



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Where leaders learn

Rhodes University Student Recruitment

Questions and Answers for First Time Entry Students 2021:

COVID-19 CONTEXT



Frequently Asked Questions for First Time Entry Students (FTEN's) of 2021

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, the University had to revisit its manner of engagement with students or parents or guardians and other stakeholders with regards to Recruitment, Registration, Orientation, and Curriculum Approval. We have considered three scenarios (i) 100% remote or on-line activities (ii) a hybrid approach of online and face-to-face activities and (iii) a post-COVID-19 new normal. In terms of scenarios (i) and (ii) PLAN A and PLAN B have been developed based on the current and predicted state of the COVID-19 pandemic. These plans consider the possibility of a second wave of COVID-19 and the spike in numbers as currently experienced and are based on the principles of curbing the spread of the virus and prioritise saving lives and people being safe.

PLAN A: Completely remote and online processes: NO on-campus activity

(The University will advise closer to March 2021 if Plan A will be implemented)

1.1 How will registration work when it is done completely online?

It is not the University's intention to implement Plan A unless the President announces a return to higher lockdown levels. It is the intention that all new first-year students will be on campus on Saturday, 06 March 2021, accompanied by two persons (no children will be permitted) and provided they have followed the required health and safety screening and are not displaying COVID-19 symptoms.

Once you have received an offer, made your initial payment (27 February 2021), and received your letter of acceptance; you will be able to register online (by 05 March 2021). You will be sent login information for ROSS, our student portal. There you will update information and register yourselves. You will only be able to register when you have met all the requirements that precede registration. Details of what is holding up your registration will be displayed on the same screen.

1.2 How will I communicate with the University? How will I access the necessary information?

All information regarding your application and registration status is displayed on ROSS. Where necessary the University will email you. Please make sure that the correct email address is supplied on your application.

Email all admission, registration, or residence queries to registrar@ru.ac.za.

Email fees and initial fees queries to studentfees@ru.ac.za.

2. What if I do not have a device or laptop to be able to register online? Will the University provide a laptop for me and how will I get the laptop?

You must consider a laptop as part of your fundamental academic tools. Consider purchasing your laptop, though the University will be offering these at reasonable costs to those not on NSFAS. In January 2021, if you have been offered a place at Rhodes University you will be asked whether you require a laptop at registration. As soon as you are registered the process to distribute laptops will begin.

You will receive an email after registering asking you to confirm the purchase of a laptop. Should you agree, this will be your contract with the University.

Only NSFAS students will be allowed to charge their student account. All other students may purchase the same type of laptop but will be required to pay for it via the IT shop. Once you have registered, the University will correspond with you regarding the laptops.

You must have a laptop. If you have your laptop you need to bring it with you to campus. Even if you are on campus, activities will be mostly online until such time that face-to-face activities can be more readily considered.

How will I access a laptop?

Under Plan A, where students cannot come onto campus, laptops will be sent via courier to the address provided on the system and you would have to receive them in person. You must produce a valid identification document and sign receiving the laptop. Please make sure you are at the address provided as the University will not courier the laptop to you a second time.

3. I am an International Student

How will my visa and medical aid be submitted?

Visas submission

The International Office will accept copies of visas and passports by email, in the first instance. The emails should be sent to internationaloffice@ru.ac.za.

Medical aid submission

The International Office will accept medical aid certificates by email, in the first instance. Medical aid is a core requirement of a South African study visa. The emails should be sent to internationaloffice@ru.ac.za.

How will my visa and medical aid be verified?

Visa and medical aid verification

The International Office will verify documents, after registration. Where an invalid visa is discovered and no exemption has been agreed with the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) via the International Office, the student will automatically be de-registered. Please note there are serious consequences to a fraud of any kind, which will immediately be reported.

Will the University provide me with a device? Will the University provide me an allowance for data?

Devices or Laptops

All students, except for NSFAS students, must fund devices themselves. The purchase and couriering of laptops outside the country is less cost-effective for international students than purchasing laptops in their home countries themselves.

