












RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

2026 **First-Year Student Orientation Guide**



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WELCOME

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

PROF SIZWE MABIZELA



It gives me immense joy and profound honour to welcome you, our new students, to Rhodes University. Each one of you has worked hard, persevered through challenges, and made sacrifices to be here. This is now *your* university - your academic home for the next few years.

If you have been eagerly anticipating the beginning of this new chapter in your life, know that we, too, have awaited your arrival with great excitement. You are about to embark on a transformative journey – one of discovery, learning, growth and new possibilities. This marks the start of an adventure that will shape not only your own future, but also that of our society and the world beyond our university.

You join us at a particularly significant moment in Rhodes University's history. Having recently celebrated 120 years of pioneering scholarship, critical thought, and societal impact, we move forward with renewed energy and purpose. Yet, we do so in a world that is evolving at an unprecedented pace – a world defined by the rapid advancement in artificial intelligence, the urgent realities of climate change, growing global inequalities, and an ever-pressing call for social justice. In such a time, our mission as a university is not only to prepare you for the future but to empower you to help *shape* that future with wisdom, courage, and integrity.

Rhodes University continues to be recognised nationally and internationally for its academic excellence, research impact, and commitment to the public good. Even as undergraduate students, you will be taught and mentored by scholars who are leaders in their fields of research and innovation, individuals who generate new knowledge, challenge existing paradigms, and contribute to global debates of consequence. You have chosen wisely in joining an institution that is small enough to know you personally, yet strong, distinguished, and globally respected enough to offer an educational experience comparable to the best in the world.

Here, you will be nurtured and challenged in equal measure.

Beyond developing technical expertise, our aspiration is to cultivate in you the qualities of a life-long learner, a critical and creative thinker, an ethical leader, a digitally capable graduate, and a compassionate global citizen. These attributes will enable you not only to navigate an unpredictable world but to shape it in ways that advance justice, sustainability, and human flourishing.

University life, however, is about far more than the pursuit of knowledge. It is about the people you meet, the ideas you engage with, and the experiences that will broaden your horizons. You will encounter peers from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives – each with their own lived experiences, stories and insights. Embrace this diversity. Engage deeply, listen generously, and learn from one another. Build relationships, debate ideas, test your convictions and remain

open to different ways of seeing the world. It is through these encounters that we grow in empathy and understanding and discover what it means to be fully human.

**AT RHODES UNIVERSITY, WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN BEING A COMMUNITY
GROUNDED IN RESPECT, DIGNITY, AND CARE.**

There is no place here for intolerance, prejudice, discrimination, or harm of any kind. We are committed to ensuring that every member of our community can thrive in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment. But remember that with freedom comes responsibility. The choices you make in your studies, in your conduct, and in your relationships will shape your own life and influence the lives of those around you.

We recognise that the transition to university can be both exhilarating and daunting. You may at times feel uncertain, challenged, or even overwhelmed. **Remember that you are not alone.**

Our dedicated academic, professional, and support staff are here to walk this journey with you – to guide, mentor, and help you realise your potential. Make full use of the resources available to you: your lecturers, tutors, student advisors, counsellors, and the many enrichment opportunities that form part of the Rhodes University experience.

You hold in your hands both a privilege and a profound responsibility—many dream of the opportunity you now have. Honour the sacrifices that have made this possible by working hard, setting high standards for yourself, and striving to discover your purpose. Your time at Rhodes University is not only about personal achievement, but also about contributing

to something greater than yourself - advancing knowledge, serving society, and helping to build a more just, humane, and sustainable world.

**AS YOU BEGIN THIS JOURNEY, WE EXTEND OUR WARMEST WISHES FOR
YOUR SUCCESS. MAY YOUR YEARS AT RHODES UNIVERSITY INSPIRE YOU TO
GROW IN KNOWLEDGE, IN CHARACTER, AND IN VISION. MAY YOU LEAVE
THIS PLACE NOT ONLY WITH A DEGREE, BUT WITH A DEEPER SENSE OF WHO
YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU ARE CALLED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORLD.**

Welcome to a community of thinkers and dreamers, doers and leaders, innovators and change-makers. Welcome to a university where ideas flourish, where curiosity is nurtured, and where your future begins.

Above all, welcome to Rhodes University - **where leaders learn!**

Professor Sizwe Mabizela
Vice-Chancellor



WELCOME

FROM THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR: ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS

**PROF 'MABOKANG
MONNAPULA-MAPESELA**



It is an honour for me to welcome you to Rhodes University – **a proud university where leaders learn.** Congratulations on your remarkable achievement in gaining admission to **one of South Africa's most distinguished universities.**

Your dedication, resilience, and hard work have brought you to this moment, and I encourage you to take time to celebrate and cherish this opportunity. You have earned your place here, and I hope your presence not only enriches our vibrant academic community but also makes your study experience memorable.

As your **Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs (DVC: A&SA)**, I am delighted to support you as you begin this transformative journey of learning, growth, and discovery. ***Your success is my priority.*** I am committed to ensuring that you have an enabling environment that supports, guides, and provides the resources you need to flourish. In the same spirit, I encourage you to make your studies your top priority, to be an active learner, and to engage fully with the Rhodes University community – your deans, deputy deans, faculty officers, lecturers, tutors, mentors, student peers, and support staff. University life marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your personal and academic journey. It is a space where curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking come together. At Rhodes University, you will not only co-create knowledge with your lecturers but also learn to apply it with insight, integrity, and purpose. This is your opportunity to grow intellectually, socially, and personally, to challenge yourself and to explore the impact that you can make in the world. Dream big, aim high, and work with passion and determination.

Think of Rhodes University, *where leaders learn,* as a place where leaders are nurtured.

Just as a captain learns to navigate storms at sea, here you will develop the skills and knowledge to steer your life with confidence, integrity, and vision. You will make decisions, face challenges, and celebrate victories, all within a community that supports and inspires you. This is where you will learn not only to lead in your chosen field but also to lead in life. At Rhodes University, we encourage you to embrace and live by our University values as you begin your journey. Strive for Excellence in your studies, let Integrity guide all that you do, show Compassion and Respect for others, embrace Diversity and learn from different perspectives, and work together with Collegiality. Upholding these values in your daily interactions will help you build meaningful relationships, contribute to a safe and supportive community, and thrive in your academic, personal and social life.

Rhodes University also aims to develop graduates with the **following key attributes** that will guide your growth throughout your time here and beyond. You will be supported to become:

- an **ethical leader**, acts with integrity, and cares for others;
- **digitally competent**, able to navigate a connected world;
- a **critical and engaged citizen**, contributing positively to society;

- a **life-long learner**, continually seeking knowledge;
- **curious and innovative**, able to think creatively and solve challenges;
- **empathetic**, understanding and valuing the perspectives of others.

Your transition from high school to university will be both exciting and demanding. It requires a new level of **independence, self-discipline, and personal responsibility**. University learning encourages you to **think critically, engage actively**, and become a co-creator of knowledge rather than simply a consumer. Your lecturers, tutors, and mentors are here to guide and support you, but your success will depend on **your agency and commitment, perseverance, and willingness** to embrace every learning opportunity. Be sure to attend **all your classes**, participate in discussions, manage your time wisely, and approach every challenge with curiosity and courage.

There are several academic development and support opportunities for you here at Rhodes University. These include **Orientation to the institution (Orientation Week and Extended Orientation), Student Peer Mentoring Programme, Tutoring, and Academic Advising**. Another key opportunity for your success at Rhodes University is the Pathways to Success programme. It comprises a series of quarterly conversations with myself and other university leaders, designed specifically to support you as you navigate the academic, personal and social aspects of your first year of study. By attending these sessions, you will receive practical guidance, mentorship, and encouragement, and gain valuable insights from experienced staff, mentors, and student peers. I recommend that you attend these sessions, engage actively, ask questions, and make the most of this opportunity, as your participation will help lay a strong foundation for your success at Rhodes University and beyond. Look out for communication and session dates on **StudentNews** throughout the year; I look forward to seeing you all there.

AS YOU BEGIN THIS EXCITING NEW CHAPTER, REMEMBER THAT
UNIVERSITY LIFE IS ABOUT STRIKING A BALANCE, COMBINING ACADEMIC
GROWTH, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT,
AND OVERALL WELLBEING.

Engage in extra-curricular activities, pursue your passions, and care for your physical and mental well-being. Surround yourself with supportive friends and peers, make the right choices, and approach challenges as opportunities to learn and grow. Remember, your success comes from hard work, consistency, and a commitment to excellence.

With all these in mind, I warmly welcome you to Rhodes University, a place **where leaders learn**, and futures are shaped. Approach this journey with courage, curiosity, and determination. Work diligently and embrace the endless possibilities ahead. I wish you a fulfilling, inspiring, and successful first year. If you plant and nurture your seeds during your undergraduate years, you will have a smooth and successful university career. I have every confidence that you will rise to the challenges and seize every opportunity that comes your way.

Professor 'Mabokang Monnapula-Mapesela
Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Student Affairs

MESSAGE

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

DR PAKISO TONDI



Welcome to Rhodes University, an institution *where leaders learn*, and congratulations on joining our vibrant, diverse community! Without any doubt, joining the RU community marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter, one filled with discovery, personal growth, and endless opportunities to learn, connect, and make a difference.

As the Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD), we are here to support you in every step of your journey. Whether it is through residence life, student leadership and governance, wellness and counselling, or co-curricular activities, we are committed to ensuring that your university experience is empowering, inclusive, and fulfilling. The Division operates through three key sections responsible for implementing its mandate - to create an engaging and transformative experience that promotes holistic development, growth and academic success: the Student Wellness Section, Rhodes University (RU) Sport Section, and Residence Life, Student Support and Development Section. Their respective functions are outlined below:

- **Student Wellness Section** – This section comprises the Health Care Centre (HCC), Counselling Centre, Higher Health Programme Unit, and Careers Centre. It focuses on promoting holistic student well-being by encouraging each student to take responsibility for their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual wellness.
- **Sport Section** – This section oversees both recreational and competitive student sporting activities and also manages the Rhodes University Health Suite. It aims to foster a culture of physical fitness, teamwork, and healthy lifestyle habits among students.
- **Residence Life, Student Support and Development Section** – This section includes the Student Representative Council (SRC), which governs all student societies; the Residence System (comprising the residence management and leadership structures); Disability Support Services; and the First-Year Extended Orientation Programme. Through the Residence Life System and related programmes, this section promotes personal growth and transformative experience that extends well beyond university life.

“THE ABILITY TO READ, WRITE, AND ANALYSE; THE CONFIDENCE TO STAND UP AND DEMAND JUSTICE AND EQUALITY; THE QUALIFICATIONS AND CONNECTIONS TO GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR AND TAKE YOUR SEAT AT THE TABLE – ALL OF THAT STARTS WITH EDUCATION.” MICHELLE OBAMA

The Rhodes University First-Year Extended Orientation Programme (RUFYE) is an extended support programme for all first-year students, aimed at empowering them to make the transition from high school to university. It is a programme aimed at promoting a positive first-year student experience through various academic and social initiatives and programmes run beyond the Orientation Week programme. The programme is compulsory and will resume immediately after Orientation Week. All first-year students will receive the Extended Orientation booklet.

The living and learning spaces within the University, inside and outside the class, include spaces to learn about collaborative leadership. This inclusive environment embraces human rights and diversity, community engagement and social justice. In these spaces, students are encouraged to engage with one another and their SRC, and to effectively participate in on- and off-campus residence activities for their own self-reflection and holistic personal growth.

The Division is committed to developing and implementing policies, procedures, programmes, and services that enhance and enrich the overall educational experience of students at Rhodes University. It affirms that delivering quality services and sustaining a commitment to continuous improvement are essential to realising the University's vision and mission, guided by a deep understanding of the needs, aspirations, and expectations of Rhodes University students.

Dr Pakiso Tondi

Director of Student Services and Development



WELCOME FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT THALETHU MAGIDELA

First years of 2026, welcome home. We have long been awaiting your arrival, as we know you will have an impact on Rhodes University unlike any other generation has had. This journey will be one of discovery, and we are ready to go on this escapade with you if you let us. You have been inducted into the school of leaders, and your role started the day you applied.



On behalf of the Student Representative Council, I extend to you a heartfelt welcome to Rhodes University, an institution that, for 122 years, has stood not only as a centre for academic excellence but as a beacon of transformative leadership, heritage and hope. Rhodes University is not just a university; it is a movement of minds and a legacy of courage. You are now part of that legacy.

Today, we recognise not just your acceptance, but the bravery it took to get here. The late nights. The sacrifices. The quiet moments of self-doubt are followed by an unwavering decision to keep going. We honour that fight in you. Let it be known that stepping into this chapter is no small feat. You are here because you dared to believe you were worthy of more, and you were right. You are now part of a community that demands vision, action, and above all, courage.

My name is Thalethu Magidela, and I have the honour of serving as your SRC President. I was born in the spirited town of Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, a place brimming with people who are relentless in their pursuit of better. I am a third-year Bachelor of Science student who was in the same position that you are now in a couple of years ago. I remember feeling nervous and overwhelmed by the weight of the expected responsibility, as if I were in the deep end alone. Despite the anxious feelings, I also carried hope, as if it were something fragile in my hands, knowing that I did not come to fail or take a back seat. There was much to accomplish!

I stand alongside a council of 15 other committed student leaders who are not only leaders in name but dedicated servants in spirit. We are grounded in the values of solidarity, service, transparency, innovation, courage and integrity. Our mandate is clear: to amplify your voices, to advocate for your concerns, to be visible, accessible, and present. We steward over 8 000 individuals, and we know the only practical way to do this effectively is in partnership. We will not always have the ideas, but given that we are in such a rich institution, we will always seek expertise from all around us, including yourselves, because we expect immediate impact from you all.

**"FOR THE SPIRIT GOD GAVE US DOES NOT MAKE US TIMID,
BUT GIVES US POWER, LOVE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE."
2 TIMOTHY 1:7 (NIV)**

As you begin your academic journey, never lose sight of your “why.” You came here to learn, to grow, and to earn a degree that has the power to transform not just your life, but your family, your community, and the world. Yes, the journey may be hard. Yes, there will be moments of exhaustion, frustration and even fear. However, I urge you never to forget the quiet, persistent strength of perseverance. Rise even when it is difficult. Rise especially when it seems impossible. Many of you might be the first in your family to embark on this path, and some of you are following in the footsteps of trailblazers before you. Never forget that you are here to forge your own footprint.

Some of you have crossed oceans to get to this very institution. Others have travelled from villages, cities, townships, and suburbs, with each of you bringing a wide array of stories, cultures, languages and dreams. As I said, we have been waiting for you because your unique personalities matter in reshaping our campus into a better space for all individuals. In this community, you are seen! In this community, you matter!

The SRC is committed to building and protecting a university environment that is inclusive, diverse, and safe for all, across race, religion, culture, sexuality, ability and nationality.

Rhodes University is not just a place to study; it is a home away from home. A place where you will be challenged to think critically, to lead courageously, and to become adaptable problem-solvers and responsible global citizens.

At this University, we value intentionality. We believe in the leadership of everyday acts, in discovering the strengths you didn't even know you had, and in standing for something greater than yourself. The University offers a range of support services through the Division of Student Services and Development, from mental health and wellness to physical wellbeing, disability support, and residence life. We

also work closely with the Equity and Institutional Culture Office, which champions human rights and challenges injustices such as racism, sexism, gender-based violence, xenophobia and ableism. We are here to protect each other's dignity and uphold each other's right to belong.

And as you begin this chapter, let me remind you of this truth:

You are not here by mistake. You are here by merit, by courage, and by destiny.
When the road gets difficult, and it will, I urge you to return to the scripture I quoted.
Let that be your anchor. You have what it takes. You have always had it.
And now, you will be shaped, challenged, and sharpened not just into a graduate,
but into a leader the world needs.

Welcome to Rhodes University. Welcome to Possibility. Welcome to Power. Let's walk this journey together.

Ms Thalethu Magidela

Student Representative Council President 2026



GENERAL INFORMATION

This booklet contains the 2026 Orientation Week programme, information about each Faculty, and the academic programmes and qualifications on offer.

In planning your curriculum, you need to make full use of the following resources:

- **This booklet: Read it carefully**
- The Orientation Week programme (page 17 of this booklet) and the planning checklist
- The Learning at University Toolkit
- The Rhodes University website: check the details of the subjects which interest you
<https://www.ru.ac.za/academic/faculties/>

Faculty Deans and Curriculum Advisors for each Faculty will be available for consultations during Orientation Week.

You must attend curriculum planning and approval by your Faculty Dean, and visit a Faculty Curriculum Advisor for any queries related to your chosen degree and subject choices.

Curriculum advisors will be available from 09h00 to 16h00 on Tuesday, 3 February, Wednesday, 4 February, and Thursday, 5 February in the Eden Grove Seminar Rooms for walk-in appointments.

Advice and guidance are also available from the Career Centre (Steve Biko Building), your Cluster Coordinators, Residence Heads and Lecturers. There will be an SRC Helpdesk at the Barratt Complex, and student guides there will be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you are still in doubt about anything, ask a student guide, staff member, Cluster Coordinator, Residence Head, Residence Student Assistant or a member of your House Committee.

This booklet also contains information about all the support services that are available to you at Rhodes University, how to access computer facilities and the internet, and what to do when you get sick, need a leave of absence, or suffer some unexpected misfortune. It also contains essential rules regarding the residential system, student discipline, and examinations.

As a student, you must register each year so that we have a record of your progress. Your administrative registration ensures that the University has an up-to-date record of all your personal details, such as your home address, local Makhanda address, medical aid, car registration, etc. We also take a photograph of you for our records, which appears on your student card.

Remember to quote your student number in all correspondence with the University – this is our primary means of identifying you in our records. Please also note that the University will use your Rhodes University email address to communicate with you, so check it regularly. Ensure that the cell phone number you provided to the University is always up to date.



WELCOME ADDRESS

Welcome Day is one of the most important days of the year at Rhodes University. On this day, we welcome all first-year students and their parents to campus. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sizwe Mabizela, will personally welcome you **at 16h00 on Sunday, 1 February 2026**. You are cordially invited to attend this critical address.

What happens there?

The session will last approximately one hour. Guests are requested to be seated 15 minutes before the start of the programme, which will be as follows:

- **Welcome by the Vice-Chancellor**, Professor Sizwe Mabizela.
- **Welcome by the Student Representative Council (SRC) President**, Ms Thalethu Magidela.

Why does the event take place and where?

The Welcoming Event is an annual event for all first-year students and their parents, held in the Guy Butler Theatre at the 1820 Settlers National Monument. There will also be a live screening of the proceedings available at the Olive Schreiner and Thomas Pringle venues if the Guy Butler Theatre reaches full capacity.





ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

| | |
|-----------|---|
| ACR | Pass: Aggregated credit (continuing) |
| AEG | Permission granted to write Aegrotat examination |
| CE | Community Engagement |
| CPU | Campus Protection Unit |
| DNR | Did not write examination |
| DNW | Absent from the examination |
| DP | Duly Performed |
| DPR | Duly Performed Certificate refused; not permitted to write the examination in this course |
| DSSD | Division of Student Services and Development |
| DVC: A&SA | Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Student Affairs |
| FSM | Fail: Failed sub-minimum |
| FYE | First-Year Experience |
| HCC | Health Care Centre |
| HoD | Head of Department |
| LoA | Leave of Absence |
| NCR | Pass: Aggregated credit (non-continuing) |
| O-Week | Orientation Week |
| RU | Rhodes University |
| RUFYE | Rhodes University First-Year Extended Orientation Programme |
| SRC | Student Representative Council |
| SSC | Student Services Council |
| 3NC | Pass: Non-continuing 3rd class pass |





DEFINITIONS

Aegrotat: An Aegrotat is a certificate one obtains if one is unable to attend an examination because of genuine ill health, or for some other serious reason, such as the death of a member of one's family. The Aegrotat then allows one to write another (equivalent) examination at the same time as when supplementary exams are offered, known as an Aegrotat examination. Applications to sit such examinations must be made within one week of missing the examination on ROSS. They must be supported by a doctor's certificate or other proof that the request is genuine.

Class Representative (Rep): An elected member of the class who represents the views of the class in the academic departments.

Course: One of several programmes in a particular subject, for example, 'Sociology 1,' is a single course, which is followed in the second year by 'Sociology 2,' and in the third year by 'Sociology 3'.

Curriculum Advisors: Faculty-specific advisors who guide subject choice and degree options. These advisors can help you plan which departmental talks you need to attend during Orientation Week and guide you in choosing appropriate subjects for your chosen degree.

Curriculum approval: Your curriculum is a group of subjects which you have chosen to study for the year. This choice must be formally approved by the Dean or his/her assistant at the start of each year and recorded on your academic record.

Credit: A course which has been passed by a student (a pass mark at Rhodes University is 50%).

Dean: The academic leader of each Faculty, for example, the Dean of Science, Humanities, Law, etc.

Degree: What you aim to achieve after three/four years of study, after you have passed the requisite number of courses with credits in two major subjects and other ancillaries. The total number of credits varies by Faculty.

Duly Performed (DP) Certificate: To write examinations, students must demonstrate that they have attended the required number of classes (usually 80%), completed all tests, and handed in all classwork. If you do not perform, you will be notified that you have lost your DP certificate and will not be permitted to write the exam(s) for the relevant course. Your final result for that course will be recorded as a Duly Performed Certificate refused (DPR).

Extended DP: Special permission from the relevant Dean to register (often with conditions) for a course that was failed, without having to attend the lectures of the course, provided that the student participated in the course, earned a DP in the course the previous year, and wrote the examination. A DP can only be extended for one year.

Faculty: A grouping of academic departments (e.g., the departments of English, Anthropology, Politics, etc., are all part of the Humanities Faculty).

Head of Department (HoD): Each department (e.g., Statistics) has a head of department. This academic teaches and oversees the department's administrative aspects.

