



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**  
*Grahamstown • 6140 • South Africa*

# **Graduation Booklet**

## **October 2025**

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

August 2025

Dear Graduand

On behalf of the University, congratulations on your academic achievement. We wish you and your guests a happy and memorable graduation celebration in October 2025. The highlights of this special period in the University calendar include the formal splendour of the graduation ceremony 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 graduation (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.

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).

Sincerely

Professor MG Karels  
Acting Registrar

## **Graduation Ceremony on 10 October 2025**

There will be *one* University Graduation Ceremony on 10 October 2025 for our qualifying Masters and Doctoral graduands.

### **Friday 10 October 2025 at 09h30**

#### Master's:

Master of Pharmacy  
Master of Science (Pharmacy)  
Master of Business Administration  
Master of Commerce  
Master of Economics  
Master of Education  
Master of Law  
Master of Science  
Master of Arts  
Master of Fine Art  
Master of Music  
Master of Social Science

#### Doctorate:

PhD in Pharmacy  
PhD in Commerce  
PhD in Education  
PhD in Law  
PhD in Science  
PhD in Humanities

If your degree does not appear in this ceremony list, 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>. This system will open on Monday, 25 August 2025, for bookings. Students who no longer have access to ROSS can return a paper copy reply card to [registrar@ru.ac.za](mailto:registrar@ru.ac.za), 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 must respond to the University regarding their attendance at graduation by no later than **Tuesday, 30 September 2025**. *Graduands 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.* It is thus in your own interest to inform the University of your attendance as soon as possible.

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

Graduands attending the ceremony are each *automatically allocated a seat in the Auditorium*; thus, they should not be included in the request for tickets. Students graduating with a Masters degree are entitled to up to three guest tickets, while students graduating with a Doctoral degree are entitled to up to four guest tickets.

**Graduation Celebratory Event tickets** are issued to graduands and up to 6 guests.

### Where would I collect my tickets?

*NB: Tickets will NOT be emailed or posted to graduands.*

All tickets must be **collected in person** at the Student Bureau (Eden Grove Building) from Tuesday, 7 October 2025, between 08h30 – 16h00 or an hour before the ceremony at the Box Office at the Monument. Please produce a suitable ID (2025 student card, identity document or passport) when collecting tickets.

### May children attend the ceremony?

Children **under the age of 15 years** will *not* be allowed into any graduation venue.

### 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.

### Will I receive my parchment at the ceremony?

The University will provide you with your degree parchment, provided there is no hold on it.

Staff from the Student Fees Office will be available for up to **1 hour after the end of the ceremony** at the Box Office situated at the front entrance to the 1820 Settlers' Monument. If you have paid your fees very recently or have a query about your account, please discuss this with the Student Fees Office staff after the ceremony. If you are able to settle your account with them in full, your parchment will be released to you at that time.

Please know that should you settle your account after this 1-hour period, you will need to visit/contact the Academic Administration Office regarding the collection/delivery of your parchment. These offices are open Monday-Friday during normal office hours. Queries in this regard should be sent to [parchments@ru.ac.za](mailto:parchments@ru.ac.za).

## Section 2: Information for Students Not Attending Graduation

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

Graduands who will not be attending the ceremony are not required to inform the University of this decision.

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

Students who graduate in absentia (i.e. do not attend the ceremony) **may collect** their degree 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, 14 October 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 email will be sent out.

Alternatively, students may submit written permission allowing a **friend/family member to collect** the parchments on their behalf from **14 October 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 (identity document or passport) when collecting the parchment.

Students who are not able to collect their degree parchments may request that their parchment **be sent** to them or to their parents/guardians by completing the form titled “Receiving Degree/Diploma Parchment if Not Attending Graduation”. This form can be downloaded from the Rhodes University website at: <https://www.ru.ac.za/graduationgateway/>

**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 a payment?**

The various courier fees are included below, and payment thereof is required before parchments will be sent to their recipients.

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 parchment?**

We are only permitted to release the degree parchments to their recipients **after** the graduation ceremony has taken place. Further, due to the volume of parchments to be dispatched, kindly allow a **minimum of 4 weeks** for delivery after graduation or 4 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 ceremony and at the graduation celebratory event.

Graduands must wear graduate gowns 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.

