Faculty of Humanities
IFakhalithi yezoLuntu
Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Why study Humanities?

The Faculty of Humanities is by far the largest faculty at Rhodes University. Comprising of eleven academic departments and two schools, the faculty is largely responsible for growth in student numbers at Rhodes over the past few years.

The faculty offers a rich variety of courses within four broad categories.
1. Arts (Fine Art, Drama, Music)
2. Languages (isiXhosa, English Literary Studies, Afrikaans, English Language and Linguistics, French, German, Latin, Greek, Chinese)
3. Professional offering (Journalism and Media Studies)
4. Social Studies (Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Political Studies, History, Philosophy, Art History and Visual Culture, Classical Civilisation)

The Faculty of Humanities offers a very wide range of possible degrees and course combinations for example students can major in: Journalism and Politics; Classics, French, German, isiXhosa, Afrikaans or any other language offered; Management and Industrial Sociology or Organisational Psychology; Fine Art and History; Information Systems and English Literary Studies; Philosophy and Anthropology; Computer Science and Music; Mathematics and Drama or Linguistics.
The faculty offers an excellent liberal arts education – an education for life, and an education which is formative for almost any career choice. A liberal arts education provides students with: critical reasoning skills, in particular the ability to analyse and evaluate arguments, to probe for hidden assumptions, to organise complex material in coherent ways; an ability to understand the views of others; the ability to communicate well; a capacity to cope with ambiguity and uncertainty; and an acknowledgement of one’s own ignorance. It is an education that introduces students to the formative moments of their histories, their societies and their identities. It allows students to enjoy the worlds of music, drama, literature, and languages. A liberal arts education opens worlds. It provides an education, not a vocation. As such, it provides students with the critical skills and characteristics which are so important for our individual and national development.

All of the above may be combined with degrees or courses that are more immediately career oriented than the liberal arts education. Specialised degrees in Journalism or Fine Art or Music are offered, but all within the context of a broader, rather than a technical, education.
What skills will I gain?

The humanities can be described as the way in which a society engages in conversation with itself. Humanities work is not about finding technical solutions to individual problems, but there are bigger aims – to produce ethical and reflexive citizens capable of adapting to change and leading in innovation because they are creative, lateral and critical thinkers.

Humanities graduates are attractive to many employers because of their personal transferable skills rather than the specific skills that they have gained during their degree course. Many of the skills gained from completing a humanities degree are highly sought after in almost every job. These skills include the ability to:

• write well in a variety of styles,
• organise work and meet deadlines,
• convey meaning precisely,
• summarise, argue and debate,
• research, select, analyse, organise and present information, and
• think logically.

Analysis, argumentation, decision-making and strong communication skills are valued. These abilities provide an essential foundation for engaged citizenship and for entry into the world of work.
Where can a Humanities degree lead?

Studies in the humanities offer much more than skills related to a specific workplace. It is one of the best ways of preparing students for critical citizenship in a rapidly changing world; a world that demands versatility and creativity rather than mere technical training.

Humanities graduates are socially responsive and skilled in critical thinking and effective communication, and often go on to excel in a variety of fields. The private sector is constantly on the lookout for successful graduates to take up positions in middle management for example, because it values the proficiency in problem-solving and communications that a student develops while studying for a humanities degree. Likewise, the ability to think critically and imaginatively, and to convey ideas clearly, is valued in any profession.
Careers for a Humanities graduate

A degree in the humanities will provide career opportunities in many fields. Some of the more obvious careers are: administrator, civil servant, clinical or counselling psychologist (if postgraduate studies in psychology are undertaken to at least the master's level), company manager, development officer, economist (if postgraduate studies are undertaken to at least honours level), health service officer, housing officer, industrial psychologist, labour relations officer, local government, museum curator, performing artist, officer in industry or the civil services, school or college teacher and careers adviser, social researcher, sports scientist, teacher psychologist (if one major subject is psychology and if sufficient other teaching credits are obtained), trade unionist. The careers open to you will be influenced by both your choice of major subjects within any given degree structure, or the type of specialised degree (e.g. B Fine Art) and the extent of your career development through the degree studies.