Major: A subject a student studies in successive courses, usually over 3 years. For example, Sociology would be a major subject if the student completed Sociology 1 in the first year, followed by Sociology 2 in the second year, and then Sociology 3 in the third year. A student must have two major subjects in their degree.

Plagiarism: The unacceptable practice of presenting material written by someone else as one's own work without acknowledging the sources of information through a proper referencing style. All sources must be clearly acknowledged. Penalties for plagiarism and cheating at Rhodes University are severe.

Professor: A Senior Academic within a Department in a Faculty.

Registration: The official record of a student's personal details, identity, and details about the courses they are taking, year by year. Students must register at the start of each academic year.

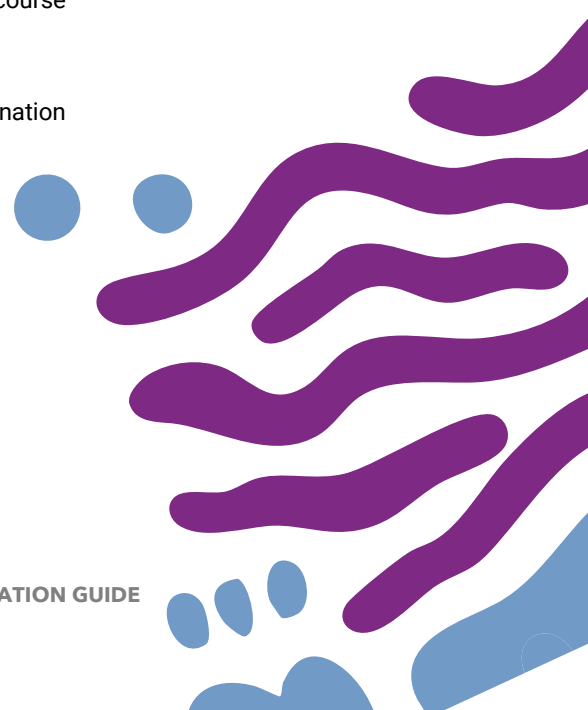
Semester: The academic year is divided into two semesters. The first semester starts in February and ends in June. The second semester starts in July and ends in November. A semester credit is a half-year course, worth half a credit.

Supplementary exams: These are repeat examinations offered to students who have failed courses and have met the relevant Faculty requirements to qualify for such examinations.

Swot Week: Days following the last day of lectures of semester one (mid-year) and semester two (end-of-year) before the start of exams. This is the time set aside for students to use to prepare for their exams.

Symbols on Transcripts

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 | Pass 75 - 100% |
| 2A | Pass 70 - 74% |
| 2B | Pass 60 - 69% |
| 3 | Pass 50 - 59% |
| P | Pass |
| ACR | Pass: Aggregated credit (continuing) |
| NCR | Pass: Aggregated credit (non-continuing) |
| 3NC | Pass: Non-continuing 3rd class pass |
| F1 | Fail 45 - 49% |
| F2 | Fail 30 - 44% |
| F3 | Fail 0 - 29% |
| F | Fail |
| F1S/F2S | Fail: Permitted to write a supplementary examination in this course |
| FSM | Fail: Failed sub-minimum |
| AEG | Permission granted to write the Aegrotat examination |
| DPR | Duly Performed Certificate refused - may not write the examination |
| DNW | Did not write the examination |





FIRST-YEAR ORIENTATION WEEK 2026



First-year orientation

The **First-Year Orientation** programme is designed to help new students smoothly transition into university life. This programme encompasses various initiatives and activities that aim to support students as they adapt to university life, tackle academic challenges, and develop critical skills needed in the 21st century.

What to carry daily

Throughout orientation week, make sure to have:

- Your **Orientation Programme Booklet**
- The **note-taking booklet** provided at registration
- A pen
- Your **student card** (as soon as it is issued).

Tip: End each day by planning for the next. Decide on the sessions you need to attend and locate their venues. Expect to be asked for your **student number** frequently, which you can find on your acceptance letter and student card (e.g., 26N1234).

Curriculum approval and registration

Preliminary timetable: Bring this to the meeting for curriculum approval.

Subject choice confirmation: Your subject choices are checked and recorded during registration. Generally, you cannot register for classes with timetable clashes. Curriculum advisors can help you identify clashes ahead of curriculum approval.

Important note: Curriculum approval does not take place within academic departments. Departments are primarily for **tutorial and practical sign-ups**. Within hours of receiving curriculum approval, you can review your course record on **ROSS** (ross.ru.ac.za). Contact your Faculty Dean immediately if any listed courses are incorrect.

Administrative registration and attendance

Ensure that **administrative registration** and formal curriculum approval are completed before attending any lectures. This process secures your status and ensures that your chosen courses are in order. This programme and preparation will set the foundation for a successful academic experience, so be proactive in engaging with each orientation session!



Academic orientation

Studying at a university requires a different and more advanced understanding of what is expected of you as a learner, as well as how you should approach meeting those expectations.

During Orientation Week, you will also have the opportunity to think about what different groups of subjects can offer you by attending the panel discussions, where members of staff specialising in these areas and students from these areas will try to give you a taste of what they offer. You will then have an opportunity to ask questions.

Remember that you do not have to take only subjects from one panel area. Unlike other places, Rhodes University offers you opportunities to combine subjects in any way you like, provided your timetable allows it. This will even include taking subjects from different faculties if you want to. Believe it or not, a combination of Music and Musicology and Mathematics or Computer Science is not unusual! However, if you are unsure about whether certain subject choices are compatible, you can consult a curriculum advisor or your Dean for guidance.



Additional important information

You need to attend the following presentations:

- **Library presentations and tours:** These will give you an understanding of how the library functions. You will need to attend one presentation and tour during Orientation Week.
- **Introduction to RUConnected and ROSS training sessions** will take place in the Jacaranda Labs daily from 4 to 6 February 2026. The sessions will give you an understanding of how the Rhodes University Computer Services function. The session covers how to log in, check email, write and print essays, and use ROSS, RUConnected, etc. Rhodes students must use computers at some point, and there are workshops for beginners and new students. You need to attend at least one RUConnected workshop.
- **Transition to University and Life at University workshops:** You are also expected to attend at least one Transition to University workshop and all compulsory Life at University workshops, where you will be introduced to essential concepts and initiatives at Rhodes University.

Mapping Your Career Journey: It is also essential that you attend the Mapping Your Career Journey session at 09h30 on Tuesday, 3 February in Barratt 1 or at 12h00 on Friday, 6 February in the Chemistry Major lecture theatre.





This is Rhodes University's official digital learning platform, accessible via the web or through a free mobile app. To access RUConnected via the web, please visit <https://ruconnected.ru.ac.za/>

App features

- Access course content even when offline
- Attempt quizzes, post in forums, submit assignments & more both on and offline
- Receive instant notifications of course announcements, forum posts and assignment submissions
- Find and contact peers in your courses
- Upload images, audio, videos and other files from your mobile device
- Check upcoming deadlines
- View your grades
- and much more!

Keeping you connected to your learning!

Digital Literacies course

You will automatically be added to the Digital Literacies course site. This informal six-week course is designed to help you develop foundational digital practices and tools for living and learning at Rhodes University. You will receive regular emails about topics and resources for each week:



| | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Week 1 | Let's get connected |
| Week 2 | Let's navigate together |
| Week 3 | Let's get critical |
| Week 4 | Let's get responsible |
| Week 5 | Let's get writing |
| Week 6 | Let's get visual |

Email, Wi-Fi, Office 365 and preparing for your studies
Searching online, library resources and saving files
Evaluating and selecting credible sources, referencing, plagiarism and fake news
AI tools, reference management tools, Turnitin and online presence
Breaking down an assignment topic, editing and proofreading, Grammarly, links to learning and support toolkits
Presentation software, skills and tips

You will also receive email notifications via the course site about sessions you can attend to learn more about accessing library resources and other topics.



ORIENTATION PROGRAMME 2026

| DATE & TIME | ACTIVITY/EVENT | VENUE |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Saturday, 31 January | | |
| 07h00 - 18h00 | Administrative registration & Welcome of First-Years | Barratt Lecture venues |
| Sunday, 1 February | | |
| 07h00 - 18h00 | Administrative registration & Welcome of First-Years | Barratt Lecture venues |
| 12h00 - 13h30 | Lunch | DINING HALLS |
| 14h30 - 15h00 | Treats for Parents | MONUMENT |
| 16h00 - 17h00 | VC & SRC PRESIDENT Address to Parents and First-Year Students | MONUMENT |
| 17h30 - 20h30 | O-FEST Orientation Festival (Parents & First-Years) | Ally Weakley Field |
| Monday, 2 February | | |
| 08h30 - 10h20 | Compulsory session for First-Years | MONUMENT & CAMPUS |
| 10h30 - 12h00 | Deans Faculty talks to First-Years | MONUMENT & CAMPUS |
| 12h30 - 13h45 | Lunch/Hall Welcome Reception for First-Years | DINING HALLS |
| 14h00 - 16h15 | Academic Orientation | See O-Week guide |
| 15h30 - 16h15 | Transition to University Workshop for Commerce, Science and Pharmacy students (attend one) | Barratt 2 |
| 16h30 - 17h30 | Life at University Workshop (compulsory) | Barratt 1 & 2/Great Hall |
| 17h30 - 18h30 | Supper | DINING HALLS |
| 19h00 - 21h00 | International Extravaganza | STEVE BIKO LAWNS |
| | Hall/Residence events | Residences |
| Tuesday, 3 February | | |
| 08h45 - 16h15 | Academic Orientation | See O-Week guide |
| 09h30 - 10h00 | Mapping Your Career Journey (compulsory; another session on Friday) | Barratt 1 |
| 12h30 - 13h45 | Lunch & SRC Dining Hall visits (Get to Know Your SRC) | DINING HALLS |
| 15h30 - 16h15 | Transition to University Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (attend one) | Barratt 2 |
| 16h30 - 17h30 | Life at University Workshop (compulsory) | Barratt 1 & 2/Great Hall |
| 17h30 - 18h30 | Supper | DINING HALLS |
| 18h30 - 22h00 | RU Jamming Day 1 | Great Hall/Great Hall Verandah |
| Wednesday, 4 February | | |
| 08h45 - 16h00 | Academic Orientation | See O-Week guide |
| 11h00 - 11h45 | Transition to University Workshop for Commerce, Science and Pharmacy students (attend one) | Barratt 1 |
| 11h00 - 15h45 | RUConnected Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (attend one) | Jac Labs |
| 12h30 - 13h45 | Lunch & SRC Dining Hall visits | DINING HALLS |

| | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 14h00 - 14h45 | Transition to University Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (attend one) | Chemistry Major |
| 16h30 - 17h30 | Life at University Workshop (compulsory) | Barratt 1 & 2/Great Hall |
| 17h30 - 18h30 | Supper | DINING HALLS |
| 18h30 - 22h00 | RU Jamming Day 2 | Great Hall/Great Hall Verandah |

Thursday, 5 February

| | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 09h00 - 16h00 | CURRICULUM APPROVAL HUMANITIES ONLY <i>(First-Year students only)</i> | BARRATT 1 & 2 |
| 09h00 - 15h15 | Primary & Early Childhood Education Department Workshop (compulsory for BEd students) | BLT |
| 09h00 - 12h00 | Law Faculty Dean: Success in Legal Studies (compulsory for Law students) | Eden Grove Red |
| 09h00 - 11h00 | Science Faculty Dean: Curriculum planning (compulsory for Science students) | Chemistry Major |
| | Commerce Faculty Dean: Curriculum planning (compulsory for Commerce students) | GLT |
| 11h15 - 16h15 | RUConnected Workshop for Commerce, Science and Pharmacy students (attend one) | Jac Labs |
| 12h30 - 14h00 | Lunch & SRC Dining Hall visits | DINING HALLS |
| 15h30 - 16h15 | Transition to University Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (attend one) | Chemistry Major |
| 16h30 - 17h30 | Life at University Workshop (compulsory) | Barratt 1 & 2/Great Hall |
| 17h30 - 18h30 | Supper | DINING HALLS |
| 19h00 - 21h00 | RU Jamming Finals | Great Hall/Great Hall Verandah |

Friday, 6 February

| | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 09h00 - 16h00 | CURRICULUM APPROVAL | See O-Week guide |
| 12h00 - 12h45 | Mapping Your Career Journey (compulsory) | Chemistry Major |
| 13h00 - 14h00 | Lunch | DINING HALLS |
| 12h00 - 15h45 | RUConnected Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (attend one) | Jac Labs |
| 16h00 - 17h30 | Positive Masculinity & Empowerment (compulsory) | Barratt 1 & 2/Great Hall |
| 17h30 - 18h30 | Supper | DINING HALLS |
| 18h30 - 20h00 | SRC SPORTS & SOCIETIES EXTRAVAGANZA | STEVE BIKO LAWNS |

Saturday, 7 February

| | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 09h00 - 13h00 | CURRICULUM APPROVAL | See O-Week guide |
| 09h00 - 12h00 | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL EXTRAVAGANZA | STEVE BIKO LAWNS |
| 14h00 - 15h00 | CAMPUS 30 SECONDS | ON CAMPUS |

END OF FORMAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMME



ACADEMIC ORIENTATION PROGRAMME 2026

To plan your week, follow the ordered steps below and mark sessions you will attend with a tick mark.

1. Note all compulsory sessions that already have a tick mark.
2. Note compulsory sessions for your Faculty.
3. If you are doing an Extended Studies 4-year degree, note the compulsory session.
4. Choose departmental talks in your Faculty to attend (try to go to as many as possible to get a sense of what is offered).
5. If you want to attend talks from other Faculties, only choose these if you have time once you have finished Step 8.
6. Choose an RUConnected workshop (compulsory, attend ONE of MANY).
7. Choose a Transition to University workshop (attend ONE of MANY).
8. Choose a Library session (compulsory, attend ONE of MANY).

My plan
(✓)

SUNDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2026

| | | | |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| 16h00 – 17h00 | Compulsory VC & SRC President Address to parents and first-year students | Monument – Guy Butler Theatre | ✓ |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|---|

MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2026

| | | | |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| 08h30 - 10h20 | Compulsory Introduction to the University | Monument & Campus venues | ✓ |
| 10h30 - 12h00 | Compulsory Faculty Deans' Talks to First-Year students: Humanities Faculty (H) Law Faculty (L) Education Faculty (E) Science Faculty (S) Commerce Faculty (C) Pharmacy Faculty (P) | Monument & Campus venues Guy Butler Theatre (Monument) Thomas Pringle (Monument) Olive Schreiner (Monument) Barratt 1 (Campus) Barratt 2 (Campus) Chemistry Major (Campus) | |
| 14h00 - 15h15 | Primary & Early Childhood Education Department workshop (E) (compulsory for BEd students) | BLT (Big Lecture Theatre) | |
| 14h00 - 14h30 | Accounting Department (C) Botany Department (S) Drama Department (H) | Barratt 1 Bioscience Major Barratt 2 | |
| 14h45 - 15h15 | Biochemistry, Microbiology & Bioinformatics Department (S) Anthropology Department (H) Economics Department (C) Fine Art Department (H) Statistics Department (S) Transition to University Workshop: Commerce, Science and Pharmacy students (compulsory to attend one) | Bioscience Major Barratt 1 Barratt 2 Barratt 1 Bioscience Major Barratt 2 | |
| 16h30 – 17h30 | Compulsory 'Life at University' workshop | Barratt 1&2/Great Hall | ✓ |

Library presentations and tours run from 14h00 - 16h00 on the half-hour in the main library (attend only ONE).

TUESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2026

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 08h45 - 10h45 | Primary & Early Childhood Education Department Workshop (E) | BLT (Big Lecture Theatre) | |
| 08h45 - 09h15 | Chemistry Department (S) | Bioscience Major | |
| | Journalism & Media Studies Department (H) | Barratt 1 | |
| 09h30 - 10h00 | Computer Science Department (S) | Bioscience Major | |
| | Mapping Your Career Journey (compulsory; another session Friday) (09h30 - 10h15) | Barratt 1 | ✓ |
| | Extended Studies - Science | GLT (General Lecture Theatre) | |
| 10h15 - 10h45 | Information Systems Department (C) | Barratt 1 | |
| | Environmental Science Department (S) | Bioscience Major | |
| | Literary Studies in English Department (H) | Barratt 2 | |
| 11h00 - 11h30 | Geography Department (S) | Bioscience Major | |
| | Linguistics & Applied Language Studies Department (H) | Barratt 1 | |
| | Extended Studies - Humanities | GLT (General Lecture Theatre) | |
| 11h45 - 12h15 | Management Department (C) | Barratt 1 | |
| | Geology Department (S) | Bioscience Major | |
| | Philosophy Department (H) | Barratt 2 | |
| 14h00 - 15h15 | Primary & Early Childhood Education Department Workshop (E) | BLT (Big Lecture Theatre) | |
| 14h00 - 14h30 | Human Kinetics & Ergonomics Department (S) | Bioscience Major | |
| | History Department (H) | Barratt 1 | |
| 14h45 - 15h15 | Ichthyology Department (S) | Bioscience Major | |
| | Political & International Studies Department (H) | Barratt 2 | |
| | Extended Studies - Commerce | GLT (General Lecture Theatre) | |
| 15h30 - 16h15 | Music and Musicology Department (H) | Barratt 1 | |
| | Transition to University Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (compulsory to attend one) | Barratt 2 | |
| | Pharmacy credit transfer (P) | Chemistry Major | |
| 16h30 - 17h30 | Compulsory 'Life at University' Workshop | Barratt 1&2/Great Hall | ✓ |

Library presentations and tours run from 09h00 - 16h00 on the half hour in the Main Library (attend only ONE).

WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2026

| | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| 08h45 - 10h45 | Primary & Early Childhood Education Department Workshop (E) | BLT (Big Lecture Theatre) | |
| 08h45 - 09h15 | Mathematics Department (S) | Barratt 1 | |
| | Psychology Department (H) | Barratt 2 | |
| 09h30 - 10h00 | Physics Department (S) | Barratt 1 | |
| | Sociology Department (H) | Barratt 2 | |
| 10h15 - 10h45 | Zoology & Entomology Department (S) | Barratt 2 | |
| | The PGCE Pathway: Planning Ahead During Your Degree (optional but highly recommended) | Barratt 1 | |

| | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| 11h00 - 12h30 | School of Languages (African Languages, Afrikaans & Nederlands, Chinese, Classical Studies, German, French, Modern Fiction) (H) | Barratt 2 | |
| 11h00 - 11h45 | Transition to University Workshop: Commerce, Science and Pharmacy students (compulsory to attend one) | Barratt 1 | |
| | RUConnected Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (compulsory to attend one) | Jacaranda Lab | |
| 12h00 - 12h45 | RUConnected Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (compulsory to attend one) | Jacaranda Lab | |
| 14h00 - 14h45 | RUConnected Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (compulsory to attend one) | Jacaranda Lab | |
| | Transition to University Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (compulsory to attend one) | Chemistry Major | |
| 15h00 - 15h45 | RUConnected Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (compulsory to attend one) | Jacaranda Lab | |
| 16h30 - 17h30 | Compulsory Life at University Workshop | Barratt 1 and 2/Great Hall | ✓ |

Library presentations and tours run from 09h00 - 16h00 on the half hour in the Main Library (attend only ONE).

THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2026

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 09h00 - 16h00 | CURRICULUM APPROVAL HUMANITIES (First-Year students only) | BARRATT 1 & 2 | |
| 09h00 - 15h15 | Primary & Early Childhood Education Department workshop (E) | BLT (Big Lecture Theatre) | |
| 09h00 - 12h00 | Law Faculty Dean: Success in Legal Studies (compulsory for Law students) | Eden Grove Red | |
| 09h00 - 11h00 | Science Faculty Dean: Curriculum planning (compulsory for Science students) | Chemistry Major | |
| | Commerce Faculty Dean: Curriculum planning (compulsory for Commerce students) | GLT (General Lecture Theatre) | |
| 11h15 - 12h00 | RUConnected Workshop for Commerce, Science and Pharmacy students (compulsory to attend one) | Jacaranda Lab | |
| 12h15 - 13h00 | RUConnected Workshop for Commerce, Science and Pharmacy students (compulsory to attend one) | Jacaranda Lab | |
| 14h30 - 15h15 | RUConnected Workshop for Commerce, Science and Pharmacy students (compulsory to attend one) | Jacaranda Lab | |
| 15h30 - 16h15 | RUConnected Workshop for Commerce, Science and Pharmacy students (compulsory to attend one) | Jacaranda Lab | |
| | Transition to University Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (compulsory to attend one) | Chemistry Major | |
| 16h30 - 17h30 | Compulsory Life at University Workshop | Barratt 1 and 2/Great Hall | ✓ |

Library presentations and tours run from 11h00 - 16h00 on the half hour in the Main Library (attend only ONE).

FRIDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2026

| | | | |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| 09h00 - 16h00 | Curriculum approval Humanities (returning students only) Curriculum approval Science Curriculum approval Commerce Curriculum approval Law Curriculum approval Education Curriculum approval Pharmacy | Barratt 1 and 2 Eden Grove Blue Eden Grove Red Law Faculty Education Faculty - BLT Online | |
| 12h00 - 12h45 | Mapping Your Career Journey (compulsory) RUConnected Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (compulsory to attend one) | Chemistry Major Jacaranda Lab | ✓ |
| 14h00 - 14h45 | RUConnected Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (compulsory to attend one) | Jacaranda Lab | |
| 15h00 - 15h45 | RUConnected Workshop for Humanities, Law and Education students (compulsory to attend one) | Jacaranda Lab | |
| 16h00 - 17h30 | Positive Masculinity & Empowerment Talks (compulsory) | Barratt 1 and 2/Great Hall | ✓ |

SATURDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2026

| | | | |
|---------------|---|--|--|
| 09h00 - 13h00 | Curriculum approval Humanities (all students and curriculum changes) Curriculum approval Science (returning students) Curriculum approval Commerce (returning students) | Barratt 1 and 2 Eden Grove Blue Eden Grove Red | |
|---------------|---|--|--|

MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2026

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 07h45 sharp | University first semester begins | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--|--|





ACADEMICS

REGISTRATION

Registration is the process through which you officially become a student at Rhodes University. As a student, you must register each year so that we have a record of your progress. Your administrative registration ensures that the University has an up-to-date record of all your personal details, such as home address, local Makhanda address, medical aid, car registration, etc. We also take a photograph of you for our records, which appears on your student card.

