



isivivane fund

STUDENT

FINANCIAL

AID CAMPAIGN

2016 - 2026



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

isivivane fund

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FINANCIAL
AID CAMPAIGN
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RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

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FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Dr Sizwe Mabizela



2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

“IT CANNOT BE AND IT SHOULD NOT BE THAT AN ACADEMICALLY TALENTED YOUNG PERSON SHOULD BE DEPRIVED OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE HIGHER EDUCATION SIMPLY BECAUSE HE OR SHE IS BORN INTO A FAMILY OF MEAGRE MEANS. I WAS A BENEFICIARY OF BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGHOUT MY UNIVERSITY STUDIES. IT THEREFORE FELT NATURAL FOR ME TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS SIMILAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE.”

THE CHALLENGE

There are a number of challenges to address creatively if we are to maintain our position in educating young people who will become agents of social change and societal transformation; and an institution that produces knowledgeable and skilled graduates who critically engage with knowledge and its production; and who are democratic citizens and ethical leaders committed to the values of human understanding, social justice, human development and service to society.

A primary challenge is meeting the financial demands of a growing institution and student body in a climate of diminishing State expenditure on higher education. This decline in State support means that universities have to rely increasingly on student fees to maintain their operations. However, under the present economic circumstances, families struggle to afford inflation-related fee increases, and even more so for those students who come from families of meagre means.

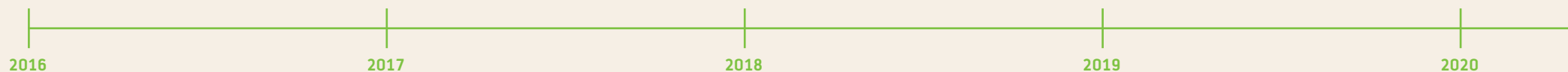
Transformation of the student body at Rhodes, which sees Black South Africans accounting for over 60% of the student body, should be seen as a key indicator of

success. However, this has brought with it the challenges of funding a changed population, many of whom come from exceptionally poor backgrounds and are often first generation university entrants.

Rhodes University commits close to R30 million of operational funds to support students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2015, over 130 undergraduate students who had been accepted for study at Rhodes, were denied entry as a result of their inability to fund their studies and the shortage of alternative funding sources. Often these individuals are unable to secure loans from financial institutions and in

the absence of University or donor support, their hopes and aspirations to experience tertiary education are dashed.

National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) funding is completely inadequate in the face of an ever-increasing demand. In addition to the needs of the poorest of the poor, there are also the needs of the 'missing middle' to consider. This constituency is largely ignored by NSFAS and most donors and are consequently left to fend for itself. Fee payers are often the public servants, shop-workers and small business owners who simply do not have sufficient after-tax disposable income to fund their children's university studies. Unfortunately these are often students who may have the greatest chance of succeeding at university having had a reasonable schooling experience and a stable middle-class upbringing, distanced somewhat from the massive challenges faced by the bulk of South Africa's growing population.



“OFTEN THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE UNABLE TO SECURE LOANS FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND IN THE ABSENCE OF UNIVERSITY OR DONOR SUPPORT THEIR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS TO EXPERIENCE TERTIARY EDUCATION ARE DASHED.”



HIGHER EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Education is vital for the development of a country, and our country's legacy means we have much catching up to do. Resources need to be invested in education at all levels, and higher

education must not be neglected. It is important to maintain and grow our research capacity and high levels of critical, lateral and ethical thinking if South Africa is to progress, develop, create new jobs and remain stable. Individuals equipped with a tertiary education can make a significant impact on the development of a country and

a continent. We are convinced that in the South African context, of all the contributions that can be made, an investment in education remains the most important and compelling.

The Higher Education sector in South Africa does not receive generous government support and requires

financial aid from the business sector in order to maintain and improve standards and increase the number of graduates.



OUR SOLUTION

Isivivane fund



Isivivane Fund, an integrated approach to building and maintaining life-long relationships with stakeholders based on the development of a unique and special partnership between Rhodes University, its students, alumni, and donors.

The fund is inspired by the Zulu proverb “Ukuphosa itshe esivivaneni” (literally meaning to throw one’s stone on the pile or monument) to make a personal contribution to a greater common cause. This contribution is made in the spirit that everyone buys into and does their bit to create a motivating vision of the future. The arrangement of stones on an isivivane is contributed by diverse people over time and so another way of seeing isivivane is as a form of collective memory.

