

# RHODES UNIVERSITY STUDENT ADMISSIONS' POLICY

<b>Policy Volume</b>	Registrar's Division Policies
<b>Policy Chapter</b>	Admissions
<b>Responsible Committee/Unit/Division/Faculty</b>	Senate Teaching and Learning Committee
<b>Responsible Chairperson/Director/Manager</b>	DVC Academic and Student Affairs
<b>Dates of First and Subsequent Council Approvals</b>	10 June 2010
<b>Policy Approval Pathways (e.g. committee, Senex, Senate, Council)</b>	Teaching & Learning Committee → Faculty Boards → Senate → Council
<b>Revision History: Approved Reviews</b>	July 2019
<b>Review Cycle (e.g. every 2/5/7 years etc)</b>	Every three years
<b>Next Review Date</b>	July 2022

## POLICY PARTICULARS

<b>1.1. Policy Title</b>	<b><u>STUDENT ADMISSIONS POLICY</u></b>
<b>1.2. Policy Statement</b>	<p>In accordance with the requirements of the Higher Education Act, the purpose of the Student Admissions' Policy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set out Rhodes University's principles, and approach relating to the admission of students;</li> <li>▪ Provide information and guidance to prospective applicants, parents, university staff and others, on the University's requirements for admission;</li> <li>▪ Support and advance the University's strategic objectives as articulated in the University's Mission and Vision statement, and in relation to its Institutional Development Plan and Transformation Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>1.3. Reason for Policy</b>	<p>This policy applies to all applications for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at Rhodes University. It does not apply to re-admission requirements, appeals against admission, admission by transfer, and registration rules as these are regulated by other relevant and specific policies of the University.</p>
<b>1.4. Policy Objective/s</b>	<p>The overarching objective of the Admissions' policy is to enable academic access, and success based on social equity. Firstly, it seeks to achieve social equity with respect to the composition of the student body. Secondly, it seeks to address the broader issue of social equity in our community, in South Africa, and globally, by identifying strategies and mechanisms which will facilitate the admission of students who have the potential and promise of becoming leaders in the realization of a just, and equitable social order.</p> <p>'Social equity' in the context of this Policy functions as a means of diversifying our student body. It recognizes that because of injustices, which have occurred against members of various groups (based on race, colour, religion, creed, gender, disability, etc.) academic accomplishment, cannot serve as the sole criterion for admission to the institution. It is essential that every applicant demonstrates sufficient academic accomplishment to succeed at Rhodes University, but additional criteria will be used to determine which applicants merit admission to the University. These criteria will include, but are not be limited to, the school attended, geographic origin, race, gender, family income level, home language, civic involvement, special talents and abilities, nationality, hardships overcome (e.g. emotional, psychological, familial or material).</p>
<b>1.5. People affected by this Policy</b>	Faculties and academic departments at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.
<b>1.6 Who should read this Policy</b>	All University staff and prospective students.
<b>1.7 Implementers of this Policy</b>	Registrar's Division and Deans
<b>1.8 Website address/link for this Policy</b>	TBC

## 2. RELATED DOCUMENTS FORMS AND TOOLS

(University policies, protocols and documents (such as rules/policies/protocols/guidelines related to this policy))

<b>Relevant Legislation</b> (Legislation/Regulatory requirements/Organisational Reports – name these)
Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) Higher Education Act 1997 (Act No 101 of 1997) Programme for the Transformation of Higher Education: White Paper 3 (1997) National Qualifications Framework (2008) Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (2013) Revised Policy on National Senior Certificate Minimum Admission Requirements (No. 751, 11 May 2008) Policy on Credit Accumulation and Transfer
<b>Related Policies</b>
Language Policy Equity Policy Policy on the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy on Teaching and Learning Student Disability Policy Institutional Development Plan 2018 – 2022 Internationalisation Policy
<b>Related Protocols</b>
Enrolment Plan as within the Institutional Development Plan Institutional Transformation Plan
<b>Forms and Tools</b> (documents to be completed in support of this policy implementation)
None

## 3. POLICY DEFINITIONS

(Technical or Conceptual terms used in the policy)

