



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Where leaders learn

Rhodes University

Extended First Year Orientation 2022



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Where leaders learn

Rhodes First Years' Extended Orientation

21 February – 23 May 2022

Compiled by: Ms Veronica Israel

Student Services Manager

Message from the Director of the Division of Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs (DSA) wish to congratulate you on being chosen to study for a degree at this fine institution. Rhodes University is the place where leaders learn! As the division, we are keen to journey with you in your pursuit of knowledge of meaningful engagement and your contribution both to the university community and the broader Makhanda community.



The Division of Student Affairs offer a wide range of experiences and opportunities outside the classroom, thereby enabling students to embark on the process of understanding themselves as critical and engaged citizens. The Rhodes First Years Extended Orientation programme is one such student support programme which aims to ensure that all first years are engaged. Research has shown that engaged students perform academically well.

Remember, most importantly, the programme is about you!

Wishing you a successful and positive first year experience in 2022!

Ms Nomangwane Mrwetyana
Director of Student Affairs

What is the Rhodes first years' extended orientation about?

The Rhodes first years' extended orientation (RUFYE) is an extended support programme for all first year students, aimed to empower them to make the transition from high school to university. It is a programme aimed at promoting a positive first year student experience through various academic and social initiatives and programmes run beyond the Orientation week programme.

Simply put - we want all our first years to enjoy their journey as a first year student at Rhodes University.

How long does the RUFYE programme run?

The programme will run for the first semester which consists of approximately 12 weeks. Within the 12-week programme various initiatives, conversations, discussions, and programmes will be facilitated by the Division of Student Affairs. The Student Wellness section, Sports Administration, the Rhodes Library, wardens, SRC, house committees and various other interested departments and divisions.

This year the programme will run from **21 February – 23 May 2022**. It is therefore an important requirement of your Orientation as a Rhodes first year student, with evaluation on your participation in the programme. Please refer to the scheduled enclosed in the booklet.

We want to know how you experience the various out of classroom activities in your first year of study.

Key partners and brief description of topics

We have identified several key partners who will play a critical role through observing how involved each first year is with regards to interacting with peers, involvement in extramural activities, and academic performance with the aim to enhance a positive first-year experience.

Herewith the partners of the programme:

- CHERTL
- Equity & Institutional Culture Office
- Rhodes University Community Engagement (RUCE)
- Rhodes Library Services
- Sports Administration
- Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Student Wellness Division

Community Engagement Orientation (CEO) short course hosted by RUCE

The Community Engagement Orientation (CEO) accredited short course is a compulsory introductory course for first years on engaged citizenship and social responsibility at Rhodes University. RUCE staff and student leaders will facilitate five punchy and relevant sessions focussed on issues of social inequality and privilege, the role of students in change-making and community engagement in their education as well as delve into the specifics of the approach Rhodes University takes on community engagement.

An exciting part of the short course will be the participation of each first year in exploring Makhanda, where we will organise a drive around the whole of Makhanda. This will run from 21 February until 18 March 2022.

This experience will be part of one of the five credit short course modules. You are required to attend only one of the one-hour slots over this period.

Session 1: 23 February

Community Engagement and Higher Education

This session will give first years an overview of the purpose of CE - what, why, when, and how?

Session 2: 28 March

Learning, Unlearning & Relearning

This session will address ideas of privilege, understanding inequality and combating injustice.

Session 3: 11 April

Social Responsibility

This session will interrogate the role of the student in change making and how building one's social responsibility contributes to transformational education.

Session 4: 2 May

Building Communities

During session 4, students will practically interrogate RU's approach to community building and how this fosters reciprocity, mutuality and trusting, warm relationships.

Session 5: 23 May

Asset Based Community Development

Finally, the course will conclude with an explanation of RU's approach to community engagement - which moves away from deficit, needs-based outlooks of communities to seeking the strengths and assets within them.

