**STUDYING A MASTERS THROUGH RHODES UNIVERSITY**

Thank you for your interest in pursuing a further degree with the Department of Environmental Science at Rhodes University. Before you go through the process of submitting an application form, please take the time to visit the academic staff page of our website (<http://www.ru.ac.za/environmentalscience/staff/>) to get an idea of where our academic staff interests lie.  If none of their fields of research are what you are interested in, then please reconsider applying.

Before you decide to complete an application form, it is necessary for you to understand that a Masters in Environmental Science at Rhodes can only be done only via a research dissertation. There is no course work component. If you are happy with that, then we can consider an application from you. However, before submitting an application form for a Masters certain things need to be in place:

1. You need to have completed an Honours degree with at least a 60 % mark, preferably 65 %.  Therefore, we will require a copy of your academic transcript.
2. You need to supply us with a full CV, and the names and *current* contact details of at least three recent referees.
3. You need to communicate to us your broad areas of *research* and *career* interests. For example, natural resource management, grazing dynamics, pollution control, alien plant ecology or control, resource economics, water quality, etc. If you already have a precise project in mind, rather than just a broad research area, then please also share that with us. Ideally, we encourage prospective postgraduate students to write 1 - 3 pages on their key research and/or career interests to see if that matches ours.
4. You need to indicate your expectations of how the research *project* will be funded. Do you already have funds, or someone (donor, employer, etc.?) that will provide them once a project is defined, or are you expecting your research supervisor to provide funds? Similarly what about the tuition fees, and your personal living expenses during the research period? The university will not accept any postgraduate until funding for the research project is secure.

Once we have the above, they will be tabled at the postgraduate committee of our department, which is held on a monthly basis. At that meeting we attempt to identify a potential supervisor that shares your interest areas and currently has time to take on a new postgraduate. It may be that you have a specific supervisor in mind, but if they already have a full postgraduate load they will not be permitted to accept another student.  If a supervisor is identified as available at the departmental meeting, s/he will then contact you, and the two of you together will then communicate further regarding the development of a full research proposal for a project that is of mutual interest to you both and securing avenues of funding. If your research or career interests are not compatible with those of the staff of the Dept of Environmental Science, or all possible supervisors currently have full postgraduate loads, we will advise you accordingly and suggest other departments at Rhodes, or other universities, that may be able to assist you.

You only need to consider a formal application to the University after step 4, i.e. after you and your supervisor have an agreed topic (i.e. if there is a supervisor available), and the project proposal is being considered and funds identified.  Application forms are available on the Rhodes University web-site.