Curriculum Approval – as distinct from the administrative registration discussed above – is the process through which you choose your subjects for the year (this is subject to various constraints). This **takes place on Thursday, 5 February 2026**, after you have had a chance to find out about the various courses on offer (see the Daily Programme for details).

Your curriculum approval must be finalised by
the Friday of week 2 of the semester.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Our Academics, Administrators and Support Staff work hard to create an environment that will help you to realise your potential. If you find that you are struggling with your academic studies in the first few weeks, seek help:

- First, approach your Tutor or Lecturer and speak to them about your difficulties. Most departments offer some guidance for the first assignment, etc.
- Speak with your Residence Student Assistant or Residence Head, and with your fellow students. They can offer support and advice.
- Speak to the Dean of your Faculty - he or she may advise on how to adjust your programme.
- Extended Studies Programmes have been specially designed to help students who have been admitted to Rhodes University but have not met some of the usual entrance requirements (see below).
- Do not keep your problems to yourself. Seek help.

CURRICULUM APPROVAL

What is it? This entails making an informed decision about your study programme/qualification. Our Orientation Programme offers a wide range of talks about what is on offer. Try to go to as many of these as you can before you finally decide which subjects to take. You can also consult a Faculty Curriculum Advisor or Dean during Orientation Week. Keep an open mind, and talk to people about possibilities, so that you have a clear idea of what you want to study by Thursday/Friday and can present these choices for approval.

When your curriculum is formally “approved”, you will first consult with a senior member of your Faculty (e.g., the Dean of Humanities, Science, Commerce) after which the subjects (e.g., English 101/102 or Economics 101/102) which will form the first-year curriculum of your chosen degree (e.g., a BA, BSc, BCom) will be recorded on the University’s system, and form an official record of your curriculum for the year.

EXTENDED STUDIES PROGRAMME

Extended Studies Programmes are offered in the Faculties of Humanities, Science, and Commerce. Students who do not automatically qualify for direct admission to Rhodes University are selected and invited to join the programme using a variety of criteria.

These programmes are designed to support students in adapting to the Faculties' academic requirements through carefully structured courses in supportive learning environments.

All courses in the programmes earn credits that contribute to a degree, and students can complete their BSc, BCom, BA, or BSocSc degrees in four years.

Each Faculty Programme operates differently. The Science Extended Studies Programme offers stand-alone, year-long courses separate from the mainstream programme. In the Humanities Extended Studies Programme, students take fewer than regular mainstream courses in their first year of study and are supported during this time with extra classes.

For both programmes, the first year is therefore limited in course choice, but second-year students have a wider range of courses and degrees to choose from, which they complete alongside mainstream students. In contrast, the Commerce Extended Studies Programme is structured over the first two years and includes a mixture of supported mainstream courses and extended courses. Again, there is more choice in courses available in the later years of study. Extended Studies students are also offered/taught computer, information, and academic literacy courses, as well as other Faculty-specific courses where necessary.

For more information on individual programmes, see:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Humanities | Judith Reynolds , New Arts Building |
| Science | Aviwe Matiwane , New Arts Building |
| Commerce | Sisonke Mawonga , New Arts Building |



Or visit the website: <https://www.ru.ac.za/teachingandlearning/esu/>

MAKING CURRICULUM CHOICES


During Orientation Week, you will need to make decisions about the subjects you want to study in your first year. Rhodes University offers two types of undergraduate degrees: Professional qualifications and general formative degrees.

- **Professional qualifications**, including the LLB and BPharm degrees, lead directly to a career in a particular area.
- **General formative degrees**, such as the BA, BSocSci, BSc and BCom, expose students to a wide range of subjects in the early years of study. Two subjects are then chosen as 'majors' to study at the third-year level.

Many students come to the University thinking they will, for example, do a BA in Psychology or a BSc in Computer Science. This is not true. What will happen is that you will do a Bachelor of Arts degree in which Psychology may be one of your majors, or a Bachelor of Science degree in which Computer Science may be a major.

There are many benefits to doing a flexible general formative degree rather than a narrowly focused programme, which leads you to careers in only one subject area.

You may find that the area in which you think you want to study this week is very different to what you imagined. You might also find that you absolutely love another subject and that this is what you want to study.



Yet another advantage of a general formative degree is that it allows you to find a different way to attain your dream of graduating if you fail a subject. The structure of the degree allows you to be guided by the Dean or another senior member of staff towards success if you do have problems along the way.

During Orientation Week, you will have the opportunity to think about what different groups of subjects can offer you by attending panel discussions where members of staff specialising in these areas and students from these areas will try to give you a taste of what they offer. You will then have an opportunity to ask questions of the panel. *Please note that some subjects will appear in more than one panel.* Remember, also, that you do not have to take only subjects from one panel area.

Unlike other places, Rhodes University offers you the opportunity to combine subjects in any way you like, provided your timetable allows it. This will even include taking subjects from different faculties if you want to.

Believe it or not, a combination of Music and Musicology and Mathematics or Computer Science is not unusual! So, enjoy the week.

Go to as many panels as you possibly can and expose yourself to an entirely new world of thinking and interests that have opened to you now that you are registered at Rhodes University! Please refer to your daily timetable booklet.

COURSE CHANGES

Students sometimes find that after attending a few lectures in one of their courses, they wish to change to a different course. While it is not advisable to switch a course after teaching has begun (because you will miss lectures and be under pressure to catch up on reading and other work), there is a two-week grace period at the start of **each semester** during which such changes can be made; thereafter, **no further changes will be permitted.**

The two-week period at the start of semester one allows changes/registration for full-year courses and semester courses offered in semester one. In contrast, the two-week grace period at the start of semester two allows only changes/registration for semester two courses.

If you wish to change one or more of your courses, go to your Faculty Office for assistance.

Unless you change your registration in this way, you will encounter enormous problems later, such as not being allowed to write examinations in subjects for which you are not registered or being charged fees for handouts for courses you have not taken.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a registration certificate that accurately reflects all the courses for which you are registered. If you wish to drop a course, you can do so through your Faculty Office. Make sure your subject registration is accurate by the end of the first two weeks of the semester. If you don't, your transcript will reflect subjects that you have not deregistered from, which will, in turn, show that you did not write (DNW) the examination for that subject at the end of the semester.

ACADEMIC DEANS AND FACULTY STAFF

ALL students **MUST** attend one of the Faculty Presentations. These will provide a basic outline of how the Faculty functions and the degrees that are offered. Some Faculty of Humanities students may need to attend some subject presentations in other Faculties if they intend to choose subjects from those Faculties. All First-Year students must have a clear idea of what subjects they will enrol for by Thursday, **5 February 2026.**



FACULTIES



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

The Faculty of Humanities is the **largest Faculty** at Rhodes University, with **11 academic departments and two schools**. It offers a rich variety of courses within **four broad disciplinary categories**:

Visual and Performing Arts

Fine Art, Drama and Music & Musicology

Languages

Afrikaans, Chinese, French, German, Greek, isiXhosa, Literary Studies in English, Linguistics & Applied Language Studies and Latin

Communication

Journalism & Media Studies

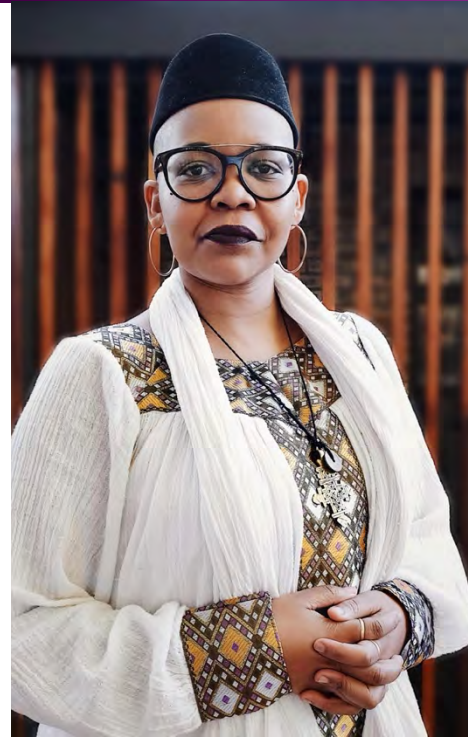
Various Human Studies disciplines

Anthropology, Art History and Visual Culture, Classical Civilisations, History, Philosophy, Political & International Studies, Psychology and Sociology

The Faculty of Humanities offers a wide range of degree and course combinations. **Students can major in any subject combination of their choice**, for instance, Journalism, Politics, History, Music, German, and Psychology. Students can also major in a Humanities subject and one offered in another Faculty, for instance, Sociology and Economics; History and Human Kinetics and Ergonomics; Anthropology and Information Systems, to name a few.

As there are many possible combinations, students are requested to read their degree rules to ensure they are on track to complete their degree within the allocated period. The Faculty offers an excellent education for life, which is formative for any career pathway. Our education provides students with critical reasoning skills, the ability to analyse and evaluate arguments, to probe for hidden assumptions, to organise complex material in coherent ways and so on.

A Humanities degree enhances a student's ability to understand the views of others, to communicate well, to cope with ambiguity and uncertainty, and to acknowledge one's own ignorance. Our education system introduces students to the formative moments of their histories, their societies, politics, and their identities. It allows students to enjoy worlds of music, drama, literature, and languages. All of the above may be combined with degrees or courses, which are more immediately career-oriented. Specialised degrees in Journalism or Fine Art or Music are offered, but within the context of a broader, rather than technical, education. A humanities degree opens worlds; it provides education and not technical industrial training. As such, it provides students with critical skills and characteristics essential to our individual and national development.



DEAN

Professor Siphokazi Magadla

DEPUTY DEAN: TEACHING & LEARNING

Dr Dominique Santos

DEPUTY DEAN: RESEARCH

Professor Patrice Mwepu

SENIOR FACULTY OFFICER

Mrs Karen Kouari

Queries for Humanities students can be directed to humanities@ru.ac.za



FACULTY OF COMMERCE

A **commerce degree** from Rhodes University provides vibrant, motivated, hardworking graduates with a qualification vital for forging a **career in the competitive and exciting world of commerce**.

The Faculty of Commerce consists of four academic departments: Accounting, Economics, Information Systems and Management, the Rhodes Business School and the Commerce Extended Studies Programme.

The Faculty of Commerce awards the following degrees:

Bachelor of Business Science

A **four-year career-focused degree** premised on the application of quantitative methods. The curriculum enables students to specialise in one or more of the following fields: Economics, Information Systems, Management, Quantitative Management and Computer Science.

Bachelor of Commerce

A three-year degree provides the graduate with a good academic grounding in the major areas of commerce.

The four curricula offered are:

- The **general curriculum** allows a range of subject combinations in the second and third years, including at least two major subjects.
- The **accounting curriculum** is designed for students seeking to enter the accounting profession.
- The **law curriculum** is available to students who would like to enter the legal profession or to follow a BCom degree with a legal emphasis. A candidate who follows this curriculum can gain enough exemptions from the LLB degree subjects to complete the LLB requirements in two further years of study.
- The **inter-faculty curriculum** enables students to include a Science or Humanities major in their BCom degree.

Bachelor of Economics

This degree is designed for students who want to include the maximum number of Economics courses and related subjects in their curriculum.

Commerce Extended Studies Programme

This programme supplements the instruction of major subjects within the Commerce Faculty. Students enrolled in the Commerce Extended Studies Programme receive additional literacy and numerical instruction via extended, augmented, or developmental courses. After completing two years of the programme, students may proceed to the regular degree streams offered by the Faculty.



DEAN

Professor Tshidi Mohapelo

DEPUTY DEAN: RESEARCH

Professor Lynette Louw

DEPUTY DEAN: TEACHING AND LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Professor Xolile Antoni

SENIOR FACULTY OFFICER

Mrs Niki Searle

Queries for Commerce
students can be directed to
commerce@ru.ac.za



FACULTY OF EDUCATION

The Faculty is committed to **understanding what quality education in Africa means** and increasing the **provision of quality education that is relevant to our local context and diverse communities**.

We are concerned with education and learning for children, youth, and adults, encompassing the preparation of initial and in-service teachers, educators in the non-formal education sector, the professional development of academics in higher education, and leadership in a variety of educational systems.

Bachelor of Education

There are two ways of becoming a qualified teacher at Rhodes University. The first way is to complete a four-year Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree in Foundation Phase Teaching (Grades R to 3). This programme addresses the need for competent and inspiring home language teachers in the Foundation Phase.

Postgraduate Certificate in Education

The second way of becoming a teacher at Rhodes University is by capping an undergraduate degree (BA, BSc, BCom) with a one-year Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). One PGCE programme is offered in 2026: Senior Phase/FET Teaching (Grades 7-9 and 10-12).

There are specific subject requirements at each of these levels in the PGCE programme, and a candidate intending to take this route must discuss these requirements with the Head of the Secondary and Post-School Education Department at the outset of their Bachelor's degree.

We strive to be a Faculty of choice for teacher education and encourage educators from around the continent and our home province to join our postgraduate programmes. Faculty members are actively involved in research, policy development, and professional and community work through a range of service-learning and community-engagement programmes. We are committed to producing capable, critical, creative, ethical, and reflexive teachers, researchers, and leaders in education. We strive in everything we do to encourage reflective practice among educators and educational leaders and to find solutions for Africa's educational challenges, while drawing on our rich collective resources and histories, cutting-edge theory, and many local, national, and international partnerships. Significant in our Faculty are the Centre for Social Development, the Rhodes University Mathematics Project, the Institute for the Study of Englishes in Africa, and several internationally renowned Research Chairs.

The Faculty has a vibrant postgraduate research training programme which offers graduates the opportunity to take their studies further with a Master's or PhD in a research area of their choice, including Mathematics Education, Numeracy Education, Science Education, Geography Education, English Language Teaching, Information Communication Technology in Education, Higher Education Studies, Education Leadership and Management, Environmental Education, Inclusive Education and Special Needs and Primary Education. Professional growth, through creative and critical engagement with theory, practice, and context, is fundamental to our work in this Faculty. We encourage students to take responsibility for their own success, while also ensuring that all students are offered appropriate high-quality academic support, mentoring, tuition, peer engagement and technology access. This strategy works: Our students' success rates (measured by retention and throughput) are among the best in South Africa.



DEAN

Professor Eureta Rosenberg

DEPUTY DEAN: RESEARCH

Dr Kavish Jawahar

SENIOR FACULTY OFFICER

Mrs Shehnaaz Asmal-Motara

Queries for Education students
can be directed to
education@ru.ac.za



FACULTY OF LAW

Rhodes University was the **first university in South Africa** to appoint a **full-time law professor** in 1905 and celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2025.

We have a long and proud tradition of legal education, which, combined with our research and commitment to the community, aligns us with the institutional vision and mission and commits us to pursuing social justice through constitutionalism and the rule of law.

Three academic programmes

The Faculty offers three academic programmes: LLB (at undergraduate level), LLM (at postgraduate level, by thesis only), and PhD (at postgraduate level, by thesis only).

There are several pathways to obtaining an LLB degree at Rhodes University:

- Admission of candidates straight from school who meet the Faculty requirements, and depending on the availability of spaces within the LLB programme.
- Admission after the first year of study where candidates have been registered for a Bachelor's degree in Humanities, Science or Commerce and completed Foundations of Law and Introduction to Law at a satisfactory level depending on the candidate's overall academic performance and the availability of spaces within the LLB programme.
- Admission of candidates after the completion of a Bachelor's degree with sufficient law courses in accordance with the requirements, and depending on the availability of spaces within the LLB programme.
- Admission of candidates after the completion of a Bachelor's degree without any or sufficient law courses in accordance with the requirements, and depending on the availability of spaces within the LLB programme.



DEAN

Professor Michelle Karels

DEPUTY DEAN: RESEARCH

Mr Siphuxolo Somandi

SENIOR FACULTY OFFICER

Mrs Andrea Comley

Queries for Law students can
be directed to
michelle.karels@ru.ac.za

The Faculty of Law is housed in the Lex Mpati House on St Peter's Campus. The majority of lectures for LLB students are held in the Lex Mpati House.

Faculty of Law library

The Alastair Kerr Law Library is situated on the ground floor of Lex Mpati House. It has an extensive collection of South African legal publications and international and comparative legal materials. The Library hosts a thirty-station computer lab for student use with printing and photocopying facilities. The Library also subscribes to numerous electronic databases for research and learning purposes. Study areas are available throughout the Library.

Law Clinic

Our Law Clinic is integral to our legal education. The Law Clinic is situated on New Street. The Clinic provides free legal advice to indigent members of our community. At the same time, it exposes our students to legal practice and hones their skills in consultation, communication, case management and file management.

Prospective students and their parents/caregivers/guardians are invited to direct further enquiries to the Dean of the Faculty at michelle.karels@ru.ac.za.



FACULTY OF PHARMACY

The mission of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University is to **promote pharmaceutical care through education, research, scholarship, creative endeavour and service.**

The Pharmacy Programme falls under two general areas of control: Rhodes University and the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC), the statutory body that controls the pharmacy profession in South Africa. It is a multi-disciplinary, single department separated into divisions to form a professional Faculty. This is because, as a profession, pharmacy comprises a closely integrated body of knowledge and skills. Any student studying for the BPharm degree is required to take almost all courses given by the Faculty.

Bachelor of Pharmacy

The duration of the Bachelor of Pharmacy is four years. At Rhodes University, the cognate/related departments (Chemistry, Botany, Computer Science, and Mathematics) teach some of the first-year courses. The Statistics Department offers Statistics for Pharmacy in the third year.

The Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University comprises four divisions: Pharmacology, Pharmaceutics, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Pharmacy Practice. Performance in a course is assessed in terms of: the results of prescribed examinations; and/or essays, exercises, tests, reports, assignments, practicals and other forms of continuous assessment.

The Bachelor of Pharmacy degree (BPharm) offered at Rhodes University grants access to an internship and professional competency evaluation. Internships can be completed in a community, hospital, industry, wholesale and distribution, or academic pharmacy setting. Interns are required to work at an accredited training site for at least 12 months, complete the pre-registration exam, and submit evidence of Continuing Professional Development. Successful completion of the internship is followed by registration as a Community Service Pharmacist (CSP) and working as a CSP in the public sector. Successful completion of the CSP year allows registration with the SAPC as a fully qualified pharmacist, which permits the applicants to practice the profession of pharmacy within the Republic of South Africa.

The work of a Registered Pharmacist may be performed in the following sectors: manufacturing, wholesale and distribution, community, hospital, research, consulting, or academia. Pharmacy as a profession provides an essential component of the nation's health services. It involves a multidisciplinary degree that forms a unique link between the broad fields of the basic sciences and the pharmaceutical sciences. Pharmacy is the channel through which advances in modern science and technology provide the agents needed for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease.

Further details will be presented during Orientation Week and can be found on the Faculty website: <http://www.ru.ac.za/pharmacy> or in the Faculty of Pharmacy handbook.

Pharmacy students must inform the Dean or Deputy Dean as soon as they find out they are pregnant. The Faculty is developing a pregnancy protocol to mitigate potential risks associated with practicals.



DEAN

Professor Sandile Khamanga

DEPUTY DEAN

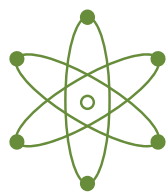
To be confirmed

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Ms Linda Emslie

Queries for Pharmacy students
can be directed to
pharmacy@ru.ac.za





FACULTY OF SCIENCE

The Faculty of Science comprises **14 academic departments** that teach subjects such as Physics, Zoology, and Chemistry, which are typically offered only in science degrees.

Some departments offer courses that may also form part of a humanities degree (such as Geography and Human Kinetics & Ergonomics), and others offer courses that may also form part of a commerce degree (such as Information Systems).

The departments in the Science Faculty are Botany, Biochemistry, Microbiology & Bioinformatics, Biotechnology Innovation Centre, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Human Kinetics & Ergonomics, Ichthyology & Fisheries Science, Mathematics, Physics & Electronics, Statistics and Zoology & Entomology. The Science Faculty offers two undergraduate degrees and three postgraduate degrees. The degrees offered at the undergraduate levels are:

Bachelor of Science

The Bachelor of Science (BSc) is the first degree in the Faculty and requires a minimum of three years of study after school. A wide range of subjects, most of which are scientific, can be studied to qualify for this degree. This degree may be taken over three or four years, depending on school results.

Bachelor of Science (Information Systems)

The BScS (InfSys) (Bachelor of Science) (Information Systems) is a three-year degree intended for students who wish to become computer specialists in a commercial environment. It has a more rigid curriculum than the ordinary BSc degree. Half of the courses are science courses, and half are commerce courses.

Bachelor of Science Extended Studies Programme

Students take this programme with the ability to complete a BSc degree, but whose socio-economic and educational background has not fully prepared them for their first year. These students spend one year in this programme, after which they join the mainstream BSc students. This degree takes four years to complete.

At the postgraduate level, the degrees are:

Bachelor of Science with Honours

This degree may be regarded as a fourth year of an ordinary BSc/BScS in which the student typically studies one of the subjects taken in the final year of the BSc in greater detail. The usual entrance requirement is that students must have obtained at least a second-class pass (60% or more) in this subject in the ordinary degree.

Master of Science

This MSc degree is usually taken over two years. It is offered either by research, in which students prepare a thesis for external examination, or by coursework and research.

Doctor of Philosophy

This degree (PhD) is offered by research only and usually takes between three and four years to complete. In this degree, a student conducts detailed research on a topic that contributes to the academic discipline being studied.