No.	TERM	DEFINITION
3.1	Admission	The formal acceptance and registration by the University of an applicant into a programme.
3.2	International Student	Anyone who is enrolled in a programme of study at the University who is not a citizen, refugee or permanent resident of South Africa.
3.3	Programme	A purposeful and structured set of learning experiences that upon achievement leads to a qualification.
3.4	Qualification	A registered national qualification as defined in the National Qualifications Framework Act 67 of 2008.
3.5	Recognition of Prior Learning	The practice of awarding credit or granting educational access to students on the basis of prior learning acquired through a variety of formal, non-formal and informal means, including life and work experience.
3.6	Registration	The administrative process which culminates in applicants becoming students of the University.
3.7	Student	A person registered for a qualification offered by the University.

## 4. PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THIS POLICY

OVERVIEW	
Rhodes University strives to carry out the following, as far as is reasonably practicable:	
4.1	Is committed to equitable, fair, transparent, and consistent admission procedures and processes.
4.2.	Is committed to recruiting students of high quality and potential who can benefit from its academic offerings regardless of class, race, gender, sex, marital status, ethnic origin, disability status (subject to the provisions of the university's student disability policy), sexual orientation, age, political or religious beliefs, culture, language, social or economic background.
4.3.	Acknowledges the need to redress the inequities and imbalances of the past, and for its student body to reflect progressively the demographics and diversity of the South African society.
4.4.	Is committed to advancing the objectives of equity of access, opportunity, and success.
4.5.	Is committed to ensuring equity of opportunity and success in the different fields and levels of study through outstanding teaching, appropriate facilities and effective academic and other support that the University can reasonably provide.
4.6.	Recognizes that access to higher education entails more than just physical access, but also epistemological access or substantive access to the construction of knowledge.
4.7	Recognizes that its location in the town of Makhanda in the Eastern Cape Province places on it a special responsibility to provide educational opportunities for students from the town, and province.
4.8	Values the participation and contribution of international students in providing a rich and diverse intellectual, educational and social environment at Rhodes University.

## 5. DIRECTIVES FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS POLICY

(Actions and processes by which the objectives of the policy will be achieved.)

<b>Minimum admission requirements</b>	
Minimum admission requirements are the lowest qualifications needed to gain entrance into a specific academic programme.	
Faculties and Academic Departments may, in addition to the minimum admission requirements, set faculty-specific or department-specific criteria and require specific levels of achievement.	
Entry requirements, which may change from time to time, are published annually in the <i>Why Choose Rhodes Handbook</i> , and on the University website.	
5.1	<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>
5.1.1	To be considered for admission to Rhodes University for an undergraduate course leading to a degree, an applicant must be in possession of a <i>National Senior Certificate</i> (NSC) with a Bachelor's Pass and a minimum achievement rating of 4 (50%) in English as Home Language or First Additional Language (English is the Language of Teaching and Learning at Rhodes University).
Admission into a degree programme is based on the applicant's Admission Points Score (APS) and the combination of subjects taken for the NSC. The table below indicates the minimum admissions' requirements for the various degree programmes offered at Rhodes University.	

- 5.1.2 The APS is calculated by using the percentage obtained for the six best subjects at NSC level (as shown in the example below). Life Orientation is not included in this calculation; however a minimum achievement rating of 4 is required for Life Orientation.

#### EXAMPLE OF APS CALCULATION

SUBJECT	PERCENTAGE ACHIEVED	APS
English Home Language	78%	7.8 points
IsiXhosa or Afrikaans Additional language	73%	7.3 points
Mathematics	69%	6.9 points
Life Science	70%	7.0 points
Dramatic Arts	89%	8.9 points
Accounting	73%	7.3 points
Life Orientation	90%	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		<b>45.2 POINTS</b>

45 points, with degree relevant subjects, is required for automatic acceptance. A minimum of 35 points is normally required for admission to Rhodes University. Applicants whose admission points fall in the range of 30 – 34 are encouraged to apply for admission provided they are able to support their case on the strength of hardships (e.g. emotional, psychological, familial or material) that they have overcome.

Where an applicant's APS falls below the minimum specified for automatic acceptance, performance on the National Benchmark Tests will be considered, along with other indicators, to inform decisions at the Dean's discretion.