Anyone intending to enter school teaching as a career is strongly advised to approach the Dean of the Faculty of Education in order to discuss the recommended degree curriculum.
How to calculate your APS

The percentages achieved in National Senior Certificate examinations (preliminary and final examinations) will be allocated an admissions point score (APS) using the percentage obtained for each subject. The sum of six subject scores, excluding Life Orientation but including English and any other required subject(s) for the relevant programme is considered when deciding on admission.

Results below 40% for any subject do not attract a score. Mathematics paper 3 does not contribute to the APS score but the results will be captured for the dean to note when making an admission decision, for example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Home Language</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afrikaans/isiXhosa first/Additional Language</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Orientation</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Paper 3</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL POINTS</td>
<td></td>
<td>47.1</td>
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Admission to study for a degree in the Faculty of Humanities requires applicants to satisfy a number of criteria: the applicant must qualify for bachelor degree study status on the National Senior Certificate (NSC); the applicant must satisfy faculty admission requirements – admission point score (APS); and the applicant must satisfy degree admission requirements. Please remember that if you meet the minimum admission requirements, this only means that you are eligible for selection, it does not mean that you will necessarily be accepted.

**Candidates currently at school doing the South African National Senior Certificate:** students leaving school will earn the National Senior Certificate (NSC). To qualify for the NSC with bachelor degree study status, learners are required to take seven subjects, four of which are compulsory (two languages, Life Orientation and either Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy) and three of the learner's own choice from the subjects on offer at their school.
Faculty admission requirements

The entry requirements and points required for admission to ALL Faculty of Humanities degrees are as follows:

45 points and above candidate will receive a firm offer
Between 36-44 points admission will be at the dean's discretion. Various factors will be taken into consideration.
Between 30-35 points applications will be considered by the dean for the extended studies programme
29 points and below the application is likely to be rejected

Students are required to meet the Bachelor’s status requirements for university entry as well as the following for entry into the Humanities faculty:
English Home Language 65% or above
English First Additional Language 75% or above
Anything below the above requirements will be at the dean’s discretion.
Degrees in the Faculty of Humanities

**Bachelor of Arts** (BA)
three year degree

**Bachelor of Fine Art** (BFA)
four year degree

**Bachelor of Journalism** (BJourn)
four year degree

**Bachelor of Music** (BMus)
four year degree

**Bachelor of Social Science** (BSS)
three year degree
Subject offerings within the Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afrikaans en Nederlands</th>
<th>Greek</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Latin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History and Virtual Culture</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical Civilization</td>
<td>Sociology / Industrial Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>isiXhosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>Journalism and Media Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language and Linguistics</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>Psychology / Organizational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Art Practice</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Politics</td>
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</table>

**Some possible interfaculty major subjects:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Kinetics and Ergonomics</th>
<th>Economics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Theory</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Information Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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</table>
Anthropology is the systematic study of human beings; past, present and future; body, mind, and spirit. Socio-cultural anthropology, the main focus of anthropology at Rhodes, is chiefly concerned with relationships between people in particular social and cultural contexts. Traditionally, anthropologists have studied small, isolated communities a long way from their own homes, where all aspects of the local society and culture could be investigated by a single researcher. Today, anthropologists' interests include a much wider range of contexts from families to classrooms, congregations to boardrooms, neighbourhoods to workplaces, and they take account of the widest influences – including the impact of globalisation – on their particular context of study. Whether traditional or postmodern, local or global in orientation, anthropology has always provided students with new ways of looking at their own social situations and of understanding those of others.

**Undergraduate courses**  
Anthropology 1, Anthropology 2, Anthropology 3

**Postgraduate courses**  
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**  
046 603 8321
The Department of Literary Studies in English at Rhodes involves the study of literature in English, an intrinsically worthwhile cultural pursuit rather than a form of training for employment. Nevertheless, the range of skills associated with the practice of literacy criticism: imaginative reach, interpretive insight, the capacity to deal with verbal and intellectual complexity, and the ability to argue coherently and write with clarity and fluency add up to the kind of general capability that is required and valued in numerous fields of employment.

English graduates are regularly selected for places in teaching, journalism, radio, television, theatre, public relations, research, and advertising.

