



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**

*Grahamstown • 6140 • South Africa*

# **Graduation Booklet**

## **April 2025**

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

December 2024

Dear Graduand/Diplomand

Firstly, on behalf of the University, congratulations on your academic achievement. We wish you and your guests a happy and memorable graduation celebration in April 2025. The highlights of this special period in the University calendar include the formal splendour of the graduation ceremonies themselves and the equally colourful but more relaxed atmosphere of the graduation celebratory event (garden party).

In the following pages you will find the necessary information about various practical aspects of the graduation week (including booking tickets, appropriate attire and payments).

Details are also provided about membership of Convocation, the Association of Old Rhodians and the NRF Register of Graduates - items which should be of interest to new graduates/diplomates.

If there are any aspects pertaining to graduation that are not adequately covered in this booklet, enquiries should be directed to the Student Bureau (Eden Grove) by telephone +27 (0)46 603 8276 or by e-mail to [registrar@ru.ac.za](mailto:registrar@ru.ac.za).

Yours sincerely

Professor A Moodly  
Registrar

## Graduation Ceremonies in 2025

There will be *six* University Graduation Ceremonies in April 2025.

### Wednesday, 2 April 2025 at 09h30

Bachelor's:	Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Pharmacy
Honours:	Bachelor of Commerce Honours, Bachelor of Economics Honours
Master's:	Master of Laws, Master of Pharmacy, Master of Science (Pharmacy), Master of Science
Doctorate:	PhD in Law, PhD in Pharmacy

### Wednesday, 2 April 2025 at 14h30

Bachelor's:	Bachelor of Social Science
Honours:	Bachelor of Arts Honours
Master's:	Master of Arts
Doctorate:	PhD in Humanities following completion of Master of Arts

### Thursday, 3 April 2025 at 09h30

Certificates:	Advanced Certificate in Education (FP)
Bachelor's:	Bachelor of Education
Postgrad Diplomas:	Postgraduate Certificate in Education, Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education, Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainability Learning
Honours:	Bachelor of Education Honours
Master's:	Master of Education
Doctorate:	PhD in Education

### Thursday, 3 April 2025 at 14h30

Bachelor's:	Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science (Information Systems)
Honours:	Bachelor of Science Honours
Doctorate:	PhD in Science

### Friday, 4 April 2025 at 09h30

Bachelor's:	Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Business Science, Bachelor of Journalism, Bachelor of Music
Postgrad Diplomas:	Advanced Diploma in Business Analysis, Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy, Postgraduate Diploma in Advancement and Resource Mobilisation, Postgraduate Diploma in Business Analysis, Postgraduate Diploma in Enterprise Management, Postgraduate Diploma in Taxation, Postgraduate Diploma in Economic Journalism, Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism, Postgraduate Diploma in Media Management, Postgraduate Diploma in International Studies, Postgraduate Diploma in Heritage Management
Master's:	Master of Business Administration, Master of Commerce, Master of Economics, Master of Music
Doctorate:	PhD in Commerce and PhD in Humanities following completion of Master of Music

### Friday, 4 April 2025 at 14h30

Bachelor's:	Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Art
Honours:	Bachelor of Social Science Honours
Master's:	Master of Fine Art, Master of Social Science
Doctorate:	PhD in Humanities following completion of Master of Fine Art and Master of Social Science

If your degree or diploma does not appear in any of the ceremony lists, please contact the Academic Administration Office by email at [AcademicAdmin@ru.ac.za](mailto:AcademicAdmin@ru.ac.za) or by telephone on +27 (0)46 603 8213.

## Section 1: Confirming attendance/non-attendance at Graduation

### How do I inform the University if I will/will not attend graduation?

The preferred method to inform the University of your intention to attend/not attend the graduation ceremony is to complete our online graduation reply card at <https://ross.ru.ac.za>. Students who no longer have access to ROSS can return a paper copy reply card which can be downloaded from the Rhodes University website at: <https://www.ru.ac.za/graduationgateway/>

### When is the closing date for confirming attendance?

Graduands/Diplomands must respond to the University regarding their attendance at graduation by no later than **Friday, 14 March 2025**. *Graduands/Diplomands who fail to do so, are at risk of not being allocated any tickets for their guests for the graduation ceremony or graduation celebratory event (garden party)*. It is thus in your own interest to inform the University of your attendance as soon as possible.