The proper length of the graduate 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 graduands are welcome to wear garments which reflect those cultures and traditions. By custom, graduands at Rhodes University **do not wear mortar boards** at the graduation ceremony.

Please know that *unreasonably high/thin heels* can be a risk when participating in the ceremony. The University cannot be held liable for any incident in relation to such risk. The ceremony is a dignified event, and students are encouraged to dress accordingly.

**What should my guests wear?**

Guests are welcome, and even encouraged, to wear academic dress should they have graduated. Guests are also welcome to wear traditional garments or dress. Guests are encouraged to honour the dignity of the ceremony in their dress code.

**Where do I purchase/hire academic dress? (Form available on webpage)**

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](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 the 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.”

**“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
DSce	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
DSce(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 a 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 the Ceremony**

### **Where and when should my guests be seated?**

The ceremony will be held in the main auditorium of the 1820 Settlers' National Monument. Doors will be opened at 09h00 on Friday, 10 October 2025.

Please move into the venue early **and be reminded that guests are not permitted to leave the venue until the ceremony has concluded.** Latecomers or those with ticket problems should report to the ticket office at the main entrance.

Guests are reminded that **children under the age of 15 years** will *not* be allowed entrance to any of the graduation venues.

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

Graduands should be seated 20 minutes before the commencement of the ceremony. Seating plans for the graduands will be on display outside the Auditorium. Detailed instructions for the guidance of graduands in receiving degrees will be found on their seats.

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

The use of video, digital or still cameras is NOT ALLOWED in the Auditorium. See Section 7 for further information regarding photographs.

### **Parking**

Parking facilities for graduands 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: Graduation Celebratory Event**

### **Graduation Celebratory Event**

The Graduation Celebratory Event will be held at the Monument straight after the ceremony. In order to be permitted entry to the Graduation Celebratory Event, you and your guests must produce the tickets as received.

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

## **Section 6: 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 7: Practical Aspects/Services available**

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

In recent years, graduands 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 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**

Selected professional photographers will take individual photographs of graduands on stage, being capped by the Chancellor and hooded by the Registrar. These photographs will then be 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 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 8: Convocation and Association of Old Rhodians**

### **Convocation**

Dear October 2025 Graduates,

Congratulations on your graduation. Your families are extremely proud of you as you celebrate another lifetime achievement. Many of you may be the first in your family with a post-graduate degree, degree, or certificate. It is an achievement you must take a moment to reflect on. South Africa has a great need for people who are thinkers and innovators. Only by continuously learning and growing can you become someone who contributes to our country's economy, society, and growth. Continue to be curious, make a difference, plough back what you have learned into society.

I am honoured, humbled and proud to have represented the Rhodes community's staff and students as the President of Convocation for the past four years. I graduated in the class of 1987, went back to finish a master's degree in 1992, and returned to teach from 2004 - 2006. Rhodes is in my DNA and continues to be the foundation for some of my most significant relationships. I hope the university has the same impact on you, your life and future. You are joining a community of Rhodents/Rhodians who live all over the world and identify as graduates from Rhodes. Think about how you can continue to contribute to the university through the student fund that supports current students who cannot afford to study at one of the premier institutions in our country. Pay your success and achievement forward.

Thank you to the university administration for the support they provided me over the past four years especially the Chair of Council, Judge Gerald Bloem; the VC, Professor Sizwe Mabizela; the two DVCs, Professors Mabokang Monnapula-Mapesela and Nomakwezi Mzilikazi; and, Professor Adele Moodley the registrar and her office. Additional thanks go to Communications and Advancement, Alumni Office, Mrs Desiree Wicks, Charmaine Avery and their teams. It has been a pleasure working with you.

I wish the incoming President of Convocation everything of the best as they represent the student into the next phase of its growth and representation.

Dr M Ruiters  
Outgoing President of Convocation

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Dear Graduate

Congratulations! In terms of the Rhodes University Statute, all graduates of Rhodes University are members of the Convocation. 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, and you will be informed of the dates and venue in advance.

Professor MG Karels Acting 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 Makhandia, 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

October 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 centers 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 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 (registrar@ru.ac.za). If I do not hear from you by 30 September 2025, I will assume that you have no objection to my providing the information requested.

Professor MG Karels  
Acting 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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