**Undergraduate courses**  
English 1, English 2, English 3

**Postgraduate courses**  
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**  
046 603 8400
In 1964 Rhodes University established the language section of its Department of English. By 1976 this had rapidly developed into the Department of Linguistics & English Language, which changed its official title to the Department of English Language & Linguistics in 2000.

The department offers a proven three-course major with commitment at every level to English in the wider context of the languages of southern Africa, which distinguishes it from general linguistics courses at other universities in South Africa. Housed in the historic Drosdty Barracks, the department has close links with the Department of Literary Studies in English, the Institute for the Study of English in Africa, and the Dictionary of South African English. In addition, the department collaborates closely with the Academic Development Centre at Rhodes.

**Undergraduate courses**
English Language & Linguistics 1, English Language & Linguistics 2, English Language & Linguistics 3

**Postgraduate courses**
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
046 603 8105
The Department of Drama provides training in creative and technical skills associated with theatre: acting, dance, design, directing, mime, physical theatre, stage management, theatre administration, and voice. On a personal level, drama also encourages growth, self-esteem, and confidence by developing communication, interpersonal, and collaborative skills – essential life-skills for all careers. A study in drama cultivates practices that are artistic, critical and collaborative. These practices lie at the core of the drama curriculum and provide exciting opportunities for future career developments.

**Undergraduate courses**
Drama 1, Drama 2, Drama 3

**Postgraduate courses**
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
046 603 8538
Rhodes University offers exciting possibilities for study in the field of visual art and art making. The Fine Art Department, situated on the beautiful Rhodes campus, has excellent facilities, plenty of studio space, and a fully equipped workshop. A team of skilled and enthusiastic lecturers, with expertise in several areas of contemporary art making, will help you develop your artistic skills both critically and creatively. This will enable you to pursue a career in a variety of art fields.

**Undergraduate courses**
Art History & Visual Culture 1; Fine Art Practice 1; Art History & Visual Culture 2; Fine Art Practice 2; Art History & Visual Culture 3, Fine Art Practice 3, Art History & Visual Culture 4, Fine Art Practice 4

**Postgraduate courses**
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
046 603 8192
The Rhodes Music Department, established in 1923, is one of the oldest music departments in the country. Its graduates have always played an important role in the musical and educational life of South Africa, and are now increasingly doing so at an international level. The department has eagerly taken on the challenge asked of a changing country and world, reflecting not only the musical diversity of our country, but the technological sophistication of the information technology age.

**Undergraduate courses**
Music 1, Music 2, Music 3, Music 4 (for students doing a BMus)
Music Culture & History: Western Art Music (1st semester)
Music Culture & History: World Music (1st semester)
Music Culture & History: Music, Health and the Brain (2nd semester)
Music Culture & History: Jazz and African-American Music (2nd semester)
Sound Technology 1, Sound Technology 2
Instrumental Studies 1, Instrumental Studies 2, Instrumental Studies 3
Music, Theory and Analysis 1, Music, Theory and Analysis 2, Music, Theory and Analysis 3

**Postgraduate courses**
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
046 603 8490
Philosophy begins when we realise that this world is problematic and puzzling, and that we understand neither the world nor our own place in it.

Attempting to understand the problematic nature of our world involves questioning the basic assumptions we make about ourselves, and about our place in the world. This is difficult because these assumptions are often the assumptions we make without questioning, and upon which we base our lives. Some of these assumptions provide a framework for the ways in which we look at and act in the world.

**Undergraduate courses**
Philosophy 1, Philosophy 2, Philosophy 3
Lintetho ZoBomi

**Postgraduate courses**
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
046 603 8351
At Rhodes we have abandoned old-fashioned approaches to History. We do not require you to rote learn dry factual material. Rather, we stimulate you to think independently, imaginatively and critically. History is not just about the past. History courses at Rhodes are designed to help you make sense of the world, the continent, and yourself by examining some of the forces that have shaped your life. The study of history pulls it all together, and helps you place all other academic disciplines in context and perspective.

