



## **GRADUATION IN ABSENTIA AND PARCHMENT DISTRIBUTION FOR OCTOBER 2020**

Dear Rhodes University Graduand

Congratulations on your achievement. This is a major milestone in your academic career. As you may be well aware by now, the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent declaration of a national state of disaster and lockdown levels as announced by President Ramaphosa, has impacted majorly not only globally and nationally but has also affected how organisations conduct their activities in contributing towards containing the spread of the virus, and in prioritising not only the health and safety of its staff and students but also in the interest of saving lives. The Rhodes University Council has supported the decision to have a pre-recorded October virtual graduation ceremony with the understanding that a celebration will be held at a later stage.

This is an extremely challenging time and the decision was not taken lightly. We do understand and appreciate that you and your loved ones have been looking forward to graduation. At a later stage, you will be notified of the date and time of the release of the pre-recorded virtual graduation ceremony on the Rhodes University platforms, currently scheduled for 30 October 2020. This date may, however change, depending on several factors, but you will be notified accordingly.

Regarding arrangements for the release of your parchment, which ordinarily would have been handed to you at the relevant graduation ceremony, the following has been put in place:

1. A digital link to a secure URL will be emailed to by 16 October to access your parchment, provided that you are in good standing with the University.
2. You may also arrange to collect your printed parchment or for a courier option within the month of November, after the release of the pre-recorded ceremony.

A decision regarding the form of a future celebration in lieu of the October 2020 ceremony will be held, is uncertain at this time. Further information will be communicated after the national lockdown has been lifted.

Wishing you all the best. Keep safe.

Regards

Dr A.L. Moodly

**REGISTRAR**

06 OCTOBER 2020