The main goal of Isivivane Fund is to secure sufficient funding from the community of Rhodes and beyond to ensure no academically capable but financially needy student (undergraduate and postgraduate) is refused entry to Rhodes University.

At Rhodes, we believe that if students have the academic ability and the will to succeed, then their financial circumstance should not be a barrier to acquiring a

higher education. This is not a public relations exercise but an undertaking by our university to be fully committed to accepting and supporting the most deserving students, regardless of their financial backgrounds or circumstances.

We understand that a campus composed of exceptional students, including those of meagre means, is a core element of a world-class university. When at Rhodes, students are provided with an intensive support structure and residential environment that is conducive to good scholarship and collegiality.

Today, our ability to attract the best talent from any and all backgrounds, is still a defining characteristic of our university and something we take pride in. Through Rhodes’ generous student financial aid we have managed to transform lives, and create dreams and hope where there was none before. We want to continue with this trajectory but are mindful of cost implications attached to such a discourse.



We hope to achieve all this through the following objectives:

Ensure undergraduate opportunities

Increase postgraduate intake

Maintain residences and dining halls

Grow endowment to ensure sustainability

“THE MAIN GOAL OF THE ISIVIVANE FUND IS TO SECURE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FROM THE COMMUNITY OF RHODES AND BEYOND TO ENSURE THAT NO ACADEMICALLY CAPABLE BUT FINANCIALLY NEEDY STUDENT (UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE) IS REFUSED ENTRY TO RHODES UNIVERSITY.”

Just as Rhodes will never stop seeking the best students, we must also constantly reaffirm our commitment to making a Rhodes education accessible to everyone. This initiative is our opportunity as a Rhodes community to make a significant statement to the world that we are truly the place “where leaders learn”.

It is our hope that you will see value in supporting this campaign.

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OUR SOLUTION

Ensure undergraduate opportunities

Rhodes University is home to students of all races, classes and cultural backgrounds and we are proud of the equitable and cosmopolitan nature of our student body. To maintain this diversity it is necessary to devise a plan that consistently delivers this diverse group to Rhodes University. Unfortunately that is not the case and this is due to socio-economic situations.

Through this strategy, we hope to attract individuals from underprivileged backgrounds that are academically capable to benefit from a Rhodes education. Students who might not have had the chance to exercise their potential through tertiary education will be given the opportunity to do so.

To nurture excellence and ensure that all our students continue to thrive

and graduate, Rhodes has a number of student support programmes. These include the Foundation phase and the Trojan Academic Initiative – an academic mentorship programme for first years.

We want to create a strong undergraduate base for our postgraduate trajectory as we seek to position Rhodes as a destiny of choice for postgraduate studies in South Africa.

GOAL

Raise R150 million to attract financially needy students at undergraduate level





GOAL

Raise R150 million for Rhodes University's postgraduate trajectory

OUR SOLUTION 9

Increase postgraduate intake

Since 2011, Rhodes has made a commitment as part of its enrolment and academic planning, and overall institutional planning, to increase in coming years the number of postgraduates, their proportion in relation to our students body and their research outputs.

Our dual strategies of supporting both postgraduate students and academic staff is supported by the Sandisa Imbewu Fund – a fund developed to provide postgraduate bursaries and support academic research imperatives. We believe this strategy will bring us closer to our trajectory of becoming a more research-intensive university with a bigger postgraduate presence.

To achieve this, we aim to:

Increase the postgraduate proportion of the student body to 30% while also ensuring the diversity of the postgraduate population.

Raise the total research output for the institution by encouraging and supporting all academic staff members to produce at least one accredited output per year.

Significantly increase the percentage of academics with doctoral level qualifications to at least 75%.

Grow the number of research focus areas.

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OUR SOLUTION

Heighten student experience

Driven by its goal of “creating a living and learning student support system and an environment which is inclusive and conducive to a healthy life-style, personal growth, development and academic success for our students”, Rhodes University has always taken pride in offering its first-year students the opportunity to live in one of the University’s residences, and to experience the joys (and sometimes the pitfalls) of communal living, as they adjust to being independent and away from their families. For many students, this is the first time they have lived away from home, and the rush of freedom can be exhilarating! Living in Res for a year or two allows young people to experience these freedoms but still have the security of a home base with cooked meals and access to academic support. However, as a 114-year old university

our infrastructure, especially residences, are in dire need of maintenance and in November 2013 the University contracted CSIR to conduct an Infrastructure Condition Assessment which revealed that the University will need over R2 billion to catch up with the maintenance backlog that the University is faced with so far.