DEAN

Professor Joanna Dames

DEPUTY DEAN: RESEARCH

Dr Susanne Vetter

DEPUTY DEAN: TEACHING AND LEARNING

Professor Gladman Thondhlana

SENIOR FACULTY OFFICER

Ms Lusanda Klaas

Queries for Science students
can be directed to
science@ru.ac.za



BEYOND-THE-CLASSROOM SUPPORT

SUPPORT & SERVICES AVAILABLE

As part of Rhodes University's commitment to a supportive and respectful environment, all incoming students, including those in residence and those living off-campus, are required to attend workshops and group discussions during orientation week. These sessions, organised by the Division of Student Services and Development, will address crucial social issues to help students make informed, healthy decisions as they begin university life.

Workshop topics

These compulsory workshops cover a range of important topics:

- **Mental Health and Wellness**
- **Health Care**
- **Relationships at University**
- **Student Mentoring**
- **Positive Masculinity & Empowerment Talks.**

Workshops are held in the afternoons during the compulsory Life at University sessions.

OUR ETHOS: TOLERANCE, RESPECT, AND DIGNITY

Rhodes University is dedicated to fostering an environment of mutual respect, tolerance, and support. Our commitment to respecting the diversity and dignity of every individual is a core aspect of our academic and social community. This orientation programme is designed to equip you with knowledge, resources, and a supportive network as you embark on this new chapter, ensuring a positive, safe, and inclusive university experience for all.



A

AMBULANCE SERVICES

If a student experiences a medical crisis, the first port of call is the Health Care Centre, where staff will make the necessary decisions regarding whether a doctor or an ambulance is needed. All medical expenses (except basic services provided by the Health Care Centre) are the student's responsibility. If the student does not have medical aid, they will have to rely on state medical services.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| After-hours emergencies | RU ER24 number: 010 205 3068 (from 16h30 until 08h00) |
| Settlers Hospital | 046 602 5000 |
| Provincial ambulance | 046 622 9102 or dial: 10177 |
| First aid | 046 636 1650 , St John's Ambulance, 24 Hill Street |
| Ambuvent | 071 894 8730 , ambuvent@ambuvival.co.za or ambuvent@gmail.com |

ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

Rhodes University **does not allow students to keep pets in any residence or to bring their pets onto campus**. The only exception to this rule is where **written permission** has been granted to have a **companion animal for medical reasons**. Applications for permission must be made to the Registrar's Division and the **Division of Student Services and Development**.

Students living off-campus or in digs may choose to keep pets, but this entails additional responsibilities. Every year, scores of animals are left hungry and homeless when careless individuals go away on holiday, leave town, or decide that their pet is no longer young and cute. It is essential to consider the pros and cons of pet ownership before taking this big step.

For more information, please visit www.ru.ac.za/environment/resources/animalcare

AWARDS

Community Engagement Awards

Student volunteers are awarded certificates at the end of each year of volunteering. Special awards are made to individuals, residences, halls, sport clubs or societies where **exceptional contributions have been made to community engagement**, including:

- Gold Awards for student volunteers
- Residence/Hall of the Year
- Society/Sports Club of the Year
- Student Researcher of the Year.

Environmental Awards

Students who demonstrate consistent and noteworthy efforts to promote sustainability are eligible for Environmental Awards. They can be nominated in an individual or group capacity in **two categories**:

- Rhodes University individual (staff or student)
- Rhodes University society or residence.

Rhodes University & Allan Gray Centre for Leadership Ethics Top 100 Student Leadership Awards

The Top 100 awards seek to highlight the incredible achievements of students who embody the graduate attributes that Rhodes University hopes to foster. The categories are as follows:

- Student Leadership Award
- General Excellence Award
- Arts, Culture, Media, and Society Award
- Sports Award
- Community Engagement Award
- Academic Excellence Award
- Health and Wellness Award
- Ubuntu Award
- Academic Citizenship Award
- Student Entrepreneurship Award
- Academic Mentorship Awards.

Student Leadership Awards

- Rev Dr Simon Gqubule Student Leadership Award



B

BEREAVEMENT

If a close family member is seriously ill or dies, you must inform your **Residence Head or the Division of Students Services and Development** immediately. There are various ways in which the University can support you during such a difficult time, helping you contact a psychologist at the Rhodes University Counselling Centre, and authorising absence from your lectures.

BOOKS

Departments advertise in advance which textbooks are prescribed for courses, often on their departmental web pages. Second-hand copies of the same books are usually available from students who are moving on to the following year, and they place advertisements on the departmental notice boards early in the year.

Note: It is important to buy the **correct edition** of a prescribed book. Earlier editions are often very different. If you prefer to buy new copies, the main local bookseller is **Van Schaik, 129 High Street. Weekdays: 08h30 – 17h00 and Saturdays: 08h30 – 12h30.**

BURSARIES

Should a student wish to apply for external bursaries, please collect a booklet called **The Bursary Register**, which contains information about external bursaries and scholarships. This booklet is available at the **Student Funding Office** (Student Bureau, Eden Grove Building) and the **Main Library**.





CAFETERIA

There is a cafeteria near the library which sells light snacks and beverages and operates during work hours, and we have another at the Rhodes Theatre Café. An Oppidan student needs to register for Oppidan meals after completing administrative registration. A detailed description of the procedure to be followed, as well as the cost of the meals, can be found at: www.ru.ac.za/residentialoperations/mealbookings/oppidandininghall

CAREER CENTRE

The Career Centre is on the second floor of the Steve Biko building (behind the Rhodes swimming pool) and is open Monday to Friday between 08h00 and 16h30. To book an appointment, send an email to careercentre@ru.ac.za. The Centre offers students personal career counselling and provides the following services:

- **Individual appointments** to discuss and explore study and career options. These range from 30 to 50 minutes and can be booked through the administrative assistant at the Counselling Centre, or by emailing careercentre@ru.ac.za
- **Career assessments** can be booked through the admin assistant or via email.
- Various **workshops** throughout the year to support and encourage future career and academic success.
- **Career publications** inform and guide students throughout their career development at Rhodes University and after graduation.
- **The Graduate Recruitment Programme** provides students with the opportunity to engage with potential employers. A key element of the programme is the Career Fairs, where companies from various industries visit the campus to network with students and offer opportunities such as internships, learnerships, or scholarships. This initiative helps students explore career paths, build professional connections, and secure employment prospects as they transition from academic life to the workforce. The #AskAProfessional series seeks to bring specific professionals to engage with students about their career journey and development.
- The **Student Entrepreneurship Programme** is an initiative that provides programmes and activities to foster entrepreneurial skills and mindsets among students. The programme provides resources, mentorship, and opportunities for students to develop, launch, and manage their business ventures or innovative projects.
- The **Rhodes University & Allan Gray Centre for Leadership Ethics Top 100 Student Leadership Awards** seek to highlight the incredible achievements of students who embody the graduate attributes that Rhodes University hopes to foster in its students. The Career Centre is responsible for organising these awards.
- The **Career Champions Programme**: Participants serve as ambassadors for the Career Centre's activities on campus, promoting career services and helping fellow students engage with opportunities offered by the Career Centre. Career Champions act as a bridge between the student body and the Centre.

CELL PHONES

Students are not permitted to bring cell phones into tests and examination spaces. If you are caught in possession of a cell phone in these circumstances, disciplinary action will follow as per the Student Disciplinary Code. Depending on the nature of the transgression, severe sanctions may be imposed. Students are urged to note that, under no circumstances, will staff in test or examination venues take responsibility for cell phones brought to the venue.

It is also important to remember that cell phones can be very disruptive and annoying when they ring during lectures, seminars or in the library. Please be considerate and switch off your cell phones whenever you enter the library or lecture venue.

CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

If you need an official University transcript of your academic record or a certificate of “good conduct”, you can get it from the Student Bureau. Certain staff in the Student Bureau are Commissioners of Oaths if you need to certify or authenticate any other document.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT RHODES UNIVERSITY: LEARN, LEAD, AND MAKE YOUR DEGREE MATTER

Welcome to Rhodes University! Beyond lectures and laboratories, Community Engagement (CE) is where your learning leaps off the page and into real life. It's your chance to co-create solutions with local communities and partners, grow as a leader, and develop human qualities, empathy, humility, courage, and responsibility that no textbook can teach.

Why community engagement belongs in your first year

- **Real-world learning:** Work on authentic challenges alongside pre-schools or other community groups. You'll apply theory, sharpen problem-solving, and see how knowledge changes lives.
- **Leadership and teamwork:** Engage peers, coordinate projects, and communicate across cultures—skills employers and postgraduate selectors notice. In your second year, you can apply to be a CE Team Leader.
- **Personal growth:** CE strengthens your sense of purpose and belonging. Students consistently report more confidence, resilience, and clarity about their studies and career.
- **Mutual benefit:** We partner **with** communities, not **for** them—building relationships rooted in reciprocity, respect, and sustainability.

Our approach: partnership, not charity

Rhodes University encourages engagement that avoids dependency and honours dignity. Please do not give money or food to people begging in town. Instead, work through structured programmes that support long-term, community-led solutions. This is how we move beyond handouts to real change... together.

Your pathways to get involved (pick one... or more!)

- **High School tutoring and mentoring:** Choose from 5 NGO project sites to offer tutoring and/or mentoring to high school pupils.
- **BuddingQ and reading groups:** An early-literacy programme placing you in local schools to help children crack the reading code and thrive (Grade R-Grade 3).
- **Siyakhana@Makana (S@M):** Residence-based projects that let your residence hall make a tangible difference as a team.
- **9/10ths Matric Mentoring:** Mentor Grade 12 learners toward strong matric results and confident futures.

How it works

- **Wide, well-matched opportunities:** Rhodes University Community Engagement (RUCE) partners with **76+** organisations across Makhanda and matches your strengths and interests to real needs.
- **Training and reflection:** You will get practical training before you start, plus guided reflection throughout the year, so experience turns into insight.
- **Leadership routes:** Step up as a site leader in your second year, a coordinator, or a trainer, with mentoring and support.
- **Recognition:** Over **1,000** Rhodes students volunteer annually. Your contribution is celebrated at the year-end awards with certificates for volunteers, researchers, residences, clubs, and community partners.
- **Logistics made easy:** **Transport is provided** for all registered volunteers.

What you will take with you

- A richer CV and clearer career direction.

- Stronger communication, project management, and collaboration skills.
- A deeper understanding of social justice, equity, and Ubuntu—what it means to be an engaged human being in our world.
- Friendships and networks that anchor you to this city and this University in meaningful ways.

Ready to start?

Have questions? **Contact** Nosi Nkwinti at n.nkwinti@ru.ac.za. Join a programme, find your purpose, and help us change our city together.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY

Your University email address is the Registrar's Division's sole means of contacting you. You must check this regularly and set an automatic forward from your Rhodes University mailbox to your personal mailbox. It is also vital that you provide the University with updated telephone and address details.

The University will occasionally need to communicate with you while you are a registered student for the following reasons:

- To query your curriculum registration if necessary.
- To respond to requests/applications from you (e.g., for exam concessions, AEG applications, etc.).
- To inform you of your academic status (including DP warnings or DP refusals).
- To convey Faculty board decisions which relate to you (including the award of your degree and, for some, decisions about academic probation or academic exclusion).
- To inform you of emergencies and crises on campus (including power and water outages or medical emergencies).

The University also communicates with students in two ways:

- Important notices are posted electronically on the Division of Student Services and Development website, which is updated daily: www.ru.ac.za/studentaffairs
- Urgent messages are sent to the student news mailing list. Students are encouraged to subscribe to this list: lists.ru.ac.za/mailman/listinfo/studentnews

Note: Rhodes University does NOT send exam results by email. Students can either look them up on ROSS or subscribe to an SMS service through ROSS.

COMPUTER FACILITIES

Rhodes University has widely accessible computer facilities available to all registered students.

Your username and email address

During the administrative registration, you will provide the University with an email address that you are actively using, and you will be given a username and password that will let you access all of the University's computer facilities. This username and password are your online identity while you are at Rhodes University. Treat your password as you would your ATM PIN. Please **do not share it with anyone**.

For most services, your username will be your student number with the letter g in front, e.g., g26a1234. For Wi-Fi access (eduroam) you need to add @wf.ru.ac.za to your regular username e.g., g26a1234@wf.ru.ac.za to login.

Your Rhodes University email address is your username with @campus.ru.ac.za added, e.g., g26a1234@campus.ru.ac.za. The university will use this email address for all official correspondence with you while you are at Rhodes University.



An email sent to your @campus email address will be delivered to the email address you specified during registration. You can check or update this forwarding email address in ROSS.

Accessing the Internet on campus

You can connect to the eduroam Wi-Fi service using your computer or any Wi-Fi-enabled device. You will need to download and install the geteduroam app or eduroam CAT before you can configure a device to connect to eduroam. Older devices and legacy operating systems may not be able to connect at all. Comprehensive information and instructions are available at www.ru.ac.za/studentnetworking

Do not have a computer?

There are computers in public and departmental computer labs in the New Arts Building, Physics, Eden Grove, Bantu Stephen Biko Building, the Main Library, and in-residence standard rooms. Labs are often used for lectures and practicals during the day, so you may find that some are only available after hours. The Jacaranda lab is open 24 hours.



There are public printers in the Main Library, computer labs, and residences. Printing is charged per page, so you need to buy printing credit before you start. This can be done through ROSS.

Need help?

In residences, student networking representatives can help you connect to eduroam and public printers. Student technicians will assist you with connectivity and other general computer problems at the Student IT Help Desk in the Main Library. IT lab assistants can help with everyday tasks in the public computer labs.

Acceptable use and discipline

Rhodes University has a comprehensive acceptable use policy, which is available at www.ru.ac.za/aup. Your attention is drawn to the sections about respecting other people's privacy and copyright. Rhodes University does not tolerate copyright infringement. Failure to adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy or the IT Facilities Use and Conduct Code, as published by the Information & Technology Services Division, and read in conjunction with relevant legislation, will lead to disciplinary action as per the Student Disciplinary Code.

Need IT consumables and equipment?

The IT shop is located on the ground floor of the Struben Building and sells most routine IT consumables and peripherals, from flash sticks and portable hard disks to complete computers and laptops. See www.ru.ac.za/itshop for more information and a price list.

COUNSELLING CENTRE

The Counselling Centre is an Accredited Internship Training site for Intern Counselling Psychologists. It provides psychological support for students. A team of Counselling Psychologists and Intern Psychologists operate from a holistic wellness model and supports students experiencing psychological problems related to mental health and well-being.

- Free short-term individual therapy sessions.
- Daily on-call sessions for psychological emergencies.
- Group psychotherapy for students with similar interests and goals.
- Psychological assessments (assessment accommodation/time concession).
- Psycho-educational workshops on Student Mental, Academic and Social Health (SMASH).
- Wellness Leader Programme: A student-led programme to promote mental health awareness, which forms a

holistic wellness model and supports students in terms of **Social, Mental, Spiritual, Physical, and Emotional** well-being (**SMSPE**). Referrals: More serious mental wellness cases are referred for specialist psychiatric care.

- An after-hours line for psychological emergencies: 010 205 3068.
- 24 Hour Toll-free Counselling: Higher Health Toll-Free Line: 0800 36 36 36.
- South Africa Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG): 011 234 4837.

Counselling Centre

Contact details: 046 603 7070

Operating hours: Monday to Friday 08h00 to 16h30

Email: counsellingcentre@ru.ac.za

Website: www.ru.ac.za/counsellingcentre/



CRIMINAL OFFENCES

Students must remember that they are subject to the laws of the land while at Rhodes University, and they will not receive special treatment from the prosecuting authorities if they break the law.

Typical offences committed by Rhodes University students include driving whilst under the influence of alcohol, shoplifting and vandalism (including stealing or breaking pot plants or road signs). Being a student is not regarded as a mitigating factor. If you are convicted of any of these offences in a court of law, you will have a criminal record, and this will mean, among other things, that you will not be able to travel overseas or emigrate.



D

DISABILITY SUPPORT

The Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD) at Rhodes University provides support and reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they can fully participate in academic and campus life. A student must disclose their disability and the support they require at the Registrar's Office.

- **Application assistance:** The Student Bureau works with prospective students who disclose severe disabilities during the application process to assess and recommend necessary services and support from the University.
- **Residential accommodations:** Special residential placements are arranged to meet the needs of students with physical or mobility impairments.
- **Exam concessions:** The Exam Concessions Committee reviews applications from students requesting accommodations for exams and tests. Details on the policy and application procedures are available on the Registrar's Division website.
- **Needs assessment and support:** The Office of Student Services and Development assesses individual student needs and helps them access support, including assistive technology and devices, depending on available resources.
- **Accessible computer facilities:** Specially equipped computers with software like voice recognition, text magnification, and other assistive tools are available in the main library for students with visual, hearing, or learning disabilities.

For more information or assistance, students can contact the DSSD by email, studentaffairs@ru.ac.za





E

ENABLE COMMUNITY OF LIVING

Advocating for accessibility and inclusion

Students with disabilities are warmly encouraged to join the **Enable Community**, a vibrant student society dedicated to promoting accessibility, inclusion, and equal participation for all students at Rhodes University.

Enable Community of Living provides a welcoming space where students can connect with peers who share similar experiences, raise awareness about disability rights, and actively engage in advocacy initiatives that shape a more inclusive campus culture. Through regular meetings, awareness campaigns, and collaborative projects, the society works hand-in-hand with the Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD) and other University structures to ensure that the voices of students with disabilities are heard and valued.

Whether you are looking for a supportive community, opportunities for leadership, or simply a place where you feel understood and empowered, please get in touch with the Enable Community.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

In the vision and mission statement of Rhodes University, there is a commitment to playing a leading role in establishing a culture of environmental concern by actively pursuing environmental best practice. Students can work with their Environmental Representatives (reps), both on-campus and off-campus, to address environmental concerns. The SRC Environmental Counsellor provides support to environmental reps and sits on the Rhodes University Environmental Committee, which reports to the Senate.

Rhodes University has a social-ecological perspective on sustainability, which recognises our need for clean air, drinkable water, healthy food, opportunities to learn and earn income, enjoy a reasonable quality of life, and live in a peaceful and just society, and recognises the needs of other people and future generations. This means we need to avoid polluting or degrading natural ecosystems and live within the limits of what they can provide.

The Rhodes University Environmental Sustainability Policy demonstrates a commitment to:

- Enhancing the environmental focus of teaching and research
- Reducing our ecological footprint in terms of infrastructural development and the use of environmental goods and services
- Facilitating more sustainable energy, waste and water management, and usage strategies
- Actively engaging with staff, students, and other stakeholders to promote sustainability. For more information, visit www.ru.ac.za/environment.

EVENT ORGANISATION ON CAMPUS

Student-organised events must follow the correct protocol:

- Any event involving alcohol during the first term requires permission from the Registrar's Division.
- Any large event must be approved by the DSSD at least six weeks before the date.
- DSSD permission: Complete a proposal and email it to studentaffairs@ru.ac.za.
- Safety/Events Committee pre-approval: If the DSSD pre-approves the proposal, you must then submit it to the

University's Safety and Events Committee for consideration of safety-related factors. Email your proposal to the chair at exec_director_iof@ru.ac.za.

- The Safety and Events Committee will invite the student organising committee to a meeting where the proposal will be tabled and, where necessary, refer the organising committee to the relevant administrative structure to address final logistical concerns.
- DSSD final approval: The DSSD will provide final approval for the event to proceed, pending approval from the Safety and Events committee. The DSSD Director's decision is final.



For more information, visit www.ru.ac.za/safety/resources/majorevents.

EXAMINATIONS

The Registrar's Division coordinates the examinations at Rhodes University. The main exams are held in May/June and October/November, with the supplementary session held immediately after the October/November examinations.

Examination timetables for these are posted on ROSS at least one month before the commencement of the May/June and October/November examinations, and as soon as possible ahead of the start of the supplementary examination session.

Seating plans

Seating in the examination venues is pre-arranged by course, and a seating plan is posted outside the entrance of each exam venue.

Punctuality

Morning (AM) exam sessions start at 08h30, and afternoon (PM) sessions start at 14h00. Candidates are reminded that they must arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the examination and be seated no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled start of each session. For an 08h30 examination, students must arrive by 08h00 and be seated by 08h15. The venue doors will be closed 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the examination.

If you find the doors have been locked by the time you arrive, do not panic: the doors will be reopened when the papers have been distributed. Please note that you will be admitted to the exam venue up to 55 minutes after the session starts, but you WILL NOT receive additional time to compensate for your late arrival.

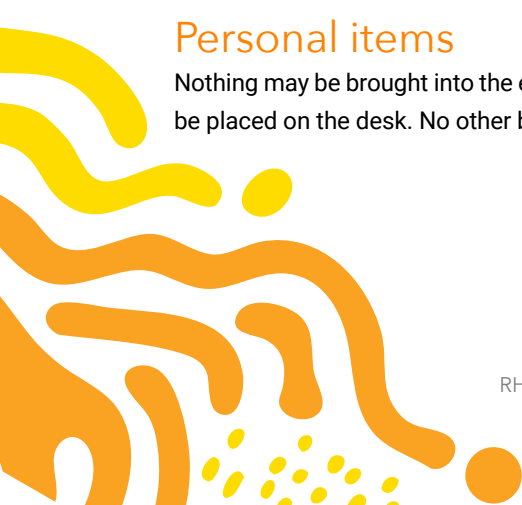
No candidate is permitted to leave the examination venue until one hour after the start of the session, and to avoid disturbance, no candidate will be allowed to leave during the last 30 minutes of any session.

Toilets

Students must use these before they arrive to write exams to avoid the queues that build up in the exam venue just before the exam. Students who wish to go to the toilet during the exam may do so only after the first hour and must sign in and out at the venue. Nobody is permitted to leave the exam venue during the last 30 minutes of the exam.

Personal items

Nothing may be brought into the examination venue other than stationery items in a transparent plastic sleeve. These must be placed on the desk. No other bags are permitted inside the venue.