Information literacy/introduction to digital literacy hosted by Rhodes Library Services

This information and digital literacy session will be facilitated by the staff of the Rhodes library services. The sessions will run Monday to Thursday starting on the 21 February. Information literacy refers to a cluster of competencies, including the ability to:

- recognise when you need information
- locate and interpret the sources of information
- understand the type of information you need
- know how to search for information
- interpret information, and

- know how to use, cite, and reference information

Be Well, Aware and Empowered **hosted by Equity & Institutional Culture Office**

Over the course of the 12 weeks, the staff of the various divisions and departments will host awareness programmes and facilitate discussions that will help you explore such issues such as gender-based violence, sexuality, substance abuse, the effects of alcohol, on issues of diversity and equity and engage you in actively thinking about human rights and about what sort of behaviour is regarded as unacceptable on campus and about what support groups or structures are available in case you need help.

At Rhodes we value tolerance and mutual respect for individual differences and would like all students to be assured that we are committed to creating the best conditions for learning, scholarship, and research. A fundamental part of our ethos is the protection of, and respect for, the diversity and dignity of all members of the university community.

Some of the topics that will be covered include, but not limited to:

- Relationship in relation to gender-based violence: tool kit in terms of navigating the relations
- Sex positive conversation (including on PREP, PPE, morning-after pill, STIs)
- Know your rights
- Responsible drinking

Sports @ Rhodes

Here at Rhodes Sport we pride ourselves in making your extracurricular sporting activities our priority.

We offer a variety of sport clubs to choose from, 27 in total. The choice is yours! You can participate in either recreational or competitive sports. Come

and see what Rhodes Sport has to offer and have some fun while meeting great people.

Please join us at the exhibition events and specific first year sports festivals that Rhodes Sports will host for you, in collaboration with the residences and the SRC.

View Rhodes Sports online at:

<https://www.ru.ac.za/sports/> and

<https://www.facebook.com/Rhodes-University-Sports>

Environmental Awareness

hosted by the SRC

Rhodes is committed to facilitating more sustainable energy, waste and water management, and usage strategies by actively engaging with staff, students, and other stakeholders to promote sustainability.

During this programme the SRC Environmental Councillor will engage with first years on finding creative ways reducing our ecological footprint and the use of environmental goods and services.

Student Wellness

hosted by the Counselling Centre

The Rhodes Counselling Centre operates from a holistic wellness model and supports students in terms of their physical, academic, social emotional and spiritual functioning. As part of the extended orientation programme, the counselling centre will facilitate discussion on the following topics over the 12-week period:

- Adjusting to university life and making friends
- First Things First campaign (targeting first years)
- Time management & stress management
- Studying effectively

Ncedana Student Peer Mentoring Programme hosted by CHERTL

Partnering with a senior student mentor and other first years in your faculty can help you adjust to student life and, in turn, help you to achieve your academic potential. Mentoring groups are small, relaxed, confidential spaces which take place weekly.

This programme will start early in the first term of the First Years' Extended Orientation Programme.

A first-year RU student in 2021 had this to say about the programme:
"Having a mentor was the best thing I had as a first year."

Rhodes first-years' extended orientation schedule

February 2022	
11	First years' registration and welcome to residences
14	Start of Orientation Week
19	End of Orientation Week
21	Undergraduate lectures begin
Week 1: first-years' Extended Orientation Programme	
	Sports Orientation <i>Sports Administration</i> Time: 19h00 – 20h00 Online
	Start of Exploring Makhanda 9am or 11am Monday to Saturday
23	Community Engagement accredited short course Module 1 <i>Community Engagement Office</i> 19h00 – 20h00 Online
25	First-years' Sports Festival <i>Sports Administration and Student Wellness</i> 18h30 – 20h30 Prospect Field
	Information Literacy and Introduction to Digital Literacy 16h00 – 17h00 From Monday, 21 February until end of May 2022 Exploring Makhanda <i>Community Engagement</i> 9am and 11am From Monday, 21 February To 18 March 2022
Week 2: first-years' Extended Orientation Programme	
28	Adjusting to university life and making friends <i>Student Wellness Division</i> Time: 19h00 – 20h00 Online

