC102 ONLY

The nature of the CSc1L1, CSc112, CSc101 and CSc102 semester courses require that a different set of DP regulations be applied.

- For your **CSc1L** DP to be granted, you are required to maintain an average of at least 50% for your practicals, and achieve an average of at least 40% for your tests.
- For your **CSc112, CSc101 and CSc102** DP to be granted, you are required to maintain an average of at least 40% for your practicals and achieve an average of at least 40% for your tests.
- No extensions will be granted for tests, but you may be given an average at the end of the semester if you have been granted a leave of absence.
- Extensions for practicals in senior courses will only be granted when a leave of absence is granted.
- Practical assignments and tests missed without leave of absence will gain you a mark of 0 (zero). It is in your best interest to ensure that you hand in all practical assignments and write all tests, otherwise, you will endanger your chances of achieving the minimum requirements as stated above. You are encouraged to keep your test

and practical marks as high as possible so that you don't endanger your chances of achieving the minimum requirements.

DP REGULATIONS FOR SENIOR UNDERGRAD COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES

When circumstances dictate (for example in the case of extended illness), an extension of up to three days may be allowed. Only in exceptional circumstances will extensions beyond that time be allowed and assignments will never be accepted after model solutions have been released.

- If you have achieved an average of less than 30% for tests by the end of the semester, your DP will be refused.
- Unless you maintain an average of at least 40% for practicals, your DP will be refused.
- The student bears the onus of proof for disputes around practical hand-ins.
- Evidence of any concessions must be in writing and signed by a staff member of the Computer Science Department.

It is your responsibility to make sure that you have signed any class attendance registers that are circulated. Students caught signing the class register on behalf of others will face disciplinary action.

DP SUMMARY

The Department is under no obligation to issue friendly warnings to students who do not meet the requirements outlined above. If you fail to perform duly you will not be awarded your DP. After that any appeals must be made in writing, and are unlikely to succeed.

With respect to work that is not submitted, the following will apply separately in each semester.

With leave of absence: first-year courses		Credit	Penalty
Practicals	for the first two not handed in on time	You will be given your practical average for the relevant section in the semester.	No DP penalty
	for the third and subsequent ones not handed in on time	You will be awarded a mark of zero.	DP may be refused
Tests or Tutorials	for the first one missed	You will be given your test average for the semester	No DP penalty
	for the second and subsequent ones missed	You will be awarded a mark of zero.	DP may be refused
With leave of absence: senior courses		Credit	Penalty
Practicals	for the first two not handed in on time	You must submit the assignment within any extended time allowed you for credit to be granted, otherwise a mark of zero will be awarded.	No DP penalty
	for the third and subsequent ones not handed in on time	You will be awarded a mark of zero	DP may be refused
Tests or Tutorials	for the first one missed	You will get your test average for the semester.	No DP penalty
	for the second one missed	You may be required to take an oral or other make-up test or else obtain a mark of zero.	
	for the third and subsequent ones missed	You will be awarded a mark of zero	DP may be refused

With no leave of absence: all courses		Credit	Penalty
Practicals	for the first two not handed in on time	You will be awarded a mark of zero	
	when the next one is not handed in		DP refused
Tests or Tutorials	for the first one missed	You will be awarded a mark of zero. No chance will be normally given to "catch up".	
	when the next one is missed		DP refused

DP WITHDRAWALS, EXTENDED DPs, AEGROTATS, LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The Computer Science Department has separated three roles:

- **Legislature:** We make our rules in keeping with University policies. We don't amend them on the fly. They protect our courses and our students. They are in this handbook. They are not attendance-based, but are based on performance. They are particularly lenient with low subminima – this guards against you having one or two "bad days". If you don't make one of our DP subminima, even on a close miss, you are nowhere near having performed adequately. Do the course again.
- **Judiciary:** Did we apply the rules correctly in accordance with the facts of the case? We will rectify any errors we may have made.
- **Clemency & Appeals:** We don't do this! We accept the need for appeals, but these need to go to the higher authorities who take a global view of your overall situation, be it academic or personal. The Dean of your faculty is the appropriate person to look at your overall academic performance and your plans to obtain your degree, and can make a recommendation to our Department. Similarly, the Division of Students Affairs' office has qualified people who can assess your personal circumstances and make recommendations to our Department.

Submit any appeals in writing to the appropriate Dean within two weeks of the event. The Dean will make a recommendation to the Head of Computer Science.

Please do not come to the staff of the Department with your reasons for why a decision to remove your DP should be reconsidered. We want to be helpful, but we are not qualified to make judgements on non-academic grounds, and so we do not consider "DP appeals". Put them in writing to your Dean who is in a better position to evaluate your claims with regard to your overall academic programme and best interests.

EXTENDED DPs

In exceptional circumstances, the Department may grant an extended DP. An extended DP allows a student to repeat the course without having to fulfill the coursework requirements. The coursework mark for the previous registration of the course will be carried forward. To be granted an extended DP a student's class mark must be greater than 60% and exam mark must be greater than 40%. If the semester was passed and the student wishes to upgrade the mark, then the 60% class mark condition may be waived.

PRACTICAL SUBMISSION RULES

The following rules will apply to any practicals submitted during the year:

- CSc112 & CSc1L practicals assigned during a practical session must be completed and handed in at the end of the practical session (unless the lecturer in charge specifically indicates otherwise).
- For CS1 and senior courses, a practical assigned during a practical session must be completed by the next practical session (unless the lecturer in charge specifically indicates otherwise).
- Practical must be submitted via RUconnected, or as required by the lecturer.
- No late practicals will be accepted unless you have a leave of absence in which case you must hand in the practical by any extended deadline that has been set.
- Unless submitted via RUConnected, the correct, fully completed cover sheet must accompany each practical submitted. Otherwise, the practical will not be accepted (you will receive a mark of zero).
- You will only be given permission to change practical days under extreme circumstances. If this is on a temporary basis, it is your responsibility to ensure your practical is still submitted during the practical session to which you are normally assigned.
- Marked practicals will be handed back during the following practical session after the session in which the practical was handed in. Please complain to the lecturer in charge if this does not occur.
- Teamwork in practicals can only take place with the **explicit** approval of the lecturer concerned. Team composition must be ratified in writing with the lecturers concerned.