



INTERNATIONALISATION POLICY

1. POLICY PARTICULARS

DATE OF APPROVAL BY RELEVANT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE:
Internationalisation Committee 18 February 2005

DATE OF APPROVAL BY SENATE: xx xx xxxx

DATE OF APPROVAL BY COUNCIL: xx xx xxxx

COMMENCEMENT
DATE: 1 July 2005

REVISION HISTORY: Version 1

REVIEW DATE: Every 5 years

POLICY LEVEL: All international staff and students

RESPONSIBILITY [Person/Division/Committee accountable for]:

- IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING: International Office
- REVIEW AND REVISION: Internationalisation Committee

REPORTING STRUCTURE: Dean: International Office → Vice-Chancellor/
Internationalisation Committee → Senate → Council

2. POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 POLICY DECLARATION:

Rhodes University, in its Mission and Vision Statement, commits itself to internationalisation as a key element of quality in university teaching and research.

The University believes that it has much in common with good institutions internationally and that the maintenance of international contacts ensures that the University remains abreast of internationally accepted good practice. The University has always viewed international students and staff and international connectivity in terms of its teaching and research as enriching the institution, the department and the individual and therefore to be encouraged.

2.2 POLICY OBJECTIVES:

Rhodes University recognizes that a commitment to internationalisation has implications for curricula, teaching, research, administration, selection and promotion of staff, student recruitment, fund-raising, marketing, experiential learning through student and staff mobility, quality review, the university budget and communication. This policy therefore aims to ensure that:

1. All decisions regarding the curriculum, cooperative teaching and research agreements, staff and student mobility, and international projects are guided in the first instance by considerations of *academic excellence*.
2. Internationalisation at Rhodes University, at the institutional level, develops within the *framework* provided by policies, strategies and laws at the national system and sector level. Important documents include: The SADC Protocol on Education and Training, especially Articles 7 and 8; and the Code of Ethical Practice in the Provision of Education to International Students by South African Higher Education Institutions, International Education Association of South Africa. Internationalisation will also be aligned with relevant University policies such as those on language, assessment of student learning, curriculum development, quality assurance, recruitment and selection of staff, and staff development.
3. Special attention is paid to developing relations with institutions in *Africa* and to continue to provide quality and affordable tertiary education to African students, especially to those from the SADC region.
4. International staff and students are *integrated* as far as possible into the daily life of the University and have available to them the range of excellent services available to all South African staff and students.
5. In the development of its *academic programmes*, in the review of curricula and in the assessment of courses offered, Rhodes will endeavour to follow international best practice while at the same time ensuring that teaching methods and courses are relevant to the African context.

6. With respect to *research* programmes, every effort will be made to facilitate international links and to provide staff with the opportunity to visit foreign countries and work with international colleagues.
7. Rhodes University encourages bilateral or multilateral agreements with institutions outside South Africa when there are demonstrable *mutual benefits* to all the partners in the agreement.
8. Rhodes University follows a bottom-up approach to stimulating internationalisation and recognises that the *enthusiasm* of the individual students and staff involved is crucial.
9. Rhodes University views 25% of the student body as the maximum size of the international student component.
10. Rhodes University strives to make the international student component as diverse as possible.

2.3 DEFINITIONS:

Internationalisation: The process of developing, implementing and integrating an international, intercultural and global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of higher education.¹

International student: Students who require a study visa in order to study in South Africa.

International staff: Staff who require a work permit in order to work in South Africa.

Foreign: Not South African

3. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 THE ACTIONS AND PROCESSES BY WHICH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY WILL BE ACHIEVED:

3.1.1 The **Dean: International Office**

- reports to the Vice-Chancellor and the Internationalisation Committee of Senate
- develops the internationalisation strategy at Rhodes University within the guidelines of the Policy
- and manages the International Office.

3.1.2 The **International Office**

- serves as a contact point and support for international students (especially study abroad and exchange students) staff and visitors
- assists Rhodes staff and students who travel and study abroad in the interest of internationalisation

¹ Adapted from: Knight, J (2004). "Internationalization remodeled: Rationales, Strategies and Approaches". Journal for Studies in International Education 8(1).

- develops international opportunities, links and exchanges for Rhodes staff and students
- liaises with the international offices at other South African universities
- does research on the process of internationalisation at Rhodes
- and participates in the activities of organizations of international higher education, both local and elsewhere

3.1.3 The **Internationalisation Committee** of Senate ensures that

- the University meets its commitment to internationalisation as defined in its policy and described in its mission and vision statement
- the internationalisation policy is implemented, monitored and regularly reviewed
- implementation of the IEASA (International Education Association of South Africa) Code of Conduct for International Students is monitored
- the internationalisation of research and collaboration with foreign research partners is fostered
- Senate and Council are advised on the internationalisation of curricula
- Senate and Council are advised on new developments in the realm of internationalisation in higher education

3.1.4 **Deans of Faculties, the Deans of Research and Students, Heads of Departments and Divisions and the Students' Representative Council** encourage and support the internationalisation of the curriculum, international activities by and for staff and students, and the development of international links and cooperative agreements following the guidelines and procedures set by the Dean: International Office.

3.1.5 **The Registrar and the Data Management Unit** are responsible for maintaining a data base in order to report information on international students to the International Office as and when requested.

3.2 REVIEW PROCEDURE:

3.2.1 The Internationalisation Committee reconsiders the effectiveness of the Internationalisation Policy every 5 years, preferably at the first meeting of the relevant year. The first revision of this policy will be due in 2010, unless circumstances arise which require an earlier revision.

3.2.2 The Committee's recommendation is submitted (via the Internationalisation Minutes) to Senate and Council for consideration

3.2.3 If revisions are recommended and approved, a copy of the revised policy is widely distributed by the Committee Secretariat, and the web version is replaced by the new policy.