March 2022	
	Week 3: first-years' Extended Orientation Programme
7	Toolkit for navigating relationships in relation to gender-based violence <i>Equity & Institutional Culture Office</i> Time: 19h00 – 20h00 Online
	Week 4: first-years' Extended Orientation Programme
14	Time and stress management <i>Student Wellness Division</i> Time: 19h00 – 20h00 Online
	Week 5: First-years' Extended Orientation Programme
21	Know Your Rights: discrimination, cyber-bullying, etc. <i>Equity & Institutional Culture Office</i> Time: 19h00 – 20h00 Online
	Week 6: First-years' Extended Orientation Programme
28	Community Engagement accredited short course Module 2 <i>Community Engagement Office</i> 19h00 – 20h00 Online
April 2022	
1	Undergraduate lectures end
2	Mid-semester vacation begins
10	Mid-semester vacation ends
	Term 2 undergraduate lectures begin
	Week 7: First-years' Extended Orientation Programme
11	Community Engagement accredited short course Module 2 <i>Community Engagement Office</i> 19h00 – 20h00 Online
	Week 7: First-years' Extended Orientation Programme
22	Earth Day activity SRC Online/in person

	Week 9: First-years' Extended Orientation Programme
25	Studying effectively <i>Wellness Division</i> 19h00 – 20h00 ONLINE
May 2022	
	Week 10: First-years' Extended Orientation Programme
2	Community Engagement accredited short course Module 4 <i>Community Engagement Office</i> 19h00 – 20h00 Online
	Week 11: First-years' Extended Orientation Programme
9	Responsible Drinking <i>Equity & Institutional Culture Office</i> 19h00 – 20h00 Online
	Week 12: First-years' Extended Orientation Programme
16	The Sex Positive Conversation <i>Equity & Institutional Culture Office</i> 19h00 – 20h00 Online
	End of First-years' Extended Orientation Programme
23	Community Engagement accredited short course MODULE 5 – final session <i>Community Engagement Office</i> 19h00 – 20h00 Online
27	Undergraduate lectures end
28	Start of swot period
2	Swot period ends
3	Examinations begin

Useful contact details

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Steve Biko building, first floor

studentaffairs@ru.ac.za

RHODES UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

RUCE Offices

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Lcezula4@gmail.com

LIBRARY SERVICES

Rhodes Library Services

t.dyantyi@ru.ac.za

ANTI-HARASSMENT OFFICE

Room 337, Steve Biko Building

m.buso@ru.ac.za

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

SRC Offices

Steve Biko building, first floor

e.ofei@ru.ac.za

srcenvironmental@ru.ac.za

STUDENT WELLNESS

Rhodes University Counselling Centre

Steve Biko building, second floor

counsellingcentre@ru.ac.za

SPORTS ADMINISTRATION
Old Mutual Pavilion, African Street
f.mamabolo@ru.ac.za

CHERTL
mentoring@ru.ac.za
www.ru.ac.za/studentaffairs/

Useful advice

Establish a balance between meeting academic demands, your personal/social life, and recreational activities

Celebrate diversity and learn more about others who are different from you. This will enrich you and will help you become a global professional.

All activities both on and off campus will help you learn and develop. Maintaining a balance is important and includes the following:

- Self-management: the ability to plan, organise and work responsibly while managing stress levels.
- Time management: the ability to meet deadlines and pace yourself so that you don't have periods of inactivity and periods of chaos.
- Explore what Rhodes University has to offer academically and study what you are most passionate about.
- Don't give up on your goals. Instead, modify them to meet your current situation.
- Ask for help when needed.
- Be yourself
- Reflect on values that will guide and enable you to live life harmoniously.
- Pave your own individual path and work towards a career that is just right for you.

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