Through this campaign we hope to use the centenary campaigns of each house/hall to launch an appeal to its former students and companies. If all goes according to plan we will maintain just over 20 residences and three halls in 10 years.

“IF ALL GOES
ACCORDING TO
PLAN WE WILL
MAINTAIN JUST
OVER 20
RESIDENCES
AND THREE
HALLS IN
10 YEARS.”



GOAL

Raise R400 million
to maintain
residences and
dining halls





GOAL

Raise R300 million in endowment for future sustainability of Rhodes student financial aid

OUR SOLUTION 11

Grow endowment to ensure sustainability

Rhodes University will launch its biggest ever student endowment fund, the Isivivane Fund. The fund will seek to raise enough money to be able to deal with the long-term plan of making Rhodes home for all who meet its entry requirements.

Student financial aid funds and support raised through our Annual Fund campaign, ensure that today's students have the resources to thrive, while new endowments will ensure a sustainable base for future generations.

Funds for the Isivivane Fund will come through the following:

The Rhodes University Governors' Fund - to assist disadvantaged students from the

Eastern Cape who attend secondary school in Grahamstown East, or Townships students who wish to be admitted to Rhodes University.

The Jakes Gerwel Scholarship Fund – established to attract talented financially needy students to Rhodes University.

The Sports Foundation – to maintain sports facilities to attract talented young people to Rhodes.

Sandisa Imbewu – to support postgraduate students and academic staff research endeavours.

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WHY RHODES?

As a small, world-renowned African university there is ample evidence to support our claim that Rhodes University is a place “where leaders learn”. For over 114 years we have been educating individuals, who made significant contributions to the development of South African society and the establishment of new knowledge.

Rhodes is an institution committed to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, learning, research and community engagement, and as such represents a valuable investment opportunity in higher education. Factors that support our endeavours include:

Favourable academic staff to student ratio, which means that students are guaranteed easy access to staff and individual supervision.

Best undergraduate pass rates and graduation rates in South Africa.

Per capita Rhodes University produces more Rhodes Scholars than any other South African institution.

Small university with a high percentage of students living in residences, that provide above-average opportunities for students to broaden their interests and hone their leadership skills through involvement in student leadership structures, clubs and societies.

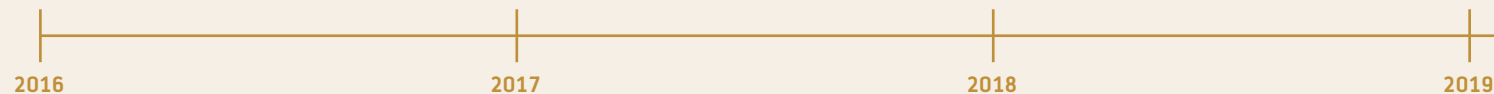
Rhodes degrees are recognised internationally.

Strong focus on community engagement - many students are engaged in academic outreach projects or applied research, made more feasible by the University's location in Grahamstown.

Supportive and engaged Alumni who remain fiercely proud and connected to their *alma mater*.

Committed staff who take personal interest in the progress of their students.

Anecdotal feedback from donors shows that we tend to produce well-rounded students who are competent and effective employees and thus are highly sought-after in most employment environments. This was further confirmed in the 2014 Alumni survey where most alumni confirmed the tangible and long-lasting changes that occur as a result of their time at the University. This in turn results in a life-long bond between the institution and the individual.



Over the years the community of Rhodes, internal and external, have developed a culture of caring and giving, anchored in our belief that personal giving is an integral transformation aid in the lives of our students and a sustainable economic growth of our country. This caring nature of our community flows throughout the institution from leadership to students.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Dr Saleem Badat

When taking up his position as Vice Chancellor in 2006, Dr Saleem Badat instructed the University Council to remunerate him at a lower level. The difference between what would have been his actual salary and what was offered to him, was used to seed the Jakes Gerwel Scholarship Fund. Badat was later joined by our current Vice Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela and some governors who make

monthly contributions to the fund. The fund is currently valued over R3.5 million and stands to benefit many financially disadvantaged Eastern Cape students.

LIVING A LEGACY

Donovan Neale-May



A generous donation by a member of the Rhodes Board of Governors and a proud Old Rhodian, Donovan Neale-May, led to the formation of Rhodes Sports Foundation, which seeks to assist in the upkeep and upgrading of Sports Facilities at Rhodes, as well as provide financial support to talented sports students as they represent the university nationally and internationally. Donovan has since been joined by another group of caring Old Rhodians that organises an Annual Rhodes Golf Day in Johannesburg, with its proceeds going to the foundation coffers. The target is to raise an endowment of R5 million rands and the fund currently is at just over R3 million.