Cell phones

No cell phones may be brought into the venues, and no facilities to store them will be available. Only items of clothing that are being worn are permitted – no additional items.

Examination entry

Candidates should note that they are eligible to write examinations ONLY in those courses which appear on their CURRENT course record, provided their DP certificate has not been refused. Students who have attended a course without being registered adequately for it will NOT receive results for it.

If you have stopped participating in a course without formally dropping it, your results will show DNW (did not write) for that particular course. If you have not already done so, you must check your course record. Ask the Student Bureau for a copy if you are unable to use it. If necessary, have your record corrected now to avoid the difficulties mentioned above.

Students are warned that if they fail to produce identification (current Rhodes University student card/ID book/passport or driver's licence) at any examination session, they may be liable to a fine.

Candidates/students may be disqualified if:

- They take into any examination hall or are found during the examination, to have any books, memorandum, notes or any papers whatsoever, except such answer books or other books, papers or materials as may be supplied by the Examinations Office.
- They are in possession of any mobile/wireless digital devices with data storage and/or communication capabilities (e.g., cell phones, PDAs, etc.). Cell phones are not permitted in any venue. Leave them at home.
- They aid or attempt to aid another candidate.
- They obtain or attempt to obtain aid from another candidate.
- They communicate or attempt to communicate, in any way, with another candidate or any unauthorised person.

Reporting a timetable clash

Students who have a direct clash (i.e., more than one examination scheduled on the same date and at the same time) should report it to academicadmin@ru.ac.za as soon as the final timetable has been released. Arrangements will be made for the students to write the examinations at a separate venue on the day in question. One paper will be written in the morning session, and one in the afternoon session. (Please note that having two examinations scheduled for the same day but not at the same session does not constitute a clash.)

Applications for extra time

Students requesting extra time or other concessions in examinations because of a temporary disability, a permanent disability, or another disability affecting their learning must apply on ROSS with relevant supporting documentation (e.g., an educational psychologist assessment report).

The application deadline is at least one month before the start of examinations (usually the end of April for mid-year examinations and the end of September for end-of-year examinations). Once the application link on ROSS disappears, it means the concession applications have closed.

Only applications for concessions in respect of unexpected and exceptional circumstances (e. g., broken finger of the student's writing hand) will be considered after this date. However, it is usually recommended that such students apply for aegrotat exams. The following principles determine whether you will be granted extra time:

- Students facing severe degenerative diseases will be granted extra time on compassionate grounds. Corroborating evidence is usually required.

- Students suffering from permanent disabilities for which additional time is granted need to apply to the committee only once, at the start of their academic careers.
- Extra time is not generally granted in cases where conditions respond well to medication, e.g., epilepsy or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.
- Dyslexia does not usually constitute a reason for the granting of extra time.
- Not being an English first-language speaker does not constitute grounds for granting extra time.
- Poor handwriting does not constitute grounds for the granting of extra time.



F

FEES

A detailed explanation of fees appears in the Rhodes University Calendar. You should note that there are fees for different aspects of university life.

- Academic fees to enable you to do the course for which you register.
- Subject-specific course charges, which cover the costs of additional handouts or field trips.
- Fees for residence (if you choose to live in residence).
- Fees for voluntary extramural clubs, societies, and activities which you choose to sign up for (e. g., debating society or tennis).
- An annual Oppidan fee is charged if you live off-campus and covers a range of services specifically for Oppidan students and is non-refundable, regardless of whether you use the facilities.
- An additional levy is charged to international students.

FIRE SAFETY

Students should pay special attention to fire safety on and off campus.

Fire action – Four golden rules alarm

1

- Raise the alarm to alert others – scream, whistle, push the alarm, shout FIRE!
- Emergency Services: call the fire department, no matter how small the fire.

2

EXTINGUISH

- Only try to extinguish a fire if it is safe to do so:
- The fire is small and not spreading.
- You know how to use the fire extinguisher.
- You have your back to a known SAFE EXIT.

3

EVACUATE

Everyone must get out AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Avoid suffocation by heat/smoke – stay low and crawl if necessary. Do not take risks:

- Do not open a closed door; there may be fire inside the room.
- Do not go back inside until instructed by the Makhanda Fire Officer.

4

If your clothing catches fire, “stop, drop and roll” can save your life:

- Stop where you are.
- Drop to the floor.
- Roll around on the floor to smother the flames.

If another person catches fire, wrap them in a blanket, carpet, or rug to smother the flames.

When operating a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**:

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| P | Pull the pin |
| A | Aim nozzle at the base of the fire |
| S | Squeeze the trigger |
| S | Sweep the nozzle from side to side |

It is a punishable offence to tamper with or misuse any safety equipment, including fire extinguishers (Occupational Health & Safety Act, Section 38).

General fire safety tips

- Ensure ALL electrical switches are off before leaving the room.
- Do not overload electrical plug sockets.
- Avoid illegal and faulty electrical connections.
- Never place a heater or stove close to furniture or curtains, and never hang anything on or cover a heater.
- Never leave a stove (gas/electric/paraffin), an open fire, or a braai unattended.
- If you have a braai, don't let the fire get too big and out of control, and put it out if the wind is strong.
- If the power goes off while you are cooking, switch off the appliance – the power might be restored anytime
- Ensure candles are secure in a candle holder and cannot fall over (cutting in half reduces the chance of falling over).
- Extinguish cigarette butts in a container of sand or water.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Plan for safe evacuation – have more than one exit from your house, and do not block passageways and exit doors/windows.
- Do not tamper with fire equipment and never park in front of a fire hydrant (remind your neighbours and visitors about this).
- If you have a garden hose, keep it rolled up and ready for use in case of a fire.
- If you have no extinguisher, keep an empty bucket for water or a bucket of sand.
- Make sure you know how to use your fire extinguisher.

Oppidan fire safety

Oppidan student digs should be managed responsibly to prevent them from becoming a fire hazard. You must be proactive in ensuring fire safety in your digs:

- **Electrical safety:** Ask your landlord to show you an up-to-date wiring certificate – you have a right to know if the electrical system is in safe working order.
- **Fire extinguishers:** Ensure there are functioning fire extinguishers, especially in the kitchen and passageways – these are required by law. Backup: A bucket of sand is also useful.
- **Smoke alarms:** Put portable smoke alarms (in each room if possible) if your landlord is not willing to install a smoke detection system.
- **Fire drills:** Have a fire escape plan and practice it together (once a term).
- **Emergency contacts:** Keep a list of emergency contacts (in each room), save the Fire Department number on your cell phone, 046 622 4444 or toll-free 080 111 4444.

More info at www.ru.ac.za/safety/emergencies



Residence fire safety

All residences should have an up-to-date emergency evacuation plan of action and hold fire drills at least once per term (four per year). <https://www.ru.ac.za/safety/fire/>

A report on the fire drill and various other fire safety considerations is included in the quarterly Health and Safety Report submitted by the Residence Head to the SHE Office.

For more information

www.ru.ac.za/safety/emergencies



www.ru.ac.za/safety/fire/





H

HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

All staff and student harassment, discrimination, and gender-based violence complaints must be reported to the Harassment, Discrimination and Gender Harm Office. Remember that **discrimination** is unfair treatment on grounds like race, gender, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or HIV status.


Harassment is behaviour that causes harm (including psychological) to someone or makes them fear that harm may occur. This includes unwanted actions such as following, stalking, bullying, or spreading malicious rumours.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence directed at someone because of their biological sex or gender identity. It can occur publicly or privately. It includes verbal, physical, sexual and psychological abuse.

Contact the Harassment, Discrimination and Gender Harm Office at telephone 046 603 8187/7468 or email. For emergencies and after hours, contact Campus Protection Services at telephone 046 603 8999 or 066 530 2294 (also on WhatsApp).

Once a complainant has reported an incident/experience of any form of harassment or discrimination, three options can be considered. The complainant will be asked to select the option he/she prefer to resolve and/or address the matter.

The options are as follows:

1. **Noting and consultation:** Report the incident for record purposes or for any possible intervention as determined by the complainant's preferred scenario.
 2. **Mediation:** The complainant will choose a mediator from the list of University-trained mediators. The Harassment, Discrimination and Gender Harm Office will arrange the mediation process with all parties concerned. This option can only be selected if both parties agree to mediation.
 3. **Investigation with a view to formal disciplinary action:** If a student complainant chooses this option, and the alleged perpetrator is a student, the matter is referred to the Legal Office (Prosecutor), who will investigate to determine the merits of the complaint. The Prosecutor makes the ultimate decision to prosecute or not, although the complainant's wishes are considered.
- 

REPORT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

report@ru.ac.za

046 603 8187

Discrimination, Harrasment and
Gender Harm Office

FOR EMERGENCIES CALL CPU

046 603 8999

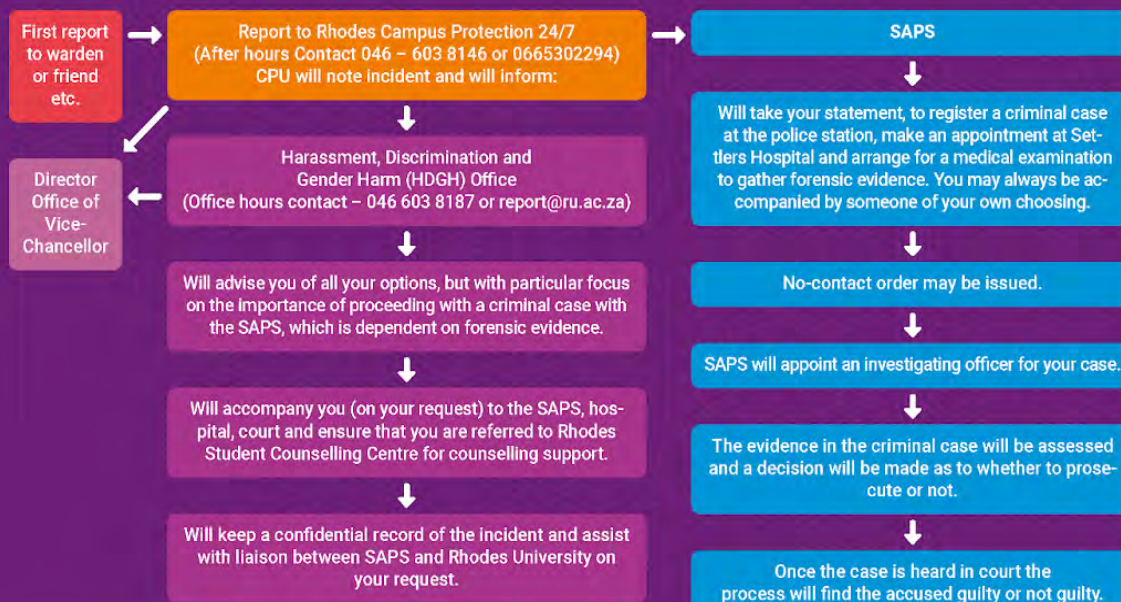
066 530 2294

(also on WhatsApp)

HOW STUDENTS CAN REPORT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

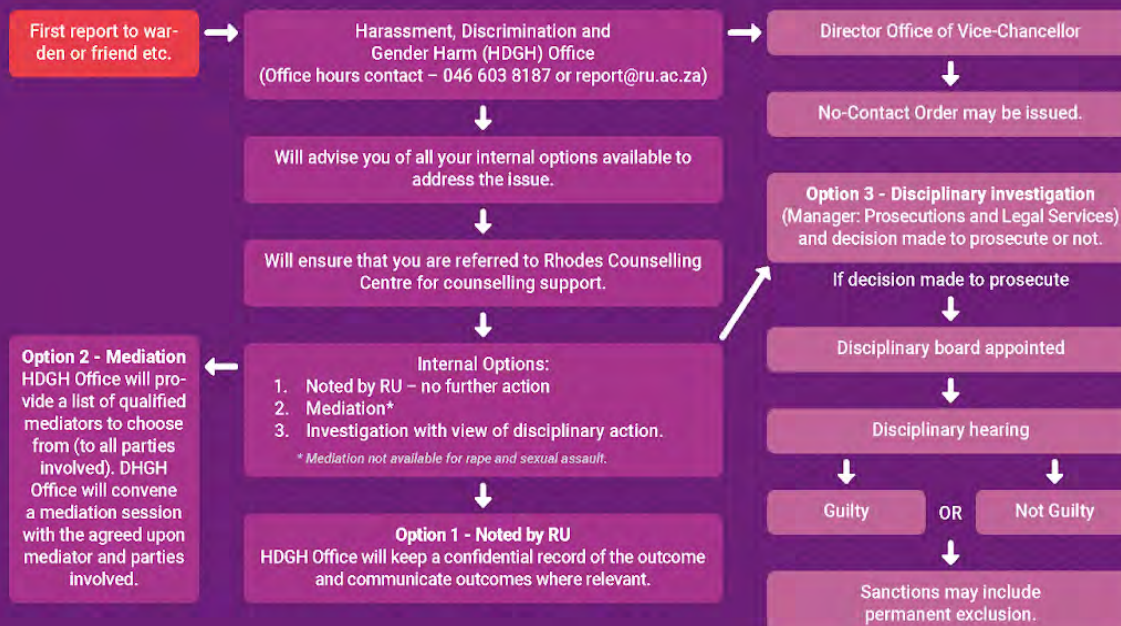
Reporting of GBV incidents with involvement of SAPS

(if person chooses criminal prosecution route, recommended for rape and sexual assault)



Reporting of GBV incident to Rhodes University for internal action

(person decides against criminal prosecution)



Gender-based violence (especially sexual assault and rape)

The reporting of gender-based violence is the same as for all discrimination and harassment. However, there are two differences in how GBV cases are dealt with. These are:

- We strongly encourage (not force) students to report rape and sexual assault to the South African Police Services. The Office for Discrimination, Harassment and Gender Harm provides ongoing support to any student survivor involved in a criminal investigation and/or court case.
- If a student survivor chooses not to pursue a criminal prosecution for rape or sexual assault, mediation is not available as an option.

Please see the flow chart below, which explains the options available to complainants after reporting gender-based violence. **Note that confidentiality is always highly observed.**

If you experience rape or sexual assault, remember that it is essential to preserve all possible evidence for the forensic examination. You are advised not to:

- Wash, shower or bath.
- Wash hands.
- Use the toilet or discard your underwear or sanitary products.
- Remove, change, discard or wash any clothing, bedding or towels that could be used for evidence.
- Smoke.
- Clean teeth.
- Eat or drink anything.
- Disturb the scene in any manner.
- Destroy or delete any evidence, such as text messages on your cell phone, emails, or social media.

HEALTH CARE CENTRE

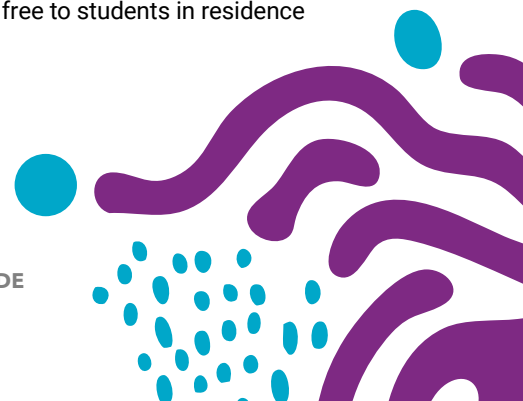
The Health Care Centre is the building on the left, near the top of Rhodes Avenue, the steep road that goes up the hill past Hobson House and CPU. The nursing staff in the HCC are on duty throughout the term to provide a professional and caring service to students at Rhodes University. Five qualified Nursing Sisters who provide the services below run the Health Care Centre. Students are welcome to discuss their problems, and these discussions are confidential.

For students on medical aid, all emergencies will be referred to Settler's Hospital via ER24 or Gardmed Ambulance Services, and the hospital staff will organise for the doctor to meet the patient there. If no private doctor after hours, the hospital doctor will see the emergency. Appointments can also be made for the students to see the doctor at the surgery.

The student is responsible for the charges of the medical practitioner or general practitioner (GP) and the cost of prescribed medicines from local pharmacies. A doctor is available to see students every weekday, and the charge is approximately half the standard consultation fee in the private sector per visit, billed to the student account.

An appointment will be secured with the medical doctor/GP via the Health Care Centre staff or the Counselling Centre. Admissions at the HCC is free for ALL students, not only resident students but also for Oppidans.

There are 10 beds for inpatients with infectious diseases, such as chickenpox, tuberculosis, and German measles, as well as for those recovering from surgical procedures. This in-patient facility is available free to students in residence and at a nominal fee to Oppidans.



Opening hours

During the term, please make an appointment online via ROSS, call 046 603 8523, or email healthcarecentre@ru.ac.za.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Monday – Friday | 08h00 – 16h30 |
| Saturday, Sunday, and Public Holidays | 08h00 – 13h00 |
| Vacations: Monday - Friday | 08h30 – 16h30 (call 010 205 3068 from 16h30). |

Medical emergency after-hours

For any medical emergencies after hours (from 16h30 to 08h00 daily and on weekends), don't hesitate to contact the Rhodes University ER24 emergency number: 010 205 3068. If the problem is not an emergency, then visit the Health Care Centre during office hours.

Free services

- Treatment of minor ailments such as flu, tonsillitis, etc.
- Inpatient care for acute illnesses.
- Management and care of patients with infectious diseases.
- Post-operative observations.
- Emergency assessment and crisis management (e.g. sexual assault).
- Voluntary HIV testing, including pre- and post-test counselling.
- HIV/AIDS medication, including PREP and PEP.
- Screening tests, e.g. blood pressure, blood glucose.
- Family planning advice and contraceptives.

Services at a minimal cost

- Vaccinations (flu shot).
- Pregnancy tests.
- Crutches.
- Pap smears and blood tests as per the private Laboratory costs.
- Doctors' clinic: approximately R337,37 per consultation; the fees rise annually.
- Vitamin injections.

Referral services

Staff at the Health Care Centre can make referrals to the Counselling Centre and to a range of other medical services in the town, including private doctors and dentists, the Psychology Clinic, hospitals, social workers, and private counsellors. Students who have undergone surgery recently or are under private medical care that requires follow-up treatment by the Health Care Centre sisters should provide a letter of consent from their doctors.

Admissions at the Health Care Centre

Infectious diseases such as:

- For tuberculosis (TB), the length of stay is 14 days, except for multidrug-resistant TB and extremely drug-resistant TB. We admit students who are in residence only; those in digs typically remain there, unless their digs-mates have not had exposure to or the infectious illness before
- For chickenpox, rubella, and mumps, the length of stay is 5 to 7 days.

For **acute illnesses** such as dysmenorrhea, abdominal pain, and headache, the length of stay necessary is 1 to 2 days. We may admit students with acute illnesses when we are concerned about the student's health and wish to monitor the



illness's progress. This is at the discretion of the HCC staff. If necessary, the student may be referred to Settlers Hospital.

Post-operative care: The length of stay is about 5 days. Postoperative care may include wound care and pain management when the patient is stable, and admission is at the HCC staff's discretion.

HIV/AIDS

A partnership between the Counselling Centre and the Health Care Centre offers free, strictly confidential HIV counselling and testing. This voluntary HIV testing is done along with the necessary pre- and post-test counselling, by appointment, at the Health Care Centre every afternoon. The entire procedure, including counselling and the test, is relatively brief, usually around 30 minutes. Rapid HIV tests will be used, and students will receive their test results immediately. Students can be assured that the testing and counselling procedure follows strict protocols and that the service provided is confidential, professional, and efficient. Students can obtain their HIV medication from the HCC.

The Counselling Centre is available to provide psychological support, while the HCC provides medical support and advice for any student who is HIV positive. It is the University's policy to protect the rights of HIV-positive students. For more information, visit www.ru.ac.za/studentaffairs.





INSURANCE

Insurance for loss and damage is the responsibility of each student; students are therefore strongly advised to ensure that they carry the necessary insurance against theft, housebreaking, fire and other similar risks.

Rhodes University will in no way hold itself responsible for any loss or damage by theft, fire, or any other means to students' property kept in the residences either during term time or during vacations. All students' room doors are fitted with locks, and students' rooms should be locked at all times.

INTERNATIONALISATION & INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICE

Director: Orla Quinlan

Office Manager: Debby Wolhuter

Overview of Internationalisation at Rhodes University

Every public higher education institution in South Africa has its own model for dealing with internationalisation of its Research, Teaching and Learning, Community Engagement, and International Student Support Services. Rhodes University adopts a “decentralised” internationalisation model, which means that internationalisation is infused throughout most University endeavours and most international student services are integrated with the student services provided to South African students.

The Global Engagement Division (GED) represents Rhodes University and coordinates external engagement with the many international associations responsible for the internationalisation of higher education to which Rhodes University belongs. GED engages internally with other Rhodes University Divisions and Centres on specific aspects of internationalisation.

GED coordinates bilateral mobility partnerships, including exchange and study-abroad programmes with international universities. These programmes are open to incoming and outgoing students for specific degrees from the second year onwards. The programmes vary, and participating universities partially subsidise some, but most include costs that students must cover themselves. GED also provides support to academics participating in broader consortia mobility programmes (such as European-funded, Erasmus Mundus and Intra-Africa mobility programmes).

GED works closely with many Rhodes University stakeholders, including academics, administrators, postdocs, postgraduates and undergraduates, to provide or facilitate opportunities for *“Internationalisation at home”*. GED works specifically with the SRC and student societies to infuse internationalisation into ongoing SRC activities, by working with the SRC in general and, notably, the international student Councillor.

GED participates in the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA), which collectively monitors conditions impacting international students in South Africa and advocates with government departments on their behalf. GED also provides specific support and advice on matters unique to international students and postdocs, notably: visa matters, appropriate medical aid provision and immigration compliance.