### More information about the online reply card

Completing the online reply card is the easiest and safest way in which to inform the University of your attendance/non-attendance. You are required to log onto your ROSS account to access it, which allows the system to identify the qualification awarded to you and to determine at which ceremony your qualification is being awarded/conferred.

If you indicate that you do not wish to attend the graduation ceremony, you will be directed to information regarding the various means by which you can receive your parchment after the ceremonies in April 2025 – for further details see Section 2.

### More information about the paper copy reply card

The six graduation ceremonies are colour coded as follows:

1. Wednesday	2 April 2025	09h30	<b>Green</b>
2. Wednesday	2 April 2025	14h30	<b>Yellow</b>
3. Thursday	3 April 2025	09h30	<b>Buff (light orange)</b>
4. Thursday	3 April 2025	14h30	<b>Lilac (light purple)</b>
5. Friday	4 April 2025	09h30	<b>Pink</b>
6. Friday	4 April 2025	14h30	<b>Blue</b>

Should you decide to return the paper copy reply card, please indicate the **ceremony colour** and use the **degree/diploma/certificate coding** that appears in the University Calendar when confirming which qualification you have completed, e.g. BCom, MSS, PhD (Education), etc.

REPLY CARD COLOUR: _____		CEREMONY NUMBER NO: _____	
Rhodes University Graduation: April 2025 at 1820 Settler's Monument, Makhanda (Grahamstown)			
ONLINE REPLY CARD available at: <a href="https://ross.ru.ac.za">https://ross.ru.ac.za</a>			
Closing Date for submission of reply card: 14 March 2025			
Return to: Student Bureau, Box 94, Makhanda, 6140 or Fax: +2746-6038300 or registrar@ru.ac.za			
Student number:		Title:	
Surname:			
First name(s):			
Which degree/diploma (e.g. BA)?		Will you be present?	
If YES	Venue	Number	If NO: <b>You are still required to return a reply card</b> (details above) and are further referred to the form: "Receiving Degree/Diploma Parchments If Not Attending Graduation" to arrange receipt of your parchment. An online version is available at: <a href="https://ru.ac.za/graduationgateway">https://ru.ac.za/graduationgateway</a>
Guest tickets required	Auditorium		
	TV Hall		
	Garden Party		
<i>Please note the Graduand automatically has a seat</i>			
Tel:	(w)	(h)	(cell)
Signed:		Email:	

**May children attend the ceremony?**

Children **under the age of 15 years** will *not* be allowed entrance to the main auditorium. They are instead permitted to watch the ceremony on closed-circuit television in one of the TV Halls, but must be accompanied by an adult.

**Who is permitted on stage?**

The graduation ceremony is held to celebrate the achievements of our graduands, thus only the graduands and members of the academic procession are permitted on stage.

**I would like to attend - how many tickets may I book?**

Graduands/Diplomands attending the ceremony are each **automatically allocated a seat in the Auditorium**, thus they should not be included in the request for tickets.

Each graduand/diplomand is entitled to two guest tickets for the **auditorium**. Recipients of a Masters or an LLB degree are entitled to three auditorium tickets, while recipients of a Doctoral degree are entitled to four auditorium tickets.

There are also a limited number of **TV Hall tickets** available, which entitle holders to view proceedings in one of the TV Halls on closed-circuit television. Normally **no more than two** TV Hall tickets can be given to a Graduand/Diplomand and it is recommended that students check the allocation of the TV Hall tickets before booking flights, etc. for any additional guests.

**Graduation Celebratory Event (Garden Party) tickets** are issued to Graduands/Diplomands and up to 6 guests.

**How should I return the paper copy reply card?**

You may email the reply card using the below email address. Alternatively, you may hand deliver it to our Student Bureau in the Eden Grove Building.

Student Bureau: [registrar@ru.ac.za](mailto:registrar@ru.ac.za)

If you email the paper copy reply card, the onus is on you to confirm that we have received it, but kindly only do so **after Friday, 28 February 2025** or allow 2 working days if submitted after this date. Due to the large volume of queries, we would prefer that you e-mail your request for confirmation to [registrar@ru.ac.za](mailto:registrar@ru.ac.za).

**When and where do I collect my tickets?**

*NB: Seating tickets and Graduation Celebratory Event (Garden Party) tickets will NOT be emailed or posted to Graduands/Diplomands.*

All tickets must be **collected in person**, either at the Student Bureau (Eden Grove Building) or an hour before each ceremony at the Monument Box Office. Tickets will be available for collection at the Student Bureau during office hours (09h00 – 16h00) from Tuesday, 1 April 2025 or at the Monument Box Office an hour before each ceremony. Please produce suitable ID (student card, identity document or passport) when collecting tickets.