**Undergraduate courses**
History 1, History 2, History 3

**Postgraduate courses**
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
046 603 8330
Political and International Studies

Political Studies focuses on the problems of politics from the wide-ranging perspectives of several different disciplines. There is little agreement of what politics is, although there is an almost universal consensus that politics is important, and of concern to everyone.

**Undergraduate courses**
Political and International Studies 1, Political and International Studies 2, Political and International Studies 3

**Postgraduate courses**
Diploma in International Studies
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
046 603 8356
Sociology involves the understanding of the social influences that help to shape our lives. But how do sociologists do this? A typical sociology study would look at the relationship between different social influences for example, are working class youths more likely than middle class youths to join gangs in urban areas? If this is so, what are the reasons? A sociologist's main task is to understand what lies beneath the visible aspect of our social life. This involves putting her/himself in the position of the group of people being studied, and trying to understand the social factors influencing the group's behaviour. An industrial sociologist may look at ways of improving relations between workers and management in a large company. The sociologist would ask such questions as: why does management have a particular approach to labour relations and workers a different one; do their different class backgrounds affect their behaviours and the way they view the world; how do we overcome the problems resulting from these different perceptions and positions?

**Undergraduate courses**
Sociology 1, Sociology 2 or Industrial and Economic Sociology 2, Sociology 3 or Industrial and Economic Sociology 3

**Postgraduate courses**
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
046 603 8361
School of Journalism and Media Studies

Journalism and Media Studies aims to produce self-reflexive, critical, analytical graduates and media workers, whose practice is of probing, imaginative, civic minded and outspoken. Such graduates are equipped to act as thoughtful, creative and skilled journalists and practitioners able to make meaningful and technically proficient media productions. Moreover, Journalism and Media Studies seeks to make a valuable intellectual contribution to the broad African media environment, to research, and to the integrated and ongoing education of media practitioners.

**Undergraduate courses**
Journalism and Media Studies 1, Journalism and Media Studies 2, Journalism and Media Studies 3, Journalism and Media Studies 4 for BJourn Degree

**Postgraduate courses**
Diploma in Journalism, Diploma in Media Management (Sol Plaatje Institute)
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
046 603 7100
Psychology is the study of human experience and behaviour. It is a science that offers a description of the range of human emotions, abilities and thought processes. It examines people's attitudes and motives, both conscious and unconscious. The work of psychologists has many practical applications in organisations, schools, hospitals, clinics and counselling centres. The study of psychology can also be personally enriching, providing insight into your experience of relationships, motivations and goals and emotional life. It also offers guidelines for more skilful living and successful handling of everyday problems in the family, in relationships and in the work setting. The subject matter of psychology is people: people from before birth through infancy and childhood, through adolescence and young adulthood to mature adulthood and old age, and, ultimately, people facing death. Psychology attempts to encompass the full range of human experience as it is lived in different political, socio-economic and cultural settings.

**Undergraduate courses**
Psychology 1, Psychology 2 or Organisational Psychology 2, Psychology 3 or Organisational Psychology 3

**Postgraduate courses**
Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
046 603 8500
Much of the focus of the School of Languages and Literatures is on contact with people and cultures outside of South Africa. The School of Languages and Literatures at Rhodes University consists of five language and literature sections.

**Undergraduate courses**
- isiXhosa 1, isiXhosa 2, isiXhosa 3 Mother Tongue
- isiXhosa 1, isiXhosa 2, isiXhosa 3 Non-Mother Tongue
- Cultures and Languages in Africa
- Afrikaans en Nederlands Studies 1, Afrikaans en Nederlands Studies 2, Afrikaans en Nederlands Studies 3
- Classical Studies 1, Classical Studies 2, Classical Studies 3
- French Studies 1, French Studies 2, French Studies 3
- German Studies 1, German Studies 2, German Studies 3
- Chinese Studies 1, Chinese Studies 2, Chinese Studies 3,
- Understanding China (1st semester course)

Modern Fiction: Several of the sections in the School of Languages contribute to a course in Modern Fiction which is a year course and cannot be considered as a major subject.

**Postgraduate courses**
- Honours, Masters, PhD

**Contact**
- 046 603 8222
Faculty of Humanities contact details

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Deputy Dean: Research
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Faculty Officer
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