Visas

- All international students who physically enter South Africa to study require a valid study visa in their passports.
- Under no circumstances should you arrive at Rhodes University without a valid study visa, specifically endorsed for Rhodes University
- The immigration regulations do not allow a change of conditions from a visitor's visa to a study visa from within South Africa.
- As such, Rhodes University is not permitted to register students who arrive with a tourist or visitor's visa.
- Please note that in recent years, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) issued concessions to allow students awaiting visa renewal/change-of-conditions outcomes to register at Rhodes University while they addressed visa backlogs.
- DHA does not intend to issue concessions for students registering in 2026.
- This means that Rhodes University may not register students based on VFS receipts while awaiting visa outcomes.

First-time study visa applicants from outside of South Africa

- Study visas need to be obtained from your home country before arriving at a port of entry in South Africa.
- The dates on your visa are determined by your "Letter of Offer" from Rhodes University, which includes a "Letter of Undertaking" from the Registrar.
- Please note that, as a rule, the waiting period after submitting a visa application may take six to eight weeks. In an undersubscribed mission, it may take less time. In an oversubscribed mission, it may take more time.
- At the time you collect your study visa, always check that the correct details are actually reflected on your study visa.
- The visa should stipulate a Rhodes University undergraduate or postgraduate degree, multiple entries, and the duration of your intended study period, as per your letter of offer.
- If any of the details are incorrect, please discuss rectification immediately, at the point of collection.
- If the details, including the name of the university, are incorrect, Rhodes University will not be permitted to register you.
- Please note that you are permitted to work 20 hours per week in South Africa while studying without any further endorsement on your visa.
- Please note that if you do not register at Rhodes University or you are deregistered at any point, Rhodes University is obliged to notify the DHA, and the conditions of your study visa are no longer valid.

Change of conditions

- If you have a study visa to register at a South African high school, that same study visa will not be valid for registration at Rhodes University.
- Please ensure you apply in time to change your study conditions at Rhodes University.
- Please note that you should never let your visa expire while intending to remain in the country.
- If you are the child of a permanent resident, and your high school study visa is expiring, please apply for a relative's visa if you do not have a firm offer of a place at the University.
- DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT! If you let a visa expire, you get locked out of the system for at least a year and will not be able to register anywhere while you apply for a "Letter of Good Cause".
- With a valid relative's visa, you can apply for a change of conditions to a study visa when an offer finally comes through.

Renewals

- If at any stage you are extending your stay to continue your studies, you may renew your study visa at the nearest VFS centre in South Africa by making an online booking, provided you do so 60 days before the expiry date of your current visa.
- From the start of the 2026 academic year, the DHA will strictly enforce the 60-day rule for renewals, as non-

compliance contributes to backlogs and leads to visa application rejections.

- Depending on internal demand, GED can make arrangements for the VFS Mobile Biometric Service to come to Rhodes University for visa renewal applications.
- For ease of reference, the VFS website is: <https://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica/>

Pre-registration visa clearance

- Copies of your passport and visa must be emailed to the GED before you may proceed with pre-registration at Rhodes University.
- GED will assist with any visa-related queries or refer you to the relevant authority.
- GED will intervene on your behalf if delays in issuing your visa go beyond the standard 6 to 8 week period.

Valid medical aid schemes

- Membership of a Medical Aid Scheme is a core requirement for maintaining a valid study visa.
- Your medical aid provision needs to be valid for the same duration as your study visa.
- Medical aid may be purchased for one year at a time, but it must be renewed annually.
- Please ensure that you always keep your medical aid provision up to date.
- The medical aid you purchase must be a Medical Aid Scheme on the list approved by the South African Council for Medical Aid Schemes.
- Please note that DHA will not accept insurance or medical aids that are not on that specific list, based on prior risk management experience in the sector.

Medical aid consultants

- Not all the medical aid schemes have medical practitioners in the locality of every South African university.
- Furthermore, different medical aid schemes have designated service providers/doctors in each locality.
- Rhodes University, through IEASA, has therefore appointed Simeka Health Consultants to assist international students coming to Makhanda with all queries related to appropriate medical cover, membership applications in a medical aid scheme, and membership renewals.
- Medical aid schemes are annually assessed and recommended by Simeka Health Consultants. The selected medical schemes are available for consultation during registration.
- To check which schemes are accepted and if the basic cover meets your needs, especially if you have any pre-existing conditions, Simeka Health can be reached via international.students@simekahealth.co.za or by telephone 0860 100 380
- When in Makhanda, international students should check that they are registered with the same doctor's rooms they use for appointments and that the doctor is participating in their medical aid scheme.
- Students will be responsible for any related medical costs if they do not follow the above guidelines.
- Please remember to update your information at the doctor's rooms if you change your local address.

Pre-registration medical aid scheme clearance

- You will need to submit proof of cover from an acceptable South African medical aid scheme.
- Please forward your medical aid certificate by email so you can proceed with pre-registration.
- DHA and Rhodes University reserve the right to verify your medical aid certificate.

Finally, while GED will support you, it is incumbent on each student to ensure compliance with all immigration regulations. Failure to do so may result in termination of registration, suspension of studies, and forfeiture of credits.

For more information, go to <https://www.ru.ac.za/internationalisation/>

Contact details: internationaloffice@ru.ac.za and +27 46 603 8217.



L

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

If any student misses a class, tutorial or practical or cannot hand in an assignment for any reason whatsoever, they must apply for an LoA. Only the academic Head of Department has the power to grant LoA.

To obtain an LoA, a student must obtain an LoA form from the Student Bureau and have it completed by the appropriate person who can support their claims. Usually, this is a medical doctor at the Health Care Centre or a Psychologist at the Counselling Centre.

Students are granted Leave of Absence (LoA) to represent the University at high-level sports events, in which case the RU Sport Section must support the LoA request. LoAs will only be supported promptly for students who provide clear evidence of illness at the time of the appointment.

LoA will NOT usually be granted in the following circumstances:

When a healthy student comes to claim a retrospective LoA for being sick at a time before the consultation

When the student misses a lecture due to waiting in the HCC, but proves to be in good health when attended to, Students who claim to be suffering from severe headache, diarrhoea, or vomiting will be kept in bed for observation before LoA is supported. If the symptoms do not recur within a few hours, the request for LoA will not be supported.

Students in residence are reminded that their Residence Heads can also support requests for LoAs due to illness, and that a subsequent visit to the HCC is not necessary. Oppidan students and students in residence may visit the HCC to get a leave of absence form signed, even if they do not wish to receive any medical treatment for their ailment.

Here is the link to the Extended LoA policy:

https://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/institutionalplanning/documents/policies/Leave_of_Absence_Policy_2023_final_version_approved.pdf

LEGAL PROBLEMS

The Rhodes University Law Clinic is a non-profit organisation which provides free legal services to disadvantaged people living in and around Makhanda, as well as a practical, hands-on learning experience for Law students. The Clinic provides a wide range of legal services, with a specialist focus on family law, consumer law, and land law.

The Clinic at 118 High Street is available to provide legal services to students in most cases—telephone 046 603 9301. The SRC also provides students with legal advice and support regarding University disciplinary matters.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Director (right)

Ms Nomawethu Danster

Senior Manager: Academic Support Services

Mr Samuel Simango

Senior Manager: Innovation, Systems and Collections

Mr Wynand Van Der Walt



The Rhodes University Library is a foundational academic support service and partner that provides essential resources, services, and spaces to support the University's mission of teaching, learning, and research. It functions as a hybrid information hub, offering both physical and digital resources and services to cater to the diverse needs of students, Faculty, and the broader community.

In support of teaching and learning

As a crucial academic partner, the Library directly supports teaching and learning by providing an extensive collection of print and electronic resources aligned with the curriculum. To ensure students can effectively use these resources and become "information fluent," the Library conducts targeted orientation and training sessions for undergraduate and postgraduate students. In terms of physical space, the Library provides a variety of differentiated learning environments, including the Information Commons for undergraduates, the Research and Postgraduate Commons for staff and senior students, respectively, and bookable group study rooms for collaborative work.

Furthermore, the Library embeds its services directly into academic programmes through a system of Faculty Liaison Librarians who offer curriculum-aligned support and help select appropriate resources for courses.

The Library's Digital and Information Literacy programme, offered to all students, is fundamental to integrating library services into the academic project. It addresses one of the Institutional Development Plan's graduate attributes: Producing digitally literate students, a skill that is integral to adjusting to university and the workplace.

Advancement of research and scholarship

The Library plays a central role in advancing research and scholarship at Rhodes University by meeting the information needs of its students and staff. This is achieved through specialised services for researchers, including one-on-one consultations, support for postgraduate students, and training on research management tools, institutional research, and researcher visibility, citation management, and researcher reputation management.

The Library also hosts and manages the Rhodes Digital Commons, the University's institutional repository for preserving and showcasing institutional research output, such as theses and dissertations, which increases the visibility of Rhodes University's intellectual contributions. To support specific areas of research, the Library houses special collections, including the Cory Library for Humanities Research, which focuses on the history and culture of the Eastern Cape.

Community engagement and social responsibility

In line with the University's broader commitment to social responsibility, the Library extends its services to the surrounding Makhanda community. While access to subscription-based electronic resources is limited to on-site use due to licence agreements, community members can register to use the Library's physical facilities and print collections. This

engagement contributes to the development of critical citizenship and fosters mutually beneficial partnerships between the University and the community.

Guide to Rhodes University Library (RUL) Services

Who are we?

We are an academic support service and partner that provides access to diverse contextual learning and research collections, services, spaces, and facilities to support the academic project. We value strategic collaborations and partnerships with stakeholders and communities.

Purpose statement

Rhodes University Library and Information Services are committed to supporting the mission of Rhodes University in the pursuit of knowledge by students, researchers, scholars, and communities by providing quality learning resources, user-centred services and the skills required to participate effectively in the knowledge economy and a conducive physical and virtual learning environment that enhances intellectual creativity, free and open exchange of knowledge and ideas.

Our services and programmes

The Library operates in a hybrid environment. It provides on-site and off-site services. On-site services include, but are not limited to, access to all our learning resources, including print, lending/circulation services, Faculty-based services, and hubs with context-relevant print collections; the IT Help Desk and technology support; library venues and facilities; and services for the differently abled.

The Library website is a gateway to all our learning resources and services. Online/remote services include but are not limited to access to online resources and search platforms, LibAnswers with a chatbot where you can chat and ask specific questions to Librarians; subject, research, general LibGuides; operating hours, a virtual tour, and our popular online tutorial and videos. About 80% of our learning resources are accessible online. Our search-all tutorial will guide you through the search process.

Opening hours

The following are the Library hours:

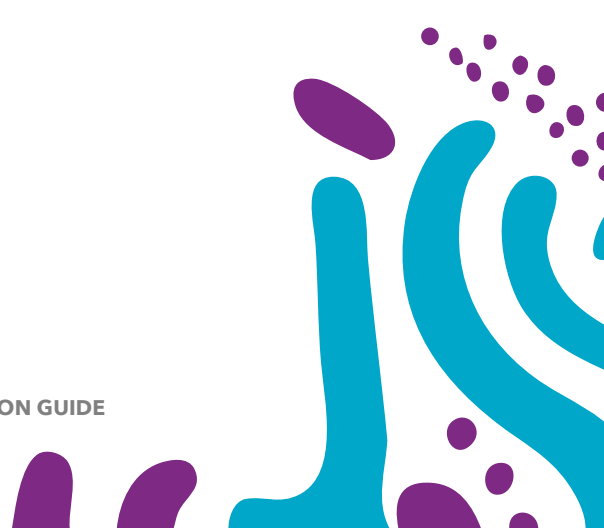
- Mon-Thurs 08h30 - 22h30
- Fri 08h30 - 18h00
- Sat 09h00 - 21h00
- Sun 13h30 - 17h30

The Main Library's opening hours may change due to public holidays, term breaks, extended hours during examinations, etc. Changes to the Library's opening times are communicated regularly at the Library's entrance, on the Library's web page, on social media, and via email.

Borrowing Library Books

The most relevant loan schedule related to first-year students is set out as follows:

| User category | Number of items | Duration of time |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Undergraduates | 6 items | 2 weeks |
| Postgraduates | 12 items | 4 weeks |
| Senior postgraduates | 20 items | 8 weeks |



Teaching, Learning and Research

Support resources for learning

The Library Services Division receives a substantive annual Information Resources (IR) grant from the institution to develop learning resources. It also uses other grants to develop context-relevant and discipline-specific learning resources to support the academic project.

These collections are developed through several processes, including:

Curriculum-aligned procurement (once-off purchases and/or subscription-based) of materials (printed books, e-books, journals, databases, deposits, donations, verified Open Access resources, Rhodes University community research outputs, research data, articles, conference proceedings, theses, dissertations, digitised analogue materials and special collections).

Registered Rhodes Library users may recommend purchasing an item through their dedicated Faculty Librarian.

Access to all learning resources

The Main Library has about 300 000 volumes of print books onsite, about 299 439 unique e-book titles, and more than 66 online scholarly databases. The A-Z is an alphabetical list of databases subscribed to by Rhodes University. Access to content and other services is through the Main Library's web page. Once you are here, you can search our Library catalogue using the exact title/subject/keyword(s).

Rhodes University staff and students have seamless access to our services and learning resources. However, new students and new staff members must set up or activate their library accounts to access online databases, e-journals, and e-books remotely/off-campus. You can set up your account in "My Library Account".

Short loan collection

This is heavily used by staff and students. Short loans include materials reserved by lecturers for immediate or short-term access. You will need to visit the Library during operating hours to access short-loan material and other print resources. For all access or loan-related inquiries, contact our Circulation desk or send an email to <https://ru.za.libanswers.com/>

Access to electronic learning resources

Library users can use our e-resources, accessible both on campus and remotely. The Rhodes University Library is a member of the South East Academic Library System (SEALS), a consortium of the Eastern Cape's four academic libraries (Nelson Mandela University Library, Walter Sisulu University Library, Fort Hare University Library and Rhodes University Library).

The Common Library Management Information System hosts the myriad of learning resources of the four libraries using a shared catalogue. The common library catalogues across SEALS enable the sharing of resources through interlibrary loan systems within the consortium. The subscription-based e-resources are accessible only to current Rhodes University staff and students, as a significant portion of e-resources is subject to terms and conditions stipulated in licence agreements with vendors.

Community members, including Makhanda residents, who need access to subscription-based electronic resources must contact the Circulation Desk staff via <https://ru.za.libanswers.com/>. You can browse our e-journals by subject. You can also filter through the Rhodes Library discovery tool to find our resources.



Our programmes

First-year Experience (FYE) Programme: Our FYE programme starts with Orientation Week (O-Week) each year. The Library O-Week programme is paired with the first-year poll, whose results inform ongoing Information Literacy Skills Instruction. The Librarians offer an Information and Digital Literacy (I&DL) skills programme to first-year students. The discipline-specific I&DL skills programme is offered to all first-year students registered in the Extended Studies Programme (ESPs).

Academics are encouraged to arrange with their Faculty Librarians for their students to attend the ongoing I&DL skills programme. For more information, please see the [RUL First-Year Experience Library Guide](https://ru.za.libguides.com/c.php?g=1360214&p=10044713) at: <https://ru.za.libguides.com/c.php?g=1360214&p=10044713>.

Information Commons

The Undergraduate Librarian is available to assist first-year undergraduate students with transitioning to the academic learning environment. The unit provides all undergraduate students with an Information and Digital Literacy programme to support teaching and learning.

We also offer training on the effective use of scholarly databases. You are responsible for booking an appointment with your Librarians. The Faculty Liaison programme provides a conducive interface between the Library and the Faculties. Your knowledgeable Faculty Librarians are accessible at Levels 2, 3 and 4 of the Main Library. For all Information Commons, information or digital literacy inquiries, please see the following Library Guides:

- New Student and Staff Library Guide (<https://ru.za.libguides.com/c.php?g=174186&p=1148211>)
- Information Commons Library Guide (<https://ru.za.libguides.com/InfoCommons>).

Alternatively, you can contact our Information Commons Librarians directly or email us at <https://ru.za.libanswers.com/>.

Research support

Our research support ranges from specialised Digital Scholarship services to a myriad of other valuable research support services, including Scholarly Communication and the Rhodes Research Commons.

The Institutional Repository, Research Data Repository, and Rhodes Journal Service (OJS) are some of our flagship research support platforms provided by the Library.

Research support also includes workshops on using systematic reviews as a research methodology, setting up researcher identifiers, citing and referencing, avoiding plagiarism, research integrity (including avoiding predatory journals, conferences, publishers, and publishing), and fake news. For more information, visit our research page at: <https://www.ru.ac.za/library/researchsupport/>.

Library facilities

The Rhodes University Library has always endeavoured to be a “desired space” for all patrons. Seen as a world-class academic Facility, it supports the University’s teaching and learning requirements. It is a space aligned with current educational trends.

Using an online booking tool, library users may book group study rooms, a dedicated space for students to collaborate on projects, discuss course materials, and work together on assignments. Our virtual tour will enhance your experience with our venues and facilities. It can be accessed at: <https://virtualltour.ru.ac.za/Library/>.



Where to find us

Rhodes University Library has an on-site and virtual footprint. The physical presence comprises five library sites: The Main Library, the Cory Library for Humanities Research, the Alastair Kerr Law Library, the Sound Library, and the Teacher Resource Centre.

The two affiliated libraries are the Margaret Smith Library at the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) and the International Library of African Music (ILAM). There is more information on each of these libraries.

Library membership

All registered students and Rhodes University staff are members of the Main Library. For all your membership queries and login issues, contact the Circulation Desk or visit <https://ru.za.libanswers.com/>.

LOST PROPERTY

All lost property is handed to the Campus Protection Unit (CPU) in Rhodes Avenue above Hobson House.



M

MEALS

All halls of residences have a self-service system, and formal dinners are held once or twice a year. Balanced meals are planned on a two-week cycle to ensure that students' nutritional needs are met. Menus, which cover two-week periods, are also available online. For lunch and supper, a student can choose from five meal types: Default, vegetarian, health platter, Halaal/Hindu, and African. All students are automatically booked for all meals based on the diet they specify when they pre-register online. The default choice can be changed online, after registration.

Making a meal booking: log onto ROSS (<http://ross.ru.ac.za>) and follow the options under «meal bookings. There you can:

- Print the chosen meal list.
- Unbook meals (single or blocks, e.g., if the student does not eat breakfast, they can unbook for the year, or if they go away for a weekend, they can unbook all meals for that period).
- Change the preferred diet.

All these options must take place at least 48 hours in advance of a particular meal. If a student does not take a meal and has not un-booked 48 hours in advance, the meal will be considered taken, and no credit will be given for that missed meal.

Credit accumulated from unbooked meals up to an amount specified annually in the University Calendar (amounts for undergrad and postgrad residences differ) will be credited to the student's fees account at the end of the 2nd and 4th terms. The University does not monitor meal cancellations. No student will be permitted to cancel all meals. Oppidan students (those living in town) can also have a regular midday meal using the same meal booking system after registering as Oppidan meal takers. A concise user manual for using the system is available here: www.ru.ac.za/residentialoperations/mealbookings/mealbookinghelpdocuments/



MENTORING PROGRAMMES

Rhodes University offers mentoring programmes for all undergraduate students. The RUMentoring programme is dedicated to offering mentoring support to all first-year students. The RUMentoring Programme connects first-year students with a mentor from the same residence and studying the same or a similar course. Mentors are second or third-year students who've recently been through the same experience, so they're easy to relate to and approachable. Every two weeks, you'll meet in small, relaxed, and confidential sessions to talk, share experiences, and find your way through university life together.

The RUMentoring Programme also includes the Monday Mentor sessions. These are weekly evening gatherings where students and lecturers come together to share experiences, learn practical skills, and discuss important topics such as time management, feedback literacy, note-taking, deep reading, writing, exam preparation, and other topics that may not be covered in class.

Students who are registered for an extended curriculum are mentored as part of the Trojan Academic Initiative (TAI) (mentoring programme), which seeks to offer socio-emotional support to first-year students from disadvantaged backgrounds as they adjust to the multiple demands of a new and challenging tertiary education environment.

The TAI forms an integral part of the Extended Curriculum and offers an opportunity for successful senior student mentors, former Extended Curriculum students, to draw on their previous experience. In doing so, mentors offer guidance to their younger, less-established peers as they enter the academy for the first time.

Ncedana is the sister programme of the RUMentoring programme, and provides support to upper undergraduate students (second and third-year students).





OPPIDAN AFFAIRS

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines an **Oppidan** as “an inhabitant of a university town as distinguished from a member of the university itself.” At Rhodes University, this refers to students who live off campus in accommodation rented independently of the institution. These students are known as **Oppidans**, or **Oppis** for short, and they also call themselves “**digs**” students.

The Oppidan community is the **largest single student body** at Rhodes University. While Oppis enjoy the benefits of greater independence and freedom from specific residence life structures, living off campus also brings its own unique challenges.

To support students in navigating these challenges, the **Oppidan Union** was established. The Union consists of the **Cluster Coordinators**, **Residence Student Assistants**, and the **House Committee**, all of whom are dedicated to assisting Oppis with their academic, social, and personal needs.

Oppidan Union Services

The Oppidan Union is responsible for initiating and maintaining a range of student benefits:

The **Oppidan Common Room** is located on the first floor of the Bantu Stephen Biko Building. It features lounge suites, a smart TV, Wi-Fi, tables, chairs, and study cubicles. Additionally, the Common Room includes a kitchen equipped with hot water, a fridge, a stove, and dining tables for student use during lunch or any day. The kitchen also has a microwave available for students to prepare noodles, warm their food, or use for any other microwave needs. The Oppidan Office provides complimentary tea, coffee, sugar, and milk for students from Monday to Friday.

The **Oppidan Office** assists students in finding off-campus accommodation that fits their budget, with a particular emphasis on NSFAS-accredited options. The Oppidan Cluster Administrator at the Oppidan Office provides this information and is responsible for keeping the list of off-campus accommodations up to date. Additionally, the Office facilitates the accreditation process for student accommodations.