## Section 2: Information for Students Not Attending the Ceremony

### I am not able to attend graduation – what do I do?

Graduands/Diplomands who will not be attending the ceremony **must** inform the University of their non-attendance by completing the online reply card or by returning the paper copy reply card.

### What arrangements are needed to receive my parchment?

Students who graduate in absentia (i.e. do not attend the ceremony) **may collect** their degree/diploma parchments at the Academic Administration Office (lower ground floor of the Eden Grove Building) starting from the Tuesday following the week of graduation, i.e. from **Tuesday, 8 April 2025**. Kindly send an email to [parchments@ru.ac.za](mailto:parchments@ru.ac.za) indicating that you wish to collect your parchment. An appointment will be scheduled and a confirmation of appointment e-mail will be sent out.

Alternatively, students may submit written permission allowing a **friend/family member to collect** the parchments on their behalf from **8 April 2025** onwards. The written permission must be submitted to the Academic Administration Office by email to [parchments@ru.ac.za](mailto:parchments@ru.ac.za). Please include the details of the relevant student as well as the full name and ID/Passport number of the friend/family member who in turn must produce suitable ID (identify document or passport) when collecting the parchment. An appointment will be scheduled and a confirmation of appointment e-mail will be sent out.

Students who are not able to collect their degree/diploma parchments may request that their parchment **be sent via courier** to them or to their parents/guardians by completing the form available on our Graduate Gateway – see below link. Those students who complete the online reply card will be directed to an online version of this form at which point they will also have the option to pay the relevant courier fee.

<https://www.ru.ac.za/graduationgateway/services/parchmentforms/>

**NO** degree parchments will be sent without written instruction from the student and payment of the courier fee.

### How will my parchment be sent to me?

Kindly note that for security reasons parchments will **only be couriered** and will not be mailed via registered or secure mail, thus please do not submit a Private Bag, PO Box, etc. address. You are required to provide the following information regarding the person receiving the parchment:

Name and surname  
Physical/street address  
Postal code  
Contact telephone number  
Email address

*If you do not provide all the details needed, it will prevent the University from being able to send your parchment.*

### **What is the cost and how do I make payment?**

The various courier fees are included further on and payment thereof is required before parchments will be sent to their recipients. Students who complete the online parchment form and attached proof of payment of relevant courier fee, will be assisted with sending the parchment via courier.

However, students who complete the online form and do *not* submit proof of payment, will be required to provide proof of payment. Similarly, students who complete and return the hard copy version of the above form are required to submit proof of payment along with the form by email to [parchments@ru.ac.za](mailto:parchments@ru.ac.za).

Courier fees:	R350-00	National (within South Africa)
	R400-00	Neighbouring southern African countries (i.e. Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe)
	R500-00	All other countries

Banking details:	Bank	First National Bank
	Account Name	Rhodes University
	Account Number	621 455 03 076
	Branch Number	21 07 17
	Use Reference	601-75000-5482 and student number

### **When can I expect delivery of my degree/diploma parchment?**

We are only permitted to release the degree/diploma parchments to their recipients **after** the graduation ceremonies have taken place. Further, due to the volume of parchments to be dispatched, kindly allow a **minimum of 6 weeks** for delivery after the graduation weekend or 6 weeks after receipt of your courier details and proof of payment.

## **Section 3: What to Wear**

### **What do I wear to the Graduation Ceremony and Graduation Celebratory Event (Garden Party)?**

Academic dress must be worn at the graduation ceremonies and at the graduation celebratory event (garden party).

Graduands must wear a black gown and carry the hood appropriate to the degree they are to receive. They must not appear on the stage wearing hoods from other Universities or for first Rhodes degrees.

Diplomands who are already graduates wear a black gown and the hood of their degree. All other Diplomands must wear a black gown. The proper length of the gown is 15 - 20 centimetres below the knee, and a gown shorter than this should never be worn.

The length of the gown is never to be related to the length of the wearer's dress and a gown should never be shortened so that the sleeves are longer than the gown. The collar of the dress should never appear over the gown.

