



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Grahamstown • 6140 • South Africa

Graduation Booklet

March 2026

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CONGRATULATIONS!

December 2025

Dear Graduand/Diplomand

Firstly, on behalf of the University, I would like to offer my congratulations on your academic achievement. We wish you and your guests a happy and memorable graduation celebration in March 2026. 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.

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 the Convocation, the Association of Old Rhodians, and the NRF Register of Graduates - items that should be of interest to new graduates/diplomates.

If any aspects of graduation are not adequately covered in this booklet, enquiries should be directed to the Student Bureau (Eden Grove) by telephone at +27 (0)46 603 8276 or by email to registrar@ru.ac.za.

Yours sincerely

Professor MG Karels
Interim Registrar

Graduation Ceremonies in 2026

There will be *six* University Graduation Ceremonies in March 2026.

Wednesday, 25 March 2026 at 09h30

Bachelor's:	Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Art, Bachelor of Music
Postgrad Diplomas:	Postgraduate Diploma in Economic Journalism, Postgraduate Diploma in Heritage Management, Postgraduate Diploma in International Studies, Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism, Postgraduate Diploma in Media Management
Master's:	Master of Fine Art, Master of Music, Master of Social Science
Doctorate:	PhD in Humanities following completion of Master of Fine Art, Master of Music and Master of Social Science

Wednesday, 25 March 2026 at 14h30

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, 26 March 2026 at 09h30

Bachelor's:	Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Business Science
Postgrad Diplomas:	Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy, Postgraduate Diploma in Taxation
Honours:	Bachelor of Commerce Honours, Bachelor of Economics Honours, Bachelor of Social Science Honours
Master's:	Master of Commerce, Master of Economics
Doctorate:	PhD in Commerce

Thursday, 26 March 2026 at 14h30

Bachelor's:	Bachelor of Pharmacy
Postgrad Diplomas:	Advanced Diploma in Business Analysis, Postgraduate Diploma in Advancement and Resource Mobilisation, Postgraduate Diploma in Business Analysis, Postgraduate Diploma in Enterprise Management
Master's:	Master of Pharmacy, Master of Science (Pharmacy), Master of Business Administration
Doctorate:	PhD in Pharmacy

Friday, 27 March 2026 at 09h30

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

Friday, 27 March 2026 at 14h30

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

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 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.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 **Friday, 6 March 2026 at the latest**. *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 to inform the University of your attendance/non-attendance. You are required to log in to your ROSS account to access it, which allows the system to identify the qualification awarded to you and 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 March 2026 – 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	25 March 2026	09h30	Blue
2.	Wednesday	25 March 2026	14h30	Buff (light orange)
3.	Thursday	26 March 2026	09h30	Pink
4.	Thursday	26 March 2026	14h30	Green
5.	Friday	27 March 2026	09h30	Lilac (light purple)
6.	Friday	27 March 2026	14h30	Yellow

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: March 2026 at 1820 Settler's Monument, Makhanda (Grahamstown)			
ONLINE REPLY CARD available at: https://ross.ru.ac.za			
Closing Date for submission of reply card: 6 March 2026			
Return to: Student Bureau via email at registrat@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: You are still required to return a reply card (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: https://ru.ac.za/graduationgateway
Guest tickets required	Auditorium		
	TV Hall		
	Celebratory Event (Garden Party)		
Please note the Graduand automatically has a seat			
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 graduates; thus, only the graduates 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**; 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 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. Usually, **no more than two** TV Hall tickets can be given to a Graduand/Diplomand, and it is recommended that students check the allocation of TV Hall tickets before booking flights, etc., for any additional guests.

Graduation Celebratory Event 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 email address below. Alternatively, you may hand-deliver it to our Student Bureau in the Eden Grove Building.

Student Bureau: registrar@ru.ac.za

If you email the paper copy reply card, the onus is on you to confirm receipt. Please do so **after Friday, 20 February 2026**, or allow two working days if submitted after this date. Due to the high volume of queries, we kindly request that you email your request for confirmation to 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 (09:00 – 16:00) from Tuesday, 24 March 2026, or at the Monument Box Office an hour before each ceremony. Please present a valid ID (student card, identity document, or passport) when collecting your tickets.

Section 2: Information for Students Not Attending the Ceremony

I am unable to attend the graduation – what should 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, 31 March 2026**. Kindly send an email to parchments@ru.ac.za indicating that you wish to collect your parchment. An appointment will be scheduled, and a confirmation email will be sent.

Alternatively, students may submit written permission allowing a **friend/family member to collect** the parchments on their behalf from **31 March 2026** onwards. Written permission must be forwarded to the Academic Administration Office via email at 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 must produce suitable identification (a valid ID document or passport) when collecting the parchment. An appointment will be scheduled, and a confirmation email will be sent.

Students who are unable 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 the link below. 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?

Please note that for security reasons, parchments will **only be couriered** and will not be mailed via registered or secure mail. Therefore, please do not submit a Private Bag, PO Box, or similar 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 a payment?

The various courier fees are detailed further on, and payment thereof is required before parchments are sent to their recipients. Students who complete the online parchment form and attach proof of payment of the 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.

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 week 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?

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 diverse cultures and traditions represented in its student body, and graduands/diplomands are welcome to wear garments that reflect these cultures and traditions. By custom, graduands and diplomands at Rhodes University **do not wear mortar boards** at the graduation ceremony.

