

RHODES UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ADMISSIONS POLICY

Policy Volume	Registrar's Division Policies
Policy Chapter	Admissions
Responsible Committee/Unit/Division/Faculty	Senate – Teaching and Learning
Responsible Chairperson/Director/Manager	DVC Academic and Student Affairs
Dates of First and Subsequent Council Approvals	2010, 2019, 2024
Policy Approval Pathways (e.g. committee, Senex, Senate, Council)	Teaching and Learning Committee – Faculty Boards – Senate – Council
Revision History: Approved Reviews	July 2010, July 2019, July 2024
Review Cycle (e.g. every 2/5/7 years etc)	5 years
Next Review Date	July 2029

1. POLICY PARTICULARS

1.1. Policy Title	STUDENT ADMISSIONS POLICY
1.2. People affected by this Policy. (e.g. All units of the University)	Applicants and parents of prospective students
1.3. Implementers of this Policy (Who will manage the implementation of this policy)	Registrar's Division and Academic Deans of Faculties
1.4. Policy Objective/s (What are the measurable objectives of this policy)	Support and advance the University's strategic objectives as articulated in the University's Mission and Vision Statement, and in relation to the Institutional Development Plan and Transformation Plan.
1.5. Policy Statement (State in a single paragraph the policy mandate and how this relates to the University Mission and Vision)	In accordance with the requirements of the Higher Education Act, the purpose of the Student Admissions Policy is to: ○ Set out Rhodes University principles and approach relating to the admission of students. ○ Provide information and guidance to prospective applicants, parents, university staff and others, on the University's requirements for admission.
1.6. Reason for Policy (What this policy aims to achieve)	This policy applies to all applicants for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at Rhodes University. It does not apply to re-admission requirements, admission appeals, admission by transfer, admission to short courses and registration rules as these are regulated by other relevant and specific policies of the University. Enrolment at Rhodes University is governed by the University enrolment plan as approved by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). It takes into consideration the resources available to provide excellence in teaching and learning in respect of a particular programme. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee a space within any programme.
1.7. Website address/link for this Policy	TBA
1.8. Who should read this Policy (People who need to heed this policy to fulfil their duties)	Faculties and academic departments at both undergraduate and postgraduate level

2. RELATED DOCUMENTS FORMS AND TOOLS

Relevant Legislation
Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) Higher Education Act 1997 (Act 101 of 1997) Programme for the Transformation of Higher Education: White Paper 3 (1997) National Qualifications Framework (2008) Revised Policy on National Senior Certificate Minimum Admission Requirements (No. 751, 11 May 2008)

Related Policies
Language Policy Equity Policy Policy on Recognition of Prior Learning Policy on Teaching and Learning Student Disability Policy Institutional Development plan 2023 – 2028 Internationalisation Policy
Related Protocols
Enrolment plan as within the Institutional Development Plan Institutional Transformation Plan Rhodes University General Rules
Forms and Tools (documents to be completed in support of this policy implementation)
Undergraduate and Postgraduate application for admission forms.

3. POLICY DEFINITIONS

No	TERM	DEFINITION
3.1	Admission Policy	Is a statement of the minimum requirements governing admission to register for a qualification at the University including occasional students in formal programmes, both undergraduate and postgraduate in line with the General rules of the University and the Faculty specific requirements
3.2	Admission	The formal acceptance and registration by the University of an applicant into a programme
3.3	International Students	Anyone who is enrolled in a programme of study at the University who is not a citizen, refugee or permanent resident of South Africa.
3.4	Programme	A programme refers to a purposeful and structured set of learning activities designed to enable a student to meet the outcomes necessary for the award of the qualification
3.5	Qualification	A qualification refers to the formal recognition and certification of learning achievements awarded by a higher education institution and that is registered on the South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF)
3.6	Recognition of Prior Learning	The practice of awarding credit or granting education 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.
3.7	Registration	The administrative process which culminates in the applicant becoming a student of the University.
3.8	SAQA	South African Qualification Authority, a statutory body, regulated in terms of the National Qualifications Framework Act no 67 of 2008. SAQA is responsibility for registering qualifications and part qualifications as recommended by the relevant Quality Council on the National Qualifications Framework. Recognised international and other qualifications are evaluated for

		equivalence to South African qualifications by its Directorate: Foreign Qualifications Evaluation and Advisory Services (DFQEAS). SAQA issues a Certificate of Evaluation upon review of such applications.
3.9	Student	A person registered for a qualification offered by the University.
3.10	USAf	Universities South Africa, formerly known as Higher Education South Africa (HESA).

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 academically qualifying students 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 inequalities of the past, and for its student body to reflect the demographics and diversity of the society within South Africa
4.4.	Values the participation and contribution of international students in providing a rich and diverse intellectual, education, and social environment at Rhodes University.
4.5.	Is committed to advancing the objects of equity of access, opportunity, and success.
4.5.1	The University must be satisfied that the students admitted to the different academic programmes have the potential to complete their studies successfully.
4.5.2	To support the national policy of widening access and promoting equity in higher education, Rhodes University has a flexible curriculum that allows for multiple entry points.
4.6.	Recognises 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 Makhanda in the Eastern Cape Province places on it a special responsibility to provide educational opportunities for students from the city and province.