The University is aware of the many cultures and traditions inherent in its student body and graduand/diplomand are welcome to wear garments which reflect those cultures and traditions. By custom, graduands and diplomands at Rhodes University **do not wear mortar boards** at the graduation ceremony. Please know that unreasonably high heels



can be a risk when participating in the ceremony. The ceremonies are dignified events and students are encouraged to dress accordingly.

### **What should my guests wear?**

Guests are welcome, and even encouraged, to wear academic dress. Guests are also welcome to wear traditional garments or dress.

### **Where do I purchase/hire academic dress? (separate form available online)**

Messrs T. Birch & Co. (Pty) Ltd (Birch's) - PO Box 66, Makhanda, 6140, is the preferred service provider for Rhodes academic dress. They maintain a rental and purchase stock of graduate gowns and hoods. Please use the Birch's order form available at <https://www.ru.ac.za/graduationgateway/> for your convenience and deal directly with the shop. Queries can be directed to [rhodes@birchs.co.za](mailto:rhodes@birchs.co.za) or telephone: +27 (0)46 622 7010 or +27 (0)46 620 2509 or fax: +27 (0)46 622 5091. The University is not involved in these transactions and accepts no responsibility for any mishaps.

### **Guideline for Academic Costume – as extracted from University Calendar**

**“Graduates:** Bachelors and Master's wear a black gown of the same design as that worn by Master's of Arts in the University of Oxford. Doctors of Philosophy wear a scarlet gown of the same design as that worn by Bachelors of Arts in the University of Cambridge. Doctors other than Doctors of Philosophy, wear a scarlet gown of the same design as the scarlet full-dress gown of Doctors in the University of Oxford.

**Undergraduates:** A black gown of the design worn by scholars in the University of Oxford.

**Undergraduate Diplomands:** Black gown with a black stole 110mm wide. The length of the stole alternates with bands of white and purple stripes each 10 mm wide. The left end carries a Rhodes University crest, and the right end is embroidered with the letters RU in purple. The stole awarded to fourth-year diplomands has gold tassels and the stole awarded to third-year diplomands has black tassels.

**Postgraduate Diplomands and Certificate Candidates:** Black gown with a black stole 110mm wide. The front of the stole has a band of white and purple stripes each 10mm wide with black tassels for NQF level 8 qualifications and white tassels for NQF level 7 qualifications. The stole is lined with the relevant Faculty colour and piped around with white cord 5mm wide.

**Hoods:** Bachelors' hoods are made in an Oxford simple shape. Master's and Doctoral hoods are made in the full shape used in the University of London.

Where a Bachelor's hood is bound with a second colour, the binding is placed over the anterior and posterior sides of the hood and is 13mm wide on the inside and on the outside. The facing on the hood for the degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy is 50mm wide inside the anterior side at the bottom, tapering to nothing at the centre of the neckband. The edging of the Master's and Doctoral hoods is 7mm wide on the outside of the cowl and the cape.

### **Hoods for different degrees**

BA	Black lined with white and bound with purple
MA	Black lined and edged with white
DLitt	Scarlet lined and edged with white
BFineArt	Black lined with ultramarine blue
MFineArt	Black lined and edged with ultramarine blue
BJourn	Black lined with cherry red
BMus	Black lined with adonis blue
MMus	Black lined and edged with adonis blue
DMus	Scarlet lined and edged with adonis blue
BSc	Black lined with bottle green
BSc(InfSys)	Black lined with light green
BSc(SofDev)	Black lined with bottle green and faced with primrose yellow
MSc	Black lined and edged with bottle green
DSc	Scarlet lined and edged with bottle green
BPharm	Black lined with chartreuse and faced with bottle green
MSc(Pharm)	Black lined with bottle green and bound over with chartreuse
MPharm	Black lined with chartreuse and bound over the cowl with bottle green
DSc(Pharm)	Scarlet lined and edged with chartreuse
PharmD	Black lined and edged with scarlet facing
LLB	Black lined with old gold
LLM	Black lined and edged with old gold
LLD	Scarlet lined and edged with old gold
BEd	Black lined with white and bound (prev BPrimEd) with light brown
BEd(Hons)	Black lined with terra cotta
MEd	Black lined and edged with terra cotta
BAcc	Black lined with primrose yellow and faced with dark red
BBusSc	Black lined with primrose yellow and faced with lapis lazuli
BCom	Black lined with primrose yellow
MCom	Black lined and edged with primrose yellow
MBA	Black lined with primrose yellow and bound over the cowl with lapis lazuli
BEcon	Black lined with buttercup yellow
MEcon	Black lined and edged with buttercup yellow
DEcon	Scarlet lined and edged with buttercup yellow
BSocSc	Black lined with silver-grey
MSocSc	Black lined and edged with silver grey
DSocSc	Scarlet lined and edged with silver grey
PhD	Black lined and edged with scarlet (all faculties)

The hood for the degree of Bachelor with Honours is the hood for the corresponding Bachelor's degree piped down the anterior side with white cord 5mm wide.