The **Oppidan Committee** comprises various portfolios dedicated to representing the interests of Oppidans and encouraging their participation in a range of Union activities, such as social events, inter-res sports, and community engagement. The Oppidan Union aims to provide a well-balanced and enriching university experience. It works closely with the SRC and the Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning (CHERTL). It is responsible for coordinating mentoring programmes for first-year students and exam preparation workshops. These initiatives help ensure that students succeed academically while supporting their holistic development and overall university experience.

The **Oppidan Office** coordinates and manages the Oppidan shuttle/bus service, which operates Monday to Friday from 17h00 to 23h00 and on Saturday and Sunday from 18h00 to 19h00. Students can catch the bus at the Oppidan Bus Shelter. During exam periods and SWOT week, the service hours are extended until 01h00 to ensure that students who study late have transportation available. The Oppidan bus runs within the Makhanda CBD and the surrounding township area.

The Oppidan Union operates a website and several social media pages, including TikTok and Instagram, to keep students updated on events and activities taking place in the hall and across the University.

The **Oppidan Hall Cluster Coordinators** (two in total), assisted by ten Residence Student Assistants, are available to provide advice and support to students in crisis. They address issues related to student care, discipline, development, conflict resolution, lease and digs mate concerns, and emergencies. Students are encouraged to contact the Cluster Coordinators. The Cluster Administrator and Coordinators are responsible for managing and coordinating all areas of the Union's activities and are available to assist Oppidans whenever possible.

For any enquiries, the **Oppidan Cluster Coordinators** can be contacted as follows:

- **Mr Matimu Shivambu** – matimu.shivambu@ru.ac.za - 074 229 8425
- **Ms Gladys Manamela** – gladys.manamela@ru.ac.za - 076 847 8032

They are available from **08h30 - 16h30** and can also be contacted by phone after hours in emergencies **using the contact details above**.

The **Oppidan Cluster Administrator, Ms Lungi Mhlapo**, can be reached during office hours from 08h30 to 13h30 on 046 603 8229 or email l.mhlapo@ru.ac.za



P

PARKING ON CAMPUS

All students with cars in Makhanda must provide the relevant information when they register. Parking on campus is limited. Anyone acquiring a car during the year must register it at the Student Bureau within three days. Failure to register a car is an offence under the Student Disciplinary Code. You are requested to take care when driving on campus, observe the speed limit, be wary of pedestrians and park only in designated areas.

Parking spaces with a red dot outlined with a white circle are for staff only. You will be fined if you park in them. Traffic management falls under CPU. The National Traffic Act and the Rhodes University Student Disciplinary Code are implemented in the instance of contravention of traffic rules.

POLICIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

There are several policies and protocols which are relevant to students. Please visit the Rhodes University website for a complete list at <https://www.ru.ac.za/institutionalplanningunit/policies/policiesa-z/>



PREGNANCY

Rhodes University will make every effort to support a pregnant student and ensure that the pregnancy does not disrupt her academic career. Although each case will be considered on its merits, the University cannot accept responsibility for any potential health risks associated with pregnancy or assume financial responsibility for special dietary requirements in residence, etc. Counselling and advice (for both parents-to-be) is available through the Counselling Centre, the Health Care Centre (HCC), or a private practitioner. While we respect a student's right to confidentiality and will respect the usual professional rules regarding confidentiality, it is reasonable to expect a pregnant student to inform those parties who might be most immediately affected by their pregnancy. We strongly encourage the student to inform:

- The HCC is to obtain basic health advice.
- A medical practitioner can obtain expert advice. A student with no medical aid can make an appointment at the HCC to see the University doctor at the normal reduced rate, who will then refer her to the Grahamstown Clinic for ongoing check-ups during the pregnancy or to the state hospital for termination.
- The Cluster Co-ordinator or Residence Head, if the student lives in residence, so that they are aware of the student's condition. She can assist her to make the necessary arrangements for the final stages of the pregnancy, when she will have to move out of residence.

In the normal course of events, provided there are no medical complications, a student may remain in residence until the 36th week of pregnancy. The student will need to arrange alternative accommodation during the final weeks of pregnancy or during the baby's birth. While the student may return to residence after the baby's birth, the child will not be permitted to live with her there, and she is responsible for making appropriate child-care arrangements. There will be no financial penalty for the student if she wishes to keep her room vacant so that she may return to it after the baby's birth.

The usual arrangements for a leave of absence can be made with medical certification. The student can apply for an extended LoA if the circumstances qualify. If the time of birth is close to or coincides with an examination, the student may apply to write an aegrotat examination at a later stage.

The HCC does provide antiretrovirals to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). If the student is HIV positive, she should arrange with her private doctor (if on medical aid), who will, in turn, implement their protocol to deal with PMTCT.

Pharmacy students must inform the Dean or Deputy Dean as soon as they find out they are pregnant. A pregnancy protocol is being developed for the Pharmacy Faculty. This is needed because of the potential risks associated with practicals.

Here is the link to the Pregnancy Policy:

https://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/institutionalplanning/documents/policies/protocols/Pregnancy_Protocol_2022_approved.pdf

PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLNESS

Emotions and feelings of distress may include, tearfulness, feelings of sadness, irritability, difficulty concentrating on academic work, difficulties in sleeping (either difficulty falling asleep or once asleep, waking up during the night or early in the morning), feelings of worthlessness, loss of interest in previously enjoyable activities, changes in appetite, decreased energy and fatigue, and/or suicidal thoughts. Anxious thoughts and feelings may also arise, particularly when academic deadlines approach.

Tips for managing psychological distress

- Get some exercise.
- Physical activity can help reduce stress. Spend some time doing enjoyable physical activities.
- Take time out.
- Give yourself short breaks during times of the day that tend to be stressful. A few moments of quiet time help you feel better prepared to handle what is ahead without getting overly stressed.
- Using humour to release tension and lighten up can help manage stress/anxiety. Use humour to help you face what is making you stressed, and remember to have realistic expectations for the day.
- Practice relaxation skills.
- Practice deep-breathing exercises, imagine a relaxing scene, or repeat a calming word or phrase, such as "take it easy." You might also listen to music, write in a journal, or do a few yoga poses, whatever it takes to encourage relaxation.
- Talking to friends/loved ones. Talk to your friends in digs or res to support each other, and / talk to your loved ones.
- Know when to seek help.

When the above do not seem to be helping, do not hesitate to seek professional help.

The Counselling Centre is on the top floor of the Steve Biko Building. You can make an appointment by going to the Counselling Centre, emailing counsellingcentre@ru.ac.za, or calling 046 603 7070 if professional help is needed. The after-hours number is available from 16h30 until 08h00 the following morning, and over the weekends 24/7. The contact number is 010 205 3068.

Additional resources

- South African Depression and Anxiety Group) (SADAG)
 - SADAG Suicide Crisis Line 0800 567 567
 - SADAG 24-hour helpline 0800 12 13 14
- Lifeline Eastern Cape, Port Elizabeth 041 373 8666

S

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Campus Protection Unit (CPU) office and control room are situated in Rhodes Avenue next to Hobson House. The 24-hour control room operates 365 days a year and is the nerve centre of security operations and the after-hours Help Desk on campus. It has radio communication with the guards, monitors burglar, panic, and fire alarms, an after-hours switchboard and call centre for the University, and responds to initial information on crime reports, calls out University standby technicians, and deals with lost and found property.

It employs 19 Rhodes University guards, 6 supervisors, and 28 contract guards from a local security company, HiTec. All staff work on a shift cycle to provide a security service throughout the year. The Rhodes University CPU guards wear blue uniforms, while HiTec guards wear black uniforms with a yellow badge. These guards are all highly visible and patrol the campus 24 hours a day, on foot and on bicycles.

The CPU Manager performs various safety and security tasks for the University and works closely with all departments and committees. The supervisors are responsible for the day-to-day running of the shifts, posting of the CPU and HiTec guards and running of the control room and Help Desk.

The CPU is the first point of contact for any issue on campus and for calling out standby support personnel and emergency services, be they fire, ambulance, police, etc. In addition to their patrol work, guards also open and close lecture venues, administrative buildings and after-hours function venues, escort students and staff on campus, perform traffic and parking duties and report defunct lights on campus.

CPU also operates a lost-and-found service. All emergencies must be reported immediately to the CPU control room. Residence Heads can phone the control room for assistance with any matter, at any time of the day or night. On receipt of a call, a guard will be dispatched immediately to assist the Residence Head.

CPU 046 603 8146/7
After-hours emergency number 046 603 8999

Safety hints on campus

Guards will accompany students on campus at night upon request for protection, and students are encouraged to use this facility. Students can approach the nearest CPU guard or visit the CPU offices on Rhodes Avenue and request an escort. All incidents should be reported immediately to CPU for assistance.

Students should use the Blue Route, a well-lit, clearly demarcated, patrolled route that runs from the bottom of Prince Alfred Street (across the road from the Drama Department) to the top of the hill, past Nelson Mandela Hall. It also runs along St Peter's Campus and up to Winchester House on Beaufort Street. Forty-eight SOS panic buttons are installed at various places around campus. They are identifiable with a yellow chevron backing board and a red button. A student in trouble can push this, and the CPU will pick up the signal at their headquarters. Students are also encouraged to remember that common sense is their best defence!

Students should always be aware of their surroundings and the people in their environment. It is also not advisable for students to walk around Makhanda alone, particularly at night. Students should always walk in groups, stick to well-lit areas, or arrange a lift home. Students should also note that the CPU is not allowed to transport any student to a destination on or off campus.

Other hints to pass on to students include the following:

- Take out personal insurance.
- Lock your doors and windows when leaving your room and when going to sleep.
- Keep items such as laptop computers, cell phones, iPods, and cameras away from the window and out of sight, preferably in a locked cupboard.
- Report the presence of strangers in your residence to an authority immediately.
- Do not keep large sums of money in your room.
- Keep the serial numbers of your valuables, and take them with you during vacations.
- Do not leave any messages on your door to indicate that you will be away for any length of time.
- Do not leave bags unsupervised in public areas such as cafeterias, computer labs and the library.
- Always keep your cell phone with you (preferably out of sight).
- If you have a car, invest in a gear-lock and anti-theft wheel nuts.
- Never leave items on display, i.e., jackets and valuables, inside your car.
- Report theft of items immediately.

Safety for Oppidans

The CPU has neither the resources nor the mandate to patrol the whole of Makhanda. The greater Makhanda area is monitored by the South African Police Service, which works closely with Rhodes University to keep us up to date on criminal activity and crime prevention for Oppidan students.

Unfortunately, Oppidan students are vulnerable to petty crime because they are “soft targets”. Many students forget to set house alarms, leave windows open or do not lock doors when they go out. Oppidan students must remember to take basic precautions: Setting alarms, closing windows, and locking doors all make a big difference to their personal safety. It is also NOT advisable for students to walk around Makhanda alone, particularly at night. Students should always walk in groups, stick to well-lit areas, or arrange a lift home.

The Oppidan Residence Head and 10 Oppidan Residence Student Assistants are available to help students after a theft or break-in. Oppidans need to be proactive in ensuring their safety by selecting secure digs and attending the monthly Police Forum for their area.

If they are the victims of a crime, they should:

- Report the matter to the police.
- Report the matter to the Oppidan Office.

SPORT AT RHODES

All students are entitled to use the sports facilities and join one or more of the 27 clubs affiliated with the Rhodes University Sports Council. An annual fee is charged for each sports club that a student joins. Each club is a centre of social activities, with meetings, practices, fixtures, and fun events organised by students, assisted by full-time Sports Officers.

Many clubs play in competitive provincial leagues, while some also offer internal leagues. Because not all students enjoy playing competitive sports, the residence system offers students the opportunity to participate in a social, less competitive team sport. The sports representative (rep) on each house committee is charged with organising such events in conjunction with Rhodes University Sports. In addition, the Rhodes Health Suite offers weight training, aerobics and spinning classes. The weight training facility consists of cardio-vascular, circuit, and free-weight training sections, and instructors are available to assist with personal training programmes.

A student on financial aid may apply to the Rhodes University Sports Council, through the Manager: Rhodes University Sports, for a rebate to join one sports club or one section of the Health Suite.

Sports on offer at Rhodes University

Archery, athletics, basketball, cricket, canoe, e-sports, first aid, chess, golf, dance sport, fly fishing, hockey, karate, mixed martial arts, mountain climbing, netball, supa-pool, rifle, rowing, rugby, sailing, squash, soccer, surfing, taekwondo, tennis, underwater, and volleyball.

STUDENT DISCIPLINARY CODE

In an ideal world, there would be no need for disciplinary codes. Disciplinary codes are indispensable. The Rhodes Student Disciplinary Code is available at <https://www.ru.ac.za/registrar/discipline/studentdisciplinarycode/> and all students are expected to have read it.



The Code covers a wide range of issues, from making excessive noise to the most serious criminal offences. If students adopt a common-sense approach, they are likely to be alright 95% of the time.

The source of the University's discipline procedures is the Student Disciplinary Code, which is published on the website.

The Vice-Chancellor is the Chief Disciplinary Officer for the University. He may delegate such authority.

The Vice-Chancellor has appointed two officials called the University Prosecutors. Their duties, functions and powers are set out in the Code. In effect, they act as the prosecutor in all cases heard by the Proctors, in higher-discipline cases.

The most serious disciplinary cases are heard by the Proctors, who have the power to exclude students from the University permanently or for a specified period (e.g., two years), in addition to other powers set out in the Code. The Vice-Chancellor appoints the Proctors, who are usually members of the Faculty of Law staff who have served as Judicial Officers or practised as Advocates or Attorneys. (Prosecutors are assisted in investigating and prosecuting by final-year law students. The right to a fair hearing is critical and is taken very seriously.

There are several other Disciplinary Officers or bodies, including Cluster Co-ordinators, Residence Heads, Hall and/or House Disciplinary Committees, Assistant Residence Heads, and the SRC Disciplinary Board. The Main Library, Information Technology, CPU, and Sports Council Disciplinary Committees have the power to conduct cases within their areas of jurisdiction.

Usually, sanctions take the form of several hours of compulsory service, which must be completed within a given period. Failure to complete these hours results in further charges being laid for the failure to obey a lawful instruction and may result in exam results being withheld.

The rules in the Student Disciplinary Code apply to all students. Issues like theft, assault and cheating in exams are obvious. Perhaps less obvious is the fact that, unlike in the criminal justice system, where intoxication sometimes acts as mitigation, at Rhodes University, intoxication is an aggravating factor.

Some offences worth noting include: all the usual traffic offences; unlawful possession of drugs; failure to give one's name and to produce one's student card when required to do so; removing street signs or car number plates; and being violent or disorderly. It is also an offence to harass people or engage in hate speech, making disparaging remarks about people based on their race, gender, or sexual orientation.



If it is probable that the sanction will not exceed 75 hours of compulsory service or 10% of a first-year academic fee, then a Hall or Residence Head, including the Oppidan Cluster Coordinator, may deal with the issue. Cluster Co-ordinators may exclude students from residence for serious offences, including theft.

In addition to the University Disciplinary Code, each hall has its own rules for less serious matters, for example, making noise after certain hours.

STUDENT FUNDING

Financial aid at Rhodes is offered to South African citizens who are financially needy and academically deserving. There is also financial aid for students with specific disabilities. A means test is applied, and each case is evaluated on its own merits.

Undergraduate financial aid is predominantly in the form of student bursaries from the National Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). Applications for financial assistance are only considered if the family income is below a certain level. The Student Funding Office also administers internal bursaries and scholarships.

What is NSFAS?

NSFAS is a government entity under the Department of Higher Education and Training, established according to the NSFAS Act (Act 56 of 1999) to provide financial support to disadvantaged students who wish to further their studies at public universities or TVET Colleges.

Who qualifies for NSFAS funding?

- All South African citizens.
- All South African Social Security Agency grant recipients qualify for funding.
- Applicants whose combined household income is not more than R350 000 per annum.
- Persons with a disability: Combined household income must not exceed R600 000 per annum.
- Students who started studying before 2018 and whose household income is not more than R122 000 per annum.

NSFAS Residence packages: cover tuition and residence.

How to apply?

It is as easy as "Create a myNSFAS account" via this link: <https://my.nsfas.org.za/>

Click on the 'apply' tab to update your personal information and upload your application supporting documents. Submit your application **[www.nsfas.org.za](https://my.nsfas.org.za/)**

STUDENT IDENTITY CARDS

Your student identity card, which is issued during administrative registration, is a very important and precious item. You will need it to enter the Main Library, borrow books from the Library, and enter the Library's after-hours facility. Student cards are also used for photocopying in the campus libraries. You must also show it when writing exams. If you lose your student card, you must report it to the Main Library immediately. As soon as you have a new card issued by the Student Bureau, you must bring it to the Library so that the barcode number can be updated on your Library record.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The Rhodes Student Representative Council (SRC) represents students and negotiates with the University authorities on their behalf. When necessary, the SRC calls meetings of the student body.

The President of the SRC meets weekly with the Director of Student Services and Development. The University Council allocates an annual budget to the SRC and may also raise additional funds for special projects with the permission of the Senate and Council.

The SRC finances, controls, and coordinates the activities of registered societies and clubs on campus and organises events benefiting students. Grants are also made to various committees, to publications controlled by the SRC and for student social functions. The SRC also arranges seminars and speakers on current social and political issues of particular interest to students.

Under the Student Disciplinary Code, the Student Disciplinary Board may exclude a student from SRC functions and facilities or impose a fine of up to 10% of the Bachelor of Arts fee. All disciplinary action is reported to the Vice-Chancellor, who deals with more serious offences. The Student Defence Council can represent students in disciplinary cases.

SRC incentives

Rhodes University has an incentive scheme for students elected to the SRC. The SRC president receives a 50% rebate on the BA tuition fee. The SRC President may accept either the monthly honorarium or the prestigious leadership bursary. The leadership bursary is calculated at the average tuition and residence fee for one year, regardless of whether the student lives in residence. The other four members of the Executive Council (Vice-President, Secretary-General, Treasurer and two elected Executive Members) each receive a 35% rebate of the BA tuition fee. The remaining Councillors are awarded a 25% rebate on BA tuition fees.

SRC staff

Three full-time employees assist the SRC members with the day-to-day running of SRC activities. The SRC office is open weekdays from 08h30 to 16h30.

SRC STUDENT SOCIETIES

Welcome to Rhodes University! You're about to start an exciting journey, and it's not just about academics. By joining one of our nearly 60 societies, you'll become part of a fun, supportive, and active community where you can grow, make new friends, and follow your passions. If you're into politics, check out societies like the EFFSC, SASCO, MK Students Movement, and ActionSA, perfect for those passionate about leadership and change.

For those interested in faith and culture, we have a range of options, including the Christian Societies, Muslim Students Association, African Traditional Beliefs, and more.

You can also join the Western Students Society, East African Society, SwaziSoc, ZimSoc and many more to celebrate and connect with others from your background or heritage while creative types can join groups focused on writing like OppidanPress and Activate.

We have the Lawsoc, Economics Societies, and other societies that help you explore your interests, pick up new hobbies, and meet people who share your interests.





There is also a society for students identifying as LGBTQIA+ called Nkoli-Fassie and one for students with disabilities called Enable.

And if you can't find a society that matches your interests, don't worry! You can start your own. Be sure to check out the Society's Exhibition and Extravaganza during Orientation Week to find out more and connect with different groups.

Why join an SRC society?

At Rhodes University, through the Division of Student Services and Development, we are committed to IDP Goal 3, which focuses on creating an engaging and transformative student experience that promotes **holistic development, personal growth, academic success, and leadership for social change**. This means that your university experience should help you grow in all areas of life, not just academically. That's why we encourage students to get involved in societies.

It's part of our commitment to creating an experience that helps you grow, succeed in your studies, and equip you to make a difference in the world. Joining a society can help you build new skills, form essential connections, and get involved in activities that not only make your time here fun and meaningful but also contribute to positive change around you.

Here are some awesome benefits of joining an SRC Society:

- **Develop new skills**
Societies give you the chance to develop skills that go beyond the classroom. Whether you're leading a group, planning an event, or working in a team, you'll gain real-life experience that will help you succeed in the future.
- **Networking and building relationships**
University is all about meeting new people and making life-long friends. Societies connect you with people who share your interests, and these friendships and networks can lead to future collaborations and career opportunities.
- **Personal growth**
Stepping outside your comfort zone is a great way to grow as a person. Whether you're organising events or speaking in front of a crowd, being involved in societies helps you build confidence and discover what you're capable of.
- **Support your well-being**
University life can be stressful, but being part of a society can help. It gives you a supportive environment where you can relax, have fun, and connect with people who understand what you're going through. This sense of belonging is great for your mental health and well-being.
- **Explore your interests**
Societies offer you the chance to try new things and discover passions you didn't know you had. Whether it's art, community service, or debating, you can explore activities outside your studies that make your university experience even richer.
- **Build your CV**
Employers love to see students who are involved in more than academics. Being part of a society shows that you're motivated, can work in a team, and can take initiative, all things that will help you stand out when you're applying for jobs.
- **Develop leadership skills**
If you take on a leadership role in a society, you'll develop the kind of skills that will prepare you for future roles in leadership, both at university and beyond. It's a great way to gain experience and show you can handle responsibility.

- **Community engagement and social justice**

Many societies are involved in community engagement and social justice, giving you the chance to make a difference while learning about social responsibility and leadership. You'll gain valuable experience and life lessons while helping others.

- **Experience cultural exchange**

Rhodes University is home to students from all over the world. By joining a society, you'll meet people from different backgrounds, experience new cultures, and learn to appreciate different perspectives, helping you grow as a global citizen.

- **Just have fun!**

University isn't all about work! Societies organise all sorts of social events, trips, and activities that give you a chance to unwind, have fun, and make great memories.

Joining an SRC Society at Rhodes University is an excellent way to enrich your student experience and make the most of your time as a member of the community. Each society is run by a committee of students that works together to deliver affordable and accessible events and activities that their members want. They are always keen to welcome new people, so get involved, and one day you could be leading your group!