Please note that wearing *unreasonably high/thin heels* can pose a risk when participating in the ceremony. The University cannot be held liable for any incident in relation to such risk. 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, if they have graduated. Guests are also welcome to wear traditional garments or dress. Guests are encouraged to respect the dignity of the ceremony by adhering to a formal dress code.

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 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 or by telephone to +27 (0)46 622 7010, +27 (0)46 620 2509 or fax to +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 features a Rhodes University crest, and the right end is embroidered with the letters 'RU' in purple. The stoles awarded to fourth-year diplomands have gold tassels, and the stoles awarded to third-year diplomands have black tassels.

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

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
DS	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
DS(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
BE	Black lined with white and bound (prev BPrimEd) with light brown
BE(Hons)	Black lined with terra cotta
ME	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 a 5mm-wide white cord.

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 09:00 and 14:00 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 that *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 their degrees/diplomas will be found on their reserved seats 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

There will be three Graduation Celebratory Events held during the graduation week – one on each of the graduation days, Wednesday, 25 March 2026, Thursday, 26 March 2026, and Friday, 27 March 2026. Each of the Graduation Celebratory Events (Garden Parties) will be held at 17:30 on The Ally Weakley Great Field.

Please note that graduands/diplomands must wear academic dress.

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 on the nights of Tuesday, 24 March 2026, Wednesday, 25 March 2026, Thursday, 26 March 2026 and Friday, 27 March 2026. The rates/cost of this accommodation per night are included on the booking form.

The preferred method of booking this accommodation is via the online booking form, accessible when you log in to your ROSS account: <https://ross.ru.ac.za>. Payment can be made via Mygate when using the online booking system. We also offer credit card facilities for those who prefer to make a payment by credit card.

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

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 at www.ru.ac.za/conferences for more 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 a privately run business that can assist you with arranging transport, shuttle services, 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.

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

Telephone: 010 534 5935

e-mail: rhodes@wings.travel

Lamination of parchments – NOT advised

In recent years, Graduands/Diplomands have opted to have their parchments laminated. It is essential to recognise that the parchments currently issued contain several safety features that would be compromised if the parchments were laminated. Graduands/Diplomands are thus strongly advised **NOT TO LAMINATE** their parchments as this will compromise security features. Replacement parchments will be at a cost as per the University's schedule of fees.

Photographs

At the bi-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

To the Graduands/Diplomands of March 2026,

On behalf of Convocation, I extend my warmest congratulations on earning your Rhodes University qualification. Today, we celebrate not only your academic achievement but also the dedication, perseverance, and sacrifices that brought you here. We join your families, sponsors, and supporters in honouring this momentous occasion in your life.

While this spotlight is on you as you walk across the stage, also reflect on the collective support and encouragement you have received from your loved ones, mentors, and the Rhodes community during your journey. Please take a moment to recognise and thank those who walked alongside you. Their unwavering support helped bring you to this milestone.

You are not just holders of qualifications but living proof of the future we imagine for our country, our continent, and the world. You carry within you the power to lead with intelligence, engage in critical thought, and act with ethical conviction rooted in *Ubuntu*. You are now entrusted with the responsibility to turn that potential into real impact.

This achievement marks not an ending but a new chapter for members of the Rhodes Convocation. Whether you pursue further qualifications at our institution, enter the workforce, serve your communities, or even travel abroad, your Rhodes alum voice will always be valuable. Convocation is more than a ceremonial body; your insights, leadership, and voice still have a place within the halls of your alma mater.

As members of Convocation, our Rhodes experience is what unites and bonds us. May the knowledge, skills, and wisdom we have gained as Rhodes graduates guide us into various sectors of society, where we can serve as beacons of light to those less fortunate and inspire future generations to pursue a Rhodes qualification by sharing our journey.

Through the spirit of *Ubuntu* and our shared Rhodes experience, you are forever part of the Rhodes community.

You are Convocation.

Warmest congratulations,
Samkelo Ntobeko Vukani Mngadi
President of Convocation

Ngiyabonga. Enkosi. Ke a leboga. Dankie.

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 alum office of any change of address at alumni@ru.ac.za. The Annual General Meeting of Convocation is held at Rhodes each year. In 2026, the AGM meeting will be held on Saturday, 5 September 2026.

Professor MG Karels
Interim Registrar and Secretary of Convocation

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

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 endeavours.

The calibre 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

March 2026

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).

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 alum community.

- We do this by arranging affinity events, both nationally and internationally, to allow you to reconnect, network, create regional chapters, make new contacts and explore the establishment of social alum 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 access in just a few minutes via <https://rualumniconnect.ru.ac.za/> using your LinkedIn, Gmail, or Facebook profile.

If you would like to learn more about our offerings, please contact us at alumni@ru.ac.za or visit us at the Alumni House, located on Lucas Avenue.

Rhodes Alumni team

Section 9: The National Research Foundation

National Research Foundation Register of Graduates

The NRF (formerly known as the HSRC) has requested that the University provide annual information about new graduates. I am writing to you because the University has committed not to disclose this information to third parties without the student's prior approval.

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 human resources situation of specific groups (for example, new graduates), studies on professions and fields of study, salary research and statistics on education. The data will be used solely for research purposes, and names and addresses will not be disclosed 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 March 30, 2026, I will assume that you have no objection to my providing the requested information.

Professor MG Karels
Interim Registrar

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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