All Doctors wear a round black velvet bonnet of the design worn at Cambridge University and trimmed with gold cord and tassels.

## **Section 4: Seating for Ceremonies**

### **When should my guests be seated?**

The ceremonies are held in the main auditorium at the 1820 Settlers Monument. Doors will be opened at 09h00 and 14h00 on each of the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Please move into the auditorium early **and be reminded that guests are not permitted to leave the auditorium until the ceremony has concluded.** Please note, *seats that are vacant 15 minutes before the ceremony commences will be allocated to guests holding TV Hall Tickets.* Latecomers or those with ticket problems should report to the box office at the main entrance.

Guests are reminded that **children under the age of 15 years** will *not* be allowed entrance to the auditorium. They can watch the ceremony on closed-circuit television in one of the TV Halls, but must be accompanied by an adult.

### **When should the graduands and diplomands be seated?**

Graduands and diplomands should be seated 30 minutes before the commencement of the ceremony. Seating plans for the graduands and diplomands will be on display outside the Auditorium. Detailed instructions for the guidance of graduands and diplomands in receiving degrees/diplomas will be found on their seats reserved for them on stage.

### **Are cameras allowed into the auditorium?**

Guests are NOT ALLOWED to use video, digital or still cameras in the auditorium. Professional photographers will be present at the Monument after each ceremony (please see section 6 for details).

### **Parking**

Parking facilities for graduands, diplomands and their guests are on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that access to the reserved parking area is restricted to "Reserved Parking" ticket holders only.

## Section 5: Other Graduation Event

### Graduation Celebratory Event (Garden Party)

There will be three Graduation Celebratory Events held during the graduation week – one on each of the graduation days of Wednesday, 2 April 2025, Thursday, 3 April 2025 and Friday, 4 April 2025. Each of the Graduation Celebratory Events (Garden Parties) will be held at 17:30 on The Ally Weakley Great Field.

*Please note that academic dress must be worn by graduands/diplomands.*

## Section 6: Practical Aspects/Services available

### Accommodation (separate form available online)

The University provides bed and breakfast accommodation in certain student residences for graduands/diplomands and their guests for the nights of Tuesday 1 April 2025, Wednesday 2 April 2025, Thursday 3 April 2025, Friday 4 April 2025 and Saturday 5 April 2025. The rates/cost of this accommodation per night, are included on the booking form.

The preferred means of booking this accommodation is via the online booking form, found when you log onto your ROSS account: <https://ross.ru.ac.za>. Payment can be made via Mygate when using the online booking system. We also have credit card facilities available, should you wish to make a credit card payment instead.

Alternatively, a paper copy booking form can be downloaded from our website at: <https://www.ru.ac.za/graduationgateway/>. Please complete and submit the form with proof of full payment to:

The Conference Manager  
Rhodes University  
PO Box 94  
Makhanda, 6140

Fax: +27 (0)46 603 8962  
Email: [conference@ru.ac.za](mailto:conference@ru.ac.za)

### Banking details

Bank Name:	First National Bank
Account Name:	Rhodes University Conference
Branch Name:	Makhanda
Branch Code:	210717
Account Number:	621 455 07490
Swift Address:	FIRNZAJJ
Payment Reference:	Surname or booking reference number CONF.

Visit the website: [www.ru.ac.za/conferences](http://www.ru.ac.za/conferences) for further information. Alternatively, contact the Conference Office on telephone +27 (0)46 603 8772/8901/8138/8607.

### **Connecting transport**

Listed below are the contact details of privately run businesses that may be able to assist you with the arrangement of transport, shuttle service and/or accommodation for your stay in Makhanda. Please contact them directly to make enquiries or bookings. The University is not involved in these transactions and accepts no responsibility for any mishaps.