STUDENT SERVICES COUNCIL

The Student Services Council (SSC) is a Senate Committee established to hear students' voices on campus. In accordance with South African legislation, half the council comprises student leaders, and the other half comprises university staff who, by virtue of their position or suitability, are elected to the SSC. The Committee meets once a term to discuss issues related to students' quality of life and the critical services and support required.

STUDENT STATUS

The following status levels for students and scholars are recognised.

Undergraduate status

A student who is registered for one of the following bachelor's degrees:

- 3 years: BA, BCom, BSc
- 4 years: BJourn, BAcc, BBusSci, BEd, BPharm, BFA, LLB.

Graduate status/Honours

A student who already has a degree and is registered for:

- A one-year postgraduate degree/diploma/certificate
- An LLB
- Honours.

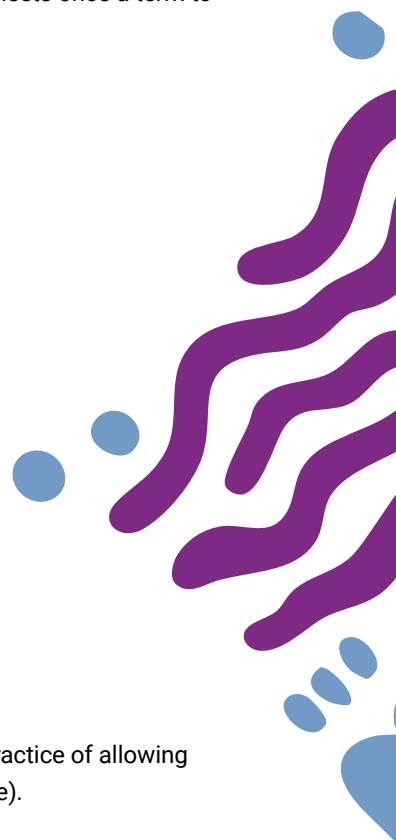
Privileges

- They may take out 12 library books at a time.
- They may keep these books for 4 weeks. They may use inter-library loan facilities.
- They are permitted to stay in a postgraduate residence (This does not negate the current practice of allowing students in their fourth year of an undergraduate degree to stay in a postgraduate residence).

Postgraduate status

A student who has completed one of the degrees listed above (or who has been granted *Ad eundem gradum* by the Senate) and who is registered for one of the following (full-time or part-time):

- Masters
- PhD.





Privileges

- They may take out 20 library books at a time.
- They may keep these books for 8 weeks. They may use inter-library loan facilities.
- They have access to designated postgraduate computer laboratories.
- They may have free networking services if they have a laptop connected through their academic department (this does not apply to connections elsewhere).
- They may stay in the Gavin Reilly Postgraduate Village and other designated postgraduate residences.
- They have access to a special workstation or office in some departments.

Postdoctoral status

A scholar who has completed a PhD and is engaged in full-time research for a fixed period in the department to which they are affiliated.

Privileges in addition to the above:

- Staff library privileges.
- A Rhodes University email address (i.e., name-based, and not number-based).
- Access to a computer provided by the department in which the scholar is working.
- Free network services if they have a laptop connected through their academic department (this does not apply to connections elsewhere).
- Access to short-term university transit housing (recognising that preference for transit housing bookings is given to staff).
- Access to staff parking.
- Office space, but this remains the business of the relevant department.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Possession and supply of any controlled substance or dangerous drug, as defined by South African law, is prohibited.

Rhodes University undertakes to deal with students who commit such offences and breach the disciplinary code, thereby bringing the University into disrepute. However, the University also recognises that in some cases, substance abuse can become a medical problem rather than solely a disciplinary matter and we, therefore, supply information about the dangers of illicit drugs and will refer those who need support to the relevant support services.

Students with substance abuse problems are encouraged to contact:

- The Counselling Centre (counsellingcentre@ru.ac.za).
- The Health Care Centre (healthcarecentre@ru.ac.za).

For information or assistance

For more information on the protocol for students using illicit drugs, visit

<https://www.ru.ac.za/studentaffairs/resources/>

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings take place twice a week. Tuesdays at Fort England Hospital at the substance abuse centre from 19h00 - 20h00 and Thursdays in the RA Room of the Steve Biko Building opposite Rhodes Music Radio from 19h00 - 20h00 (NA/AA: 082 784 7685).

Al-Anon Support Group

This group is for friends and family of alcoholics. Al-Anon meets every Tuesday, 18h30 to 19h30, at the College of Transfiguration (13 Worcester Street) in the old rector's residence. For details, telephone 079 473 3925 or email alanongrahamstown@gmail.com.

If you are worried about a friend, contact SADAG's Substance Abuse Helpline on 0800 12 13 14 or SMS 32313. Open seven days a week.

Tobacco

Rhodes University is committed to supporting the health and wellness of its employees, students, and others on campus. Rhodes University recognises that illness and disease are associated with tobacco products, and that breathing in other people's tobacco smoke (second-hand smoke) is a public and workplace hazard, as well as a fire hazard. The Rhodes University Smoking Policy is guided by the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act and the Tobacco Products Control Act.

Note that smoking means to inhale, exhale, hold or otherwise have control over any smoke-producing device, and that a "tobacco product" refers to any smoke-producing device, intended for use by smoking, inhalation, chewing, sniffing, or sucking, including tobacco products, electronic smoking devices, weeds, or plants.

If you are a smoker:

- Please respect the rights of non-smokers not to be forced to breathe second-hand smoke; it's the law.
- Do not smoke in or near any building.
- Do not smoke in partially enclosed areas, e.g., walkways, verandas, courtyards, balconies, etc.
- Smoking must be downwind and at least 10 metres away from openings, including doors, windows, air conditioning inlets, etc.
- Smoking is a fire hazard – dispose of extinguished cigarettes in cigarette butt bins.

More info: www.ru.ac.za/safety/resources/smoking





RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

The use, possession, or distribution of cannabis/marijuana (dagga) on Rhodes University premises is strictly prohibited.

While we acknowledge the evolving legal landscape surrounding cannabis in South Africa, Rhodes University—like all public institutions of higher learning—is bound by national legislation, university policies, and health and safety regulations.

The Constitutional Court's judgment on cannabis allows persons over the age of 18 to use, possess, and cultivate dagga in private space and for personal use. However, dealing in dagga remains illegal, and authorities have reaffirmed their commitment to taking action against such offences.

Cannabis/Marijuana is not permitted in university residences, buildings, or public spaces—regardless of personal beliefs or practices.

Cannabis use may negatively affect your academic performance, well-being, and relationships within the campus community.

Being under the influence while on campus may impair your judgment, compromise safety, and is a breach of the Rhodes University Code of Conduct.

You are encouraged to make informed, responsible choices that foster a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for everyone.

All students are expected to familiarise themselves with Rhodes University's policies, procedures, regulations, and rules. Please note that ignorance of these rules will not be accepted as an excuse in the case of misconduct.

If you or someone you know is struggling with substance use, please know that support is available. The Counselling Centre and Health Care Team offer confidential, non-judgmental assistance.

e: counsellingcentre@ru.ac.za
t: 046 603 7070



SUICIDAL & PARA-SUICIDAL CRISES

A suicidal crisis is very difficult to deal with. It is usually unanticipated and requires the helper to mobilise a variety of skills and resources. Firstly, call the Rhodes University Psychological Emergency Number at 010 205 3068. If the person forbids you to call, is angry about it or upset, you must call anyway.

If the person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or if an attempt is imminent, call an ambulance -10177 - because the person requires medical and psychological intervention as soon as possible. If the student is behaving in a manner that is difficult to control or might place his or her life or your life in danger, call the police - 10111.

If the person has indicated that they are feeling hopeless or are thinking about suicide or “ending it all”, take the person seriously. Many people have taken their lives when people thought their statements about suicide were “manipulative” or the person was being “melodramatic” or it was just “a cry for help”. At the same time, it may be true to say a person is being manipulative, it is best to err on the side of caution. Do not panic. Keep your voice calm and matter-of-fact.

Encourage the person to discuss what prompted “death” thoughts. The more the person can talk about the specific details of the experience, the better he or she can understand the source of the crisis.

Elicit the person’s feelings. Expressing emotions is a way for the person to vent frustrations while securing validation and support. Standard probes and statements include “how did you feel when that happened” or “I would have felt hurt if that happened to me”.

Assist the person in defining alternatives and options. Those who are contemplating death do not see life as having positive alternative solutions. Alternative solutions are available. With assistance, the person in crisis can choose the best solution for the situation.

Involve professionals who can assist the person in crisis in dealing more effectively with the problem and in instilling hope again. The challenge may be cultivating a sense of trust to include an outside person. In many cases, the suicidal person wants the helper to maintain confidentiality. It is important to emphasise that he or she came to you because of trust and confidence that you care to do the right thing. Encourage the person in crisis to value your decision to involve a professional counsellor if needed.

Talking with someone after the crisis is taking the time to share what it was like to be in a stressful situation. Venting your feelings and decision processes is crucial to re-stabilising after your adrenaline surge. In addition, you may feel guilty or inadequate for seeking outside help. Remember that by bringing other helpers into the situation, your intention was not to betray a confidence, but to save a life.

Realise the limits of your responsibility. There are a few ways to help in a crisis. Some include connecting the suicidal person with a counsellor, accompanying the person to a counselling centre, making an appointment with a psychologist, notifying his or her parents or calling the police. If you have taken substantial measures to prevent someone from committing suicide and the suicidal person refuses, there may be nothing more that can be done. Anyone who is determined to end his or her life will find a way to do so. Your responsibility as a friend or associate is to assist, support, and, if necessary, refer. Once you have incorporated all these aspects, your responsibility as a fellow human being ends.



Inform the Division of Student Services and Development of the crisis as soon as you have dealt with immediate concerns. While confidentiality will be maintained, it is obviously essential that senior management is kept aware of such extremely serious incidents.

Toolkits

At registration, you will be given a copy of the Learning at University Toolkit. This is a practical guide to help you navigate 'how to be a university student', providing information, resources, and tasks/activities to help you learn to be independent and successful in your studies. This toolkit covers topics such as being independent in your studies, Time management, communicating at university, Note-taking, preparing for tutorials and practicals, etc. We encourage you to engage with ALL the resources in the toolkit.

Disciplinary toolkits

Additionally, Faculty-specific toolkits are available online for students in the Sciences, Humanities and Education faculties. These toolkits help you to learn what it means to be successful in your specific discipline and guide you in learning the fundamental 'building blocks' of your discipline. Please consult these regularly and engage with the activities in them - they are designed to support your learning





MEDICAL SERVICES

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Rhodes University Health Care Centre, Rhodes Avenue | 046 603 8523 |
| RU ER24 number (from 16h30 until 08h00) | 010 205 3068 |
| Settlers Hospital, Milner Street | 046 602 5000 |
| Fort England Hospital, York Street | 046 602 2300 |
| Settlers Day Hospital, Cobden Street | 046 622 3033 |

AMBULANCE SERVICES

| | |
|---|---|
| Gardmed | 082 911 |
| St John's Ambulance | 24 Hill Street 046 636 1650 |
| Grahamstown Ambulance/ Provincial Service | Temlett Street 046 622 9102 or 10177 |

Acupuncturist

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Dr Stuart Dwyer | 18 Henry Street 046 622 4846 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|

Biokineticist

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Hannah Knott-Craig | 083 737 1962 |
|--------------------|--------------|

Chiropractor

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dr Terri Blake | 41 African Street 083 276 1362 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|

Dentists

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Dr Du Toit | 15 Milner Street 046 622 4258 |
| Dr Herring | The Colcade, 41 Hill Street 046 622 8503 |
| Dr Eichhof | 6 Allen St 046 622 3789 |
| Dr Luke Moller | 7 Queen Street 069 812 6224 |

General Practitioners

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| High Street Medical Practice: Drs Gainsford, Baart, Meihuizen, Zietsman & Slyper | 120 High Street 046 636 2063 |
|---|---------------------------------|

This practice DOES NOT accept the following medical aids: Boncap, Primecure & Beryl, Ruby, Sapphire, Care Cross, Renaissance, Africa, Managed Care, Network GP, Network X, Foundation, and Nessess.

Drs Godlonton, Lloyd & Mutesasira

This practice DOES NOT ACCEPT the following medical aids: Discovery & Key Care

The Colcade, 41 Hill Street

046 636 1732

082 554 7800 after hours

Dr Santhia

This practice DOES NOT ACCEPT the following medical aids: Ingwe & Care Cross

10 High Street

046 622 6648

082 555 0799 after hours

Meta-Clinic Grahamstown

Shop 49, Peppergrove Mall

046 622 6362

Optometrists

Dr Davies & Associates

18 Bathurst Street

046 622 6205

Jenny Gopal

4b Allen Street

046 622 4310

EyeStore

8 Allen Street

046 622 2828

Specsavers

Shop 50, Pepper Grove Mall

046 622 2295

Orthodontist

Dr K Johannes

1 Oatlands Road

046 622 2251

Pharmacies

Alpha Pharm Grahamstown Pharmacy

117 High Street

046 622 7116

Frontier Pharmacy

Shop 5, 63 New Street

046 004 0032

Clicks Pharmacy

Peppergrove Mall

021 488 8170

Clicks Pharmacy

High Street

046 636 1268

Cross Care Makhandia

Shop A7A, Market Square Mall

Beaufort Street

046 150 0048/ 071 542 7902

WhatsApp 060 160 8113

Physiotherapists

Jane Holderness

084 800 1577

Daleen Ferreira

074 155 9265

Nicola Brown

072 180 1594

Radiologists

Drs Visser and Partners

15 Milner Street
046 622 6464

Clinical Psychologists

Adult & adolescent psychotherapy, psychological assessment

Ms Karen Andrews

13 George Street
079 880 0832
karen@clinpsych.co.za

Adult & adolescent psychotherapy, couples & family therapy, parent-infant psychotherapy, mindfulness-based stress reduction

Ms Ann Ashburne

Colcade Centre, 41 Hill Street
046 622 4386
083 632 6350
ann@imagnet.co.za

English and Afrikaans, adults and adolescents (individuals), cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), anxiety disorders; major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, supportive work for severe mental health related disorders, neuropsychological assessments

Mr Duane Booysen

Rhodes University Psychology Clinic
Rhodes Avenue
046 603 8507
078 167 6607
duaneb85@gmail.com

Child, adolescent and adult psychotherapy, attachment related difficulties; bereavement; resilience & adjustment; personal growth

Dr Lisa Brown

3 Parry Street
046 636 1035
073 230 6331
lisajoy@imagnet.co.za

English and Afrikaans, adult and adolescent psychotherapy, couples therapy

Special interests: depression and anxiety, trauma, CBT and person-centered therapy

Ms Verna Connan

Psychological Care Centre
5 Donkin Street
046 622 8197
084 512 8826
verna@psychcarecentre.co.za
www.psychcarecentre.co.za

Adult and young adult psychodynamic psychotherapy including verbal therapy, dream analysis, art and Jungian sand play therapy (international teaching member of ISST)

Mrs Gwenda Euvrard

8 St Aidens Avenue
046 622 8023
082 773 3985
gwendaevrard@gmail.com

English and Afrikaans, adult, young adult and older adolescent psychotherapy (depth psychotherapy - incorporating psychoanalytic and analytical psychology orientations), marital/couples' therapy, Expressive arts therapy

Mr Conrad Rocher

29 Somerset Street
046 636 1583
conradrocher@gmail.com



Adult and adolescent psychotherapy, medico-legal assessment, marital/couples therapy

Ms Pumza Sakasa

084 882 6608

Adolescent and adult psychotherapy, neuropsychological assessment, medico-legal assessment, scholastic assessment

Mr Thulani Vazi

076 377 8449

thulanivazi@gmail.com

Counselling Psychologists

Adult and Adolescent Psychotherapy and Counselling, Psychological Assessments

Ms Nicola Graham

11 Worcester Street

076 259 2303

nicolagraham@telkomsa.net

English and Afrikaans, therapy for children, adolescents and adults couples and family therapy, group therapy, career counselling, psychological assessment, career assessment

Dr Christine Lewis

1st Floor, Steve Biko Building, Prince Alfred Street

083 969 2129

christine.lewis@ru.ac.za

English and Afrikaans, psychotherapy, psychological assessment, career assessment, child and adolescent therapy, relationship therapy

Ms Chantel Minnie

Psychological Care Centre,

5 Donkin Street

064 853 6446

chantel@psychcarecentre.co.za

Child, adolescent and adult psychotherapy, psychological assessment

Ms Lumka S Qangule

Soyisa Consultancy, 72 High Street

046 622 7899

082 969 0176

lumka.qangule@soyisa.co.za

www.soyisa.co.za

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), adolescent and adult psychotherapy, couples and relationship counselling, psychological assessment (child and adult): learning difficulties/ scholastic assessment & neuropsychological assessment

Ms Adele van der Merwe

22 Somerset Street

072 279 7952

psychologist avdm@gmail.com

Grahamstown: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Port Elizabeth, 26 Aragon Road: Thursday, Friday English and Afrikaans

Adolescent, young adult and adult psychotherapy, family therapy and couples therapy, sport psychology: motivation/mental skills, high performance/injury rehabilitation, team-based workshops, athlete lifestyle management & wellness

Neuro-feedback therapy, adolescent and adult psychotherapy, hypnotherapy, couples therapy

Mr Greg Wilmot

072 264 1452

greg@wilmotpsychology.co.za

Lifestyle management and wellness

Neuro-feedback therapy, adolescent and adult psychotherapy, hypnotherapy, couples therapy

Elaine Verster

072 768 8889

etr@worldonline.co.za

Educational Psychologist

Family therapy, group psychotherapy with adolescents, educational/scholastic assessment

Mr Jan Knoetze

Rhodes Psychology Department

046 603 8344

081 3676 848

j.knoetze@ru.ac.za

Educational Consultant

Study and life skills for individual learners, study and life skills courses for groups consultations for parents of learners, specialised support for postgraduate writing professional development of teachers

Dr Rose Grant

11 Jacobus Uys Way

079 516 5499

rose.grant@gmail.com

Hospitalisation, adult and adolescent psychotherapy, group therapy, marital/couples' therapy, community work, family therapy, intellectual and personality assessment, counselling occupational therapists

Gwendolyn Johnson

Fort England Hospital, York Street

072 626 9362

gwen@tutorgap.co.za

Medical negligence/Functional capacity assessments (FCE) Insurance claims

Ghida Bernard

Kingswood College

046 602 2300

079 697 9750

bernardghida@gmail.com

Pastoral therapist

Narrative therapy, Individuals, couples/families and groups, workshops and retreats

Ms Kim Barker

41 Oatlands Road

084 400 6145

kimbarker@telkomsa.net

**Adolescent and adult therapy, marital/couples' therapy
Special interests: trauma recovery; bereavement; loss and recovery; spiritual meaning; personal growth and navigating life transitions; addiction to sex, relationships and/or pornography; workshops and retreats**

Mr Vic Graham

076 098 5763

vicgraham9@gmail.com

Psychiatrist

Dr Kiran Sukeri

Thursdays @ Settlers Hospital

046 602 5126

046 602 5000

Rhodes University Counselling Centre

Personal counselling, career counselling, psychotherapy, job search skills HIV counselling, comprehensive career library, crisis intervention academic and study skills

Steve Biko Building, Prince Alfred Street
046 603 7070

Rhodes University Career Centre

Career assessment, career counselling

Steve Biko Building, Prince Alfred Street
046 603 7070

Rhodes University Psychology Clinic

Adult and adolescent psychotherapy, marital and couples' therapy, group therapy, family therapy, intellectual and personality assessment, counselling, diagnostic assessment

Steve Biko Building, Prince Alfred Street
046 603 7070

Social workers

Marital & pre-marital, parenting skills, family therapy, dealing with divorce (impact) relationship problems, trauma debriefing/dealing with loss/death

Ms Matebese & Ms Adam
Ms N Stamper, Private Social Worker

Settlers Hospital
046 602 5000 (ext 1158)

7 Cyrus Street
071 351 5905
nomondestamper@gmail.com

Speech and language therapists

Ms Valerie Olivier

084 200 0821
val.anneolivier@gmail.com

Lara Day

18 African Street
082 669 4497



USEFUL ADVICE

- Participate in clubs or societies; apply for part-time work, internships, job shadowing, and volunteering. This will help you develop self-awareness and build valuable skills and experience for the world of work.
- Celebrate diversity and learn more about others who are different from you. This will enrich you and help you become a global professional.
- Establish a balance between meeting academic demands, your personal/social life, and recreational activities.
- All activities, both on and off campus, will help you learn and develop. Maintaining a balance is essential and includes the following:
 - **Self-management:** the ability to plan, organise and work responsibly while managing stress levels.
 - **Time management:** the ability to meet deadlines and pace yourself so that you do not have periods of inactivity and periods of chaos. Explore what Rhodes University has to offer academically and study what you are most passionate about.
- Do not give up on your goals. Instead, modify them to meet your current situation.
- Ask for help when needed.
- Be yourself
- Reflect on the values that will guide and enable you to live a harmonious life.
- Pave your own individual path and work towards a career that is just right for you.





TAKE THE TEST

| No. | Task | Yes/Done |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Have you completed administrative registration? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Have you obtained your student identity card? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Have you read this booklet from cover to cover? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Have you attended a library tour and a library workshop? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Have you attended workshops on aspects of university life? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Have you ensured that the University has your medical aid details? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | Have you registered with a medical doctor in town? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | Have you completed your vehicle registration form (where applicable)? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | Have you ensured your immigration documents are in order and you have copies? Passport, Visa and Medical aid (international students only)? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Have you had your curriculum formally approved? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | Have you ascertained when and where your first lectures are to commence? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | Have you had fun? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

In that case, well done!

We hope you have a successful and enjoyable time at Rhodes University in 2026.

[illegible]

[illegible]

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