CARING STAFF

Dr Mandy Hlengwa



Rhodes enjoys the highest percentage of staff donations of all South African universities, with 11% of Rhodes University staff giving to the Rhodes Annual Fund. This is not surprising, given the fact that it was our staff members that started the 'Student Hardship Fund', which assist financially needy students who, despite receiving financial aid, have no money left after paying tuition fees and living expenses to even buy the most basic toiletries. Their chances of feeling at home, and having a typical 'Rhodes experience' are thus extremely limited.

ENGAGED STUDENTS



Through the Give 5 fundraising campaign Rhodes students raise money for fellow students in need of basic funds. The Campaign runs one week a year, with a 5m Fire Walk either starting or ending the campaign. The Fire Walk symbolises that life can be uncomfortable but that with

the right attitude and support, however, one can overcome all obstacles and view them as challenges rather than a problem.

Students contribute R5 or more during the week-long campaign and healthy competition is encouraged between the Halls and Residences with a prize for the one that collects the most money.

WE HAVE DONE IT BEFORE

Rhodes has run lots of small campaigns in the past where they were either co-funded by government or fully funded. Two major successful campaigns they ran are the **Library** and the **Centenary Campaign**.



Rhodes Library (2008): R120 million
Rhodes Centenary (1904-2004): R80 million

EXPECTED IMPACT

As Rhodes' partners in this campaign, donors have the benefit of knowing that they will be playing a role in securing the futures of deserving students for whom this opportunity would otherwise have been impossible.

Your support will not only allow Rhodes to include more economically disadvantaged students, but will also provide an invaluable service to them as individuals by exposing them to greater diversity at Rhodes University.

As Rhodes demonstrates its responsiveness to the social and economic imperatives of South Africa by producing demographically

representative graduates with leadership potential, your involvement in this project ensures an investment in the economic future and social stability of the Eastern Cape and of the country as a whole.

“...YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROJECT ENSURES AN INVESTMENT IN THE ECONOMIC FUTURE AND SOCIAL STABILITY OF THE EASTERN CAPE AND OF THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.”





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RECOGNITION

The University recognises that donations are critical in helping us meet the demands and expectations of our stakeholders. We also understand that there are desperate needs which compete for these benefactions. For these reasons we make every effort to ensure that adequate and appropriate recognition is provided to our donor partners.





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E-mail: vc@ru.ac.za

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PLEDGE FORM

Title Name & Surname

Student Number

Email Address

Address

would like to ensure:

- **Undergraduate Opportunities** YES / NO
- **Heightened Student Experiences** YES / NO
- **Sustainable Endowment** YES / NO
- **Increased Postgraduate Intake** YES / NO

I have included my donation or deposited R

DIRECTLY INTO YOUR ACCOUNT

Bank Account No. : 62145508894

Account Name: Rhodes University • Branch: Grahamstown

Branch Code: 210717 • Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

Please include your initials and surname or student number as the reference number on your Deposit slip, so we may thank you.

Please also use your initials and surname or student number as a reference and email details of your donation to: **Qondakele Sompondo** at q.sompondo@ru.ac.za or fax to +27 (0) 46 603 8744, or return this donation form in the enclosed envelope. Contact number: +27 (0) 46 603 7015

WOULD LIKE TO GIVE BY CREDIT CARD

Please debit my:

Master Card YES / NO

Visa Card YES / NO

With the amount of R (last 3 digits on reverse of card)

Once only YES / NO

Every month for months or until cancelled by me.

Card Number

Expiry Date (last 3 digits on reverse of card)

WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE BY DEBIT ORDER

I wish to donate by debit order the amount of:

R from (month) (year)

and each month thereafter until cancelled by me.

Type of Account:

Current YES / NO

Savings YES / NO

Transmission YES / NO

Surname

Bank Name

Branch Code Account No.

Email Address

Address

Cell No

Tel. Home

Tel. Work

isivivane fund



isivivane: A pile of stones which are placed together on a spot along a foot path to honour a particular cause. Each traveller is expected to place a stone in the isivivane as he or she passes that spot. Each traveller who adds a stone to the isivivane becomes part of the common purpose and identifies with the good cause for which the isivivane was started.



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

