

Dear Staff and Students of Rhodes University

It is hard to believe that the 2021 academic year has come to an end. To our academic staff, this is one of the busiest times when you consolidate all the work done throughout the year. Thank you for the work and commitment to ensuring that our students have a successful year.

To our students, by now you have either completed examinations or are in the last few days of completion. You may also be in the process of submitting your thesis for examination. We hope that you performed well and look forward to your return in 2022, if you are a returning student. To those of you who will be graduating, we say well done!

There are a few things that you should all be mindful of as we prepare for a safe full return to campus in 2022. You are aware that Rhodes University has a vaccination mandate rule towards a full return for staff and students to campus in 2022. This is one of the many ways in which the University is preparing itself for the new academic year. This does not mean that we will fully revert to the normal ways of teaching and learning as in the pre-COVID context, but that a hybrid approach will be followed for many of our academic activities. In addition to this communicate, there is also a hassle-free guide (<https://www.ru.ac.za/registrationsgateway/returningstudentsall/guidetohasslefreeregistration/>) in order for returning students to prepare for the 2022 return to campus. Please also note that non-pharmaceutical measures will still be observed.

What should you be aware of for 2022?

ONLINE ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTRATION – Open from Monday 17 January 2022

Administrative registration will continue online and students are urged to ensure that they are familiar with the changes and various deadlines to ensure smooth re-registration. Administrative registration will open on ROSS from the 17th of January 2022. Once your Initial fee and other requirements such as residence allocation and, where relevant, visa requirements are complete, you will be able to complete a full administrative registration from the 17th of January 2022.

CURRICULUM APPROVAL

Curriculum Approval will be done in two phases:

Phase 1: A limited period of online Curriculum Approval will be available for the following students:

Faculty of Commerce:	all students
Faculty of Humanities:	all students
Faculty of Law:	all students
Faculty of Pharmacy:	all students
Faculty of Science:	all students except first year students

Note: Online Curriculum Approval will not be available for the Faculty of Education students.

Students will login and select subjects online. If the subject choices are declined, the student will be provided with feedback and allowed to make further choices. If the subject choices are all in order, the curriculum will be approved.

Phase 2: A period of face-to-face Curriculum Approval will be available for **all students of all Faculties** who did not participate in Phase 1 Curriculum Approval or who did not receive approval for their curriculum during Phase 1.

Curriculum approval will close on 4 March 2022 (two weeks after the start of term).

VACCINATION MANDATE RULE- PROCESSES AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

The hassle-free guide will provide more information on the processes. Please familiarise yourself with the processes and documents that will be required.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

At the recent Vice-Chancellor's Forum held on Wednesday, 17 November 2021, several components of the Rhodes University Plan for 2022 were discussed with the University community. Among these, was our plan for teaching and learning, which is grounded on the lessons learnt in 2020 and this year, the uncertain trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the aspired future, which will largely leverage on digital transformation and technology.

Although a hybrid approach, including face-to-face, online and blended approaches will be adopted for teaching and learning, all students are expected to be on campus and data will no longer be provided. This is unsustainable. Lecturers will also not cater for those students who will not be on campus. Faculties and Departments will communicate the details about the mode (s) to be followed within individual Departments. Please consult your Dean of Faculty at one of the following should you have any queries regarding teaching and learning:

Faculty of Commerce: dean.commerce@ru.ac.za

Faculty of Science: dean.science@ru.ac.za

Faculty of Humanities: dean.humanities@ru.ac.za

Faculty of Education: dean.education@ru.ac.za

Faculty of Law: dean.law@ru.ac.za

Faculty of Pharmacy: dean.pharmacy@ru.ac.za

INITIAL FEE PAYMENT 2022

The University is in the process to switch over from Protea to the new Oracle Finance system (FinCore). The January 2022 Bank Statements for the 1st to 12th will only be captured after the system goes live on the 12th January 2022.

- Undergraduates will only receive Initial Fee Clearance after this date;
- Postgraduate students can request manual clearance, supported by their proof of payment, should they wish to register before the 12th January 2022.

Please contact Student Fees on the following with any queries relating to Initial Fee payments:

- Email: studentfees@ru.ac.za;
- Telephone: 046 603 8253

For all other matters concerning Initial Fee Clearance, registration and residence allocation, etcetera, students are urged to consult the hassle-free guide. The 2022 Fees booklet will be published on the University website early in December 2021. Please ensure that this information is forwarded to the person responsible for your fees and that they are made aware of the deadline.

We wish you a well-deserved rest. Stay safe during this festive season and take heed of the early warnings that a fourth wave is on the way.

‘Mabokang Monnapula-Mapesela

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Student Affairs

01 December 2021