#### *Go Travel (assist with air tickets)*

Consultants work from home and can be reached as follows:

Telephone: +27 (0) 46-307 0035

e-mail: [gotravel@travel.co.za](mailto:gotravel@travel.co.za)

#### *Rennies BCD Travel (assist with air tickets and other travel services/packages)*

Telephone: +27 (0) 87 110 1846

e-mail: [leisure@renniesbcdtravel.com](mailto:leisure@renniesbcdtravel.com)

URL: [www.renniestravelexperience.com](http://www.renniestravelexperience.com) / [www.bcdtravel.com](http://www.bcdtravel.com)

#### *WingsNaledi Travel Management (assists with air tickets, accommodation, visas, car hire, shuttle and transfer services)*

Telephone: 010 500 3100

e-mail: [rhodes@wings.travel](mailto:rhodes@wings.travel)

URL: [www.wingsnaledi.travel](http://www.wingsnaledi.travel)

### **Lamination of parchments – NOT advised**

In recent years Graduands/Diplomands have opted to have their parchments laminated. It is important to realise that the parchments currently issued contain a number of safety features that would be compromised should the parchment be laminated. Graduands/Diplomands are thus strongly advised **NOT TO LAMINATE** their parchments as these will compromise security features. Replacement parchments will be at a cost as per the University fees booklet.

### **Photographs**

At the annual graduation ceremonies, it has been customary for selected professional studios to take individual photographs of graduands/diplomands being capped by the Chancellor and hooded by the Registrar in the Auditorium. These photographs are then available from the studios concerned. The University is not involved in the transaction and accepts no responsibility for any mishaps.

*Guests are reminded that no flash photography is allowed within the main auditorium during the graduation ceremonies.*

### **Studio photographs**

Photographic studio services will be available. These studios will operate from the foyer of the Monument. The University is not involved in this transaction and accepts no responsibility for any mishaps.

## **Section 7: Convocation and Association of Old Rhodians**

### **Convocation**

Congratulations Rhodes Graduands of April 2025. Today you celebrate your success, your families celebrate you and you become a member of society who has the ability to give back to those who supported you through your academic journey.

Your immediate future will be filled with thoughts of finding employment, possibly moving cities, and setting up your own life as a professional. You are privileged to have received a Rhodes University education, which sets you apart from other graduates. The responsibility now lies with you to contribute productively to society so that our economy can grow. Some of you may go into formal employment, but I hope some become entrepreneurs and become employers yourselves. South Africa needs you.

The world is interconnected. The elections held around the world impact you and the choices and opportunities you make. It is also your responsibility to educate yourself about what's happening in the world. Decisions made in America, Europe and China, among other countries, will determine the future of trade, trends and success. But as African graduates, you will also need to contribute to the generation of new ideas, new businesses and new data on our continent. Let's be developers of new knowledge about South Africa and not consumers of information. Your years at Rhodes set you aside as an elite graduate as you go out into the world. Take the opportunities with both hands.

Congratulations to you and your family, and good luck.

Dr Michèle Ruiters  
President of Convocation

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All persons who are graduates of Rhodes University become, in terms of the University Statute, members of the Convocation of the University. Graduands are requested to notify the alumni office of any change of address at [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za). The Annual General Meeting of Convocation is held at Rhodes each year. In 2025 the AGM meeting will be held on Saturday, 6 September 2025.

Professor A Moodly  
Registrar and Secretary of Convocation

## **Association of Old Rhodians (formerly the Old Rhodian Union (ORU))**

Rhodians never grow old; they simply accumulate experience! Congratulations on your graduation and welcome to the Association of Old Rhodians, an exclusive group of remarkable individuals connected globally.

Despite the challenges of being in Makhanda, we are proud of our strong graduation statistics, including high undergraduate pass rates and an increase in postgraduate and women graduates. Over 110 years ago, the Old Rhodian Union (ORU) was established to connect past and present students and staff. This mission continues today, under the auspices of the Association of Old Rhodians, supported by the Alumni Division and local chapters that foster lasting relationships, giving you an advantage in your future endeavors.

The caliber of graduates like you enhances our funding initiatives and reflects the value of investing in future generations at Rhodes University. Your membership enriches the Association, contributing to the university's reputation, and giving weight to the brand of Rhodes University.

The Rhodes brand also helps raise funds for the children of Old Rhodians, reducing the burden on other fundraising efforts. Some graduates here today may have benefited from this support; in 2024, we disbursed R420,000 to 28 students, including four postgraduate students!