#### 5.1.3 International Students

To be considered for admission to Rhodes University for an undergraduate course leading to a degree, an international student should have an appropriate educational qualification deemed by Rhodes University to be equivalent to the National Senior Certificate with foreign conditional exemption with the minimum performance requirements as set out in 5.1.1 above.

### 5.2 Postgraduate Studies

- 5.2.1 The minimum requirement for admission into an Honours' degree is normally an undergraduate degree in an appropriate field of study or its equivalent (NQF level 7 qualification) as approved by Senate.
- 5.2.2 The minimum requirement for admission into a Master's degree is normally an Honours' degree in an appropriate field of study or its equivalent (NQF level 8 qualification) as approved by Senate.
- 5.2.3 The minimum admission requirement into a doctoral study programme is normally a Master's degree in an appropriate field of study or its equivalent (NQF level 9 qualification) as approved by Senate.
- 5.2.4 The minimum admission requirements as set out in 5.2.1, 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 above notwithstanding, Senate has the discretion to admit into Honours, Masters and doctoral studies any candidate who, in its opinion has attained an appropriate level of competency, regardless of formal qualifications achieved by the applicant, in line with Rule 49 as appears in the academic calendar.

### 5.3 Extended Studies Programme

Extended Studies' Programmes, in which a degree is completed over four rather than the regular three years, are currently offered to students in the Science, Humanities and Commerce Faculties. This formal, carefully designed curricula, comprising a blend of extended, augmented and developmental courses, are presented in a supportive learning environment. Entry into these programmes is based on the following:

- Students meeting APS score requirements of the faculty but, based on a range of other criteria (including but not limited to school attended, socio-economic circumstances, qualification level of guardians, home language, poor APS score in specific subjects), are assessed as requiring additional support in order to succeed, or
- Students not quite meeting APS score requirements, but based on other criteria (including but not limited to civic involvement and/or leadership, special talents and abilities appropriate to the academic context, hardships overcome (e.g. emotional, psychological, familial or material), appropriate subject and mark profiles for the faculty) are deemed to have the potential to succeed if provided with substantial academic support.

\* The University may ask for additional supporting documentation as and where deemed necessary.

### 5.4. Financial Aid

The University recognizes that there are students with academic merit who are unable to pursue university studies because of a lack of financial means. The University will work closely with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and other funding agencies to secure funding for academically talented students who lack financial resources to study at the University.

### 5.5. Recognition of prior learning

- 5.5.1 Applicants who do not meet the minimum admission requirements as set out in 5.1 and 5.2 above may nevertheless be eligible for admission to the University on the basis of life or work experience in accordance with the University's policy on Recognition of Prior Learning, and a submission of a satisfactory portfolio of evidence. Academic experts with appropriate assessment experience to determine the competence levels in their intended area of study will assess applicants who wish to gain admission to Rhodes University based on prior learning.
- 5.5.2 Applications to the second or subsequent year of undergraduate study are welcome. Applicants in this category should provide evidence that they have completed an appropriate number of Higher Education credits to qualify to enter at the level at which they are applying.

## 6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(Roles and responsibilities of Key Personnel/Divisions/Faculties/Departments)

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY
<b>ROLE 1</b> e.g. Line Managers	<b>1. Implementation, Monitoring and Review of Policy</b>  1.1 The Teaching and Learning Committee of Senate is responsible for monitoring recruitment and admissions policies and practices. 1.2 The Registrar's Division and Academic Deans are responsible for the implementation of the University's Admissions' Policy.

## 7. CONTACTS

Area of Concern	Division/Faculty/Department	Telephone	Email
Implementation of Policy	Registrar's Division	0466038276	registrar@ru.ac.za

## 8. POLICY REVIEW PROCEDURE

(Actions and processes by which the policy will be reviewed)

Teaching & Learning Committee → Faculty Boards → Senate → Council
<b>Communication of the review process:</b> Teaching & Learning Committee → Faculty Boards → Senate → Council

## 9. POLICY CONTEXT: RELEVANT DOCUMENTS CITED/CONSULTED/ADOPTED

1	Durban University of Technology Admissions' Policy (2011)
2	University of Witswatersrand (2017)
3	University of Cape Town (2012)