5. DIRECTIVES FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS POLICY

The Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF) stipulated the minimum requirements for admissions to a higher education institution from 1 January 2010 is the National Senior Certificate or the National Certificate (Vocational) as determined by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation in the Minimum Admission Requirements for Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's Degree Programmes requiring a National Senior Certificate (Government Gazette No. 32131 of May 2008 and the Minimum Admissions requirements for Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's Degree programmes requiring a National Certificate (Vocational) (Government Gazette No. 32743, of November 2009). All applicants must meet these minima to entry level higher education qualifications. Applicants with different qualifications may only be admitted if they are judged equivalent by the designated equivalence-setting bodies. 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 RU Ready Booklet, and on the University website.	
5.1	Undergraduate Studies – Bachelors' degree
5.1.1	Applicants are conditionally admitted based on their final Grade 11 or equivalent results subject to meeting all the statutory minimum requirements, with their final Grade 12 or matric exemption results and

the specific admissions requirements.

5.1.2 South African qualifications

South African qualifications will be considered for admission to Rhodes University for an undergraduate course leading to a degree, provided that an applicant must be in possession of a *National Senior Certificate* (NSC) with a Bachelor's pass or matric exemption, as well as meet the relevant faculty academic requirements.

5.1.3 International qualifications

An appropriate international educational qualification deemed by Rhodes University to be equivalent to the National Senior Certificate with foreign conditional exemption with the minimum requirements, will also be considered.

5.1.3.1 Before being admitted an international applicant must provide a USAf Certificate of Exemption, or application for it, if available.

5.1.4 Admission Point Score (APS)

Admission into a degree programme is based on the applicant's Admission Point Score (APS) and the combination of subjects taken for the NSC, as per the faculty requirements (refer to RU ready booklet).

5.1.5 National Benchmark Tests

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

5.1.6 Dean's Discretion

Students who do not meet minimum admission requirements may be considered at the Dean's discretion for alternative study programmes.

5.1.7 Senate Discretionary Admissions

Senate Discretionary Admissions include the following:

5.1.7.1 Admission to an undergraduate degree programme may be granted to prospective students who have reached the age of 23 years and hold a senior certificate without matriculation exemption in accordance with the rules prescribed by USAf.

5.1.7.2 Prospective students who have reached the age of 45 years qualify for open admission or mature age exemption without any schooling qualification. The student must however still obtain Certificate of Conditional Exemption as prescribed by USAf.

5.1.7.3 All Senate Discretionary rules as approved by USAf.

5.1.7.4 All other rules, relevant to admission to university studies will apply.

5.1.8 Transfer students

5.1.8.1 Persons who are currently excluded or suspended from another higher education institution on the grounds of poor academic performance will not be admitted to the same qualification.

5.1.8.2 A student from another higher education institution who applied to register at Rhodes University may be admitted as a student upon submitting a certificate of satisfactory conduct from that other institution.

5.1.8.3 The applicant must submit an official academic transcript.

5.1.8.4 Applicants 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 from a recognised accredited institution which is registered with DHET and Council on Higher Education (CHE).

5.2 Postgraduate Studies

5.2.1 Honours degrees

	The minimum requirement for admission into an Honours' degree, post-graduate certificate and/or diploma is normally an undergraduate degree in an appropriate field of study or its equivalent (NQF level 7 qualification) as approved by Senate. Faculty and Department specific conditions may also apply.
5.2.2	Masters degrees The minimum requirement for admission into a Master's degree is normally an Honour's degree in an appropriate field of study or its equivalent (NQF level 8 qualification) as approved by Senate. Faculty and Department specific conditions may also apply.
5.2.3	Doctoral degrees The minimum requirement into a doctoral study programme is normally a Master's degree in an appropriate field of student or its equivalent (NQF 9 qualification) as approved by the Senate.
5.2.4	Senate discretion 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 related rules and policies.
5.2.5	International qualifications An appropriate international education qualification deemed by the South African Qualifications Authority to be equivalent to the required entry level for the postgraduate degree, may be considered for admission to a postgraduate degree.
5.3	Extended Studies Programme 5.3.1 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 curriculum comprising a blend of extended, augmented and developmental courses, are presented in a supportive learning environment. 5.3.2 Admission to these programmes are based on a final Academic P Score (APS) not less than 34 points, and is at the discretion of the Dean, considering performance in the relevant subjects.
5.4	Concurrent admission and dual enrolment 5.4.1 Rhodes University will not admit a student to a formal qualification if they are registered for any formal qualification at another higher education institution, except that such students may register at Rhodes University for non-degree purposes, provided that the other University grants permission for such concurrent registration. 5.4.2 A student may not be admitted simultaneously to more than one formal qualification, unless one of the qualifications is registered for non-degree purposes and then only with the express approval of the affected Faculties.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY
ROLE 1 e.g. Line Managers	Monitoring and Review of the Policy The Teaching and Learning Committee of Senate is responsible for monitoring recruitment and admissions policies and practices
ROLE 2	Implementation of the Policy The Registrar's Division and Deans are responsible for the implementation of the University's Admission Policy.

ROLE 3	
ROLE 4	
ROLE 5	

7. CONTACTS

Area of Concern	Division/Faculty/Department	Telephone	Email
Implementation of Policy	Registrar's Division	046 6038276	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
Communication of the review process

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

1	Durban University of Technology Admissions Policy (2011)
2	University of Witwatersrand (2017)
3	University of Cape Town (2012)
4	University of Johannesburg (UJ) Policy on Admissions and Selections (2022)
5	University of the Free State (UFS) Admissions Policy (2021)
6	DHET Policy for Extended Studies

LIST OF APPENDICES