My message to you, as you extend your experiences beyond Rhodes, is to remember that the Association is a platform for re-establishing connections and making new ones, as well as making intellectual and financial inputs into the future of the institution and more specifically that of future Rhodians, including your own children. In this way, we can work together to ensure the sustainability of our fine institution as it negotiates its future journey as an outstanding internationally and locally relevant university on the African continent.

The Association seeks to be a true and representative voice of the Alumni. I therefore urge you to contribute as and when the opportunity arises whether it be in cash or kind. Now more than ever, the Association needs your support and contributions to assist the University to achieve its objectives as an institution that is proud to state “this is where leaders learn”.

Associate Professor Rosa Klein  
President: Association of Old Rhodians

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April 2025

Dear Rhodian

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the achievement of graduate status and to welcome you to membership of Convocation and of the Association of Old Rhodians. As a member of Convocation you will be entitled to attend the Annual General Meetings of this statutory body and to participate in the performance of its functions – which include electing three members to Rhodes University Council and participating in certain ongoing decisions around Rhodes University. In order to exercise these rights, please ensure that the University has your current contact details, including e-mail and postal addresses. (Email: [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za)).

Membership of the Association entitles you to attend all association functions, including periodic reunions, either in Makhanda or in other centres around the globe. You can also choose to be part of the local chapter of the Association in your region, a list of which can be obtained from the Alumni Office. Regular editions of the electronic newsletter will be sent to you, provided that your correct address details are up to date. In welcoming you to the ranks of Rhodes University alumni, we urge you to take an active interest, throughout your life, in the affairs of Convocation, the Association and the University as such. Please help us to maintain contact with you and we appeal to you to let us have news of yourself and other Old Rhodians from time to time.

I welcome you all to the family of Old Rhodians and wish you every success in your future. Congratulations and well done. We celebrate your achievements and look forward to celebrating your future success as you fly the Rhodes University flag high.

With very best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely

Professor Rosa Klein  
President: The Association of Old Rhodians



## **Section 8: The Alumni Relations and Stakeholder Engagement Office**

### **The Alumni Relations and Stakeholder Engagement Office**

Welcome to the Rhodes University Alumni community. As the Rhodes University Alumni team, we wish to extend our sincerest congratulations on your graduation. You have joined a distinguished and select group of very proud Old Rhodians. Our purpose is to connect past, present and future Old Rhodians to build a strong and united global alumni community.

- We do this by arranging affinity events, both nationally and internationally, to give you the opportunity to reconnect, network, create regional chapters, make new contacts and explore the establishment of social alumni groups in your area.
- We also help you connect with old friends, classmates and contacts across the globe.
- We keep you up-to-date with what is happening at Rhodes University.
- Lastly, please stay in touch with us and inform us of your change of address and contacts so that we can update our database accordingly.

You can stay connected with other Old Rhodians and the university by joining our robust alumni interactive platform; RUAlumniconnect which you can join in a few minutes via <https://rualumniconnect.ru.ac.za/> by using your LinkedIn, Gmail or Facebook profile.

If you wish to know more about our offerings, please contact us at [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za) or call in and see us at the Alumni House, Lucas Avenue.

Rhodes Alumni team

## Section 9: The National Research Foundation

### National Research Foundation Register of Graduates

The NRF (formerly called the HSRC) has asked the University to provide information annually about new graduates and I am writing to you because the University has undertaken not to disclose information to third parties without the approval of the student.

Since the 1960s the NRF has maintained and extended a register of graduates of RSA universities. The available information has been and will be used, *inter alia*, for demand and supply studies in various occupations and fields of study, projects on the manpower situation of specific groups (for example new graduates), studies on occupations and fields of study, salary research and statistics on education. The data will be used only for research purposes and names and addresses will not be divulged without the specific approval of those concerned.

In addition to the information already available in the graduation programme, namely, surname, other names, qualification obtained, field of study and/or specialisation and major subjects, the NRF wishes to have the following: gender of graduate; population group; date of birth; postal address/residential address/permanent address.

If you do not wish to permit the additional information not in the Graduation Programme to be disclosed, please complete the form at the end of this document and return it to me via the Student Bureau. If I do not hear from you by 7 April 2025, I will assume that you have no objection to my providing the information requested.

Professor A Moodly  
Registrar

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### NRF Declaration

The Registrar, Rhodes University, Makhanda, 6140

I am **not prepared** to authorise the disclosure to the NRF of any information about me which is not already publicly available.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS*

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