The University is unable to provide laptops to international students if beyond the borders of South Africa at the time. Please plan on purchasing a laptop. Should you be able to come onto campus under plan B, you will be able to purchase a laptop from our IT shop.

Data

Data provision to the equivalent value of the provision for South African students will be credited to student accounts.

4. How will I know what subjects to register for if curriculum approval will be done online?

The online session comprises the following: a student will submit a proposed curriculum which will be considered by a member of the academic staff. The proposed curriculum will either be approved, in which case the curriculum approval process is complete, or not approved, in which case the student is provided with feedback and requested to submit a revised curriculum.

5. How will I know when to register?

Follow the University's term dates at the following link:
<https://www.ru.ac.za/diaryanddates/>

PLAN B – Hybrid Model (Online and Limited on-campus registration)

This is the preferred University plan within the COVID-19 context, should lockdown levels remain low and depending on the spread of the virus.

1. For First Years (South African students)

If allowed by the regulations of the current COVID-19 pandemic, registration will take place online by 05 March 2021 and students will come to campus **06 and 07 March 2021 between 07:00-17:00 at the Rhodes University campus, Makhanda**. Where possible, all students will be provided with information and **must** register online to minimise the process on campus.

In January 2021, if you have been made an offer you will receive an email asking you to log into ROSS and complete our short questionnaire. Please do so timeously because it will streamline your registration process.

Once you have received an offer, made your initial payment (by 27 February 2021), and received your letter of acceptance; you will be able to register online.

You should already have a ROSS login to our student portal but if not, you will be sent login information with your first letter from the University. There you will update information and register yourselves. You will only be able to register when you have met all the requirements that precede registration. Details of what is holding up your registration will be displayed on the same screen. When you are answering our questionnaire in January 2021 and registering yourself you will log in as an admitted student.

As soon as you have registered and want to do curriculum approval you will log in as a registered student. There are two bullets. Select the correct one. The login details and password remain the same on both.

2. What if I do not have a device or laptop to be able to register online? Will the University provide a laptop for me and how will I get the laptop?

You must consider a laptop as part of your fundamental academic tools. Consider purchasing your laptop, though the University will be offering these at reasonable costs to those not on NSFAS. In January 2021, if you have been offered a place at Rhodes University you will be asked whether you require a laptop at registration. As soon as you are registered the process to distribute laptops will begin. You will receive an email after registering asking you to confirm the purchase of a laptop. Should you agree, this will be your contract with the University.

Only NSFAS students will be allowed to charge their student account. All other students may purchase the same type of laptop but will be required to pay for it via the IT shop. Once you have registered, the University will correspond with you regarding the laptops.

You must have a laptop. If you have your laptop you need to bring it with you to campus. Even if you are on campus, activities will be mostly online until such time that face-to-face activities can be more readily considered.

How will I access a laptop?

Students over the age of 18, or their guardian if under 18, who have signed the contract, will be provided with a ticket, and be directed to an identified area on campus to collect a laptop.

3. If I am not able to register online (eg. Data or connectivity issues)?

Students with problems registering online, can either register at Rhodes University on the stipulated dates (06&07 March 2021) or send an email to registrar@ru.ac.za to request a registration form. Once you have completed the form and signed it, you can scan it in and send back to registrar@ru.ac.za and staff will process your registration.

4. International students

How will my visa and medical aid be submitted?

Visas submission

The International Office will accept copies of visas and passports by email, in the first instance. The emails should be sent to internationaloffice@ru.ac.za.

Medical aid submission

The International Office will accept medical aid certificates by email, in the first instance. Medical aid is a core requirement of a South African study visa. The emails should be sent to internationaloffice@ru.ac.za.

How will my visa and medical aid be verified?

Visa and medical aid verification

The International Office will verify documents, after registration. Where an invalid visa is discovered and no exemption has been agreed with the DHA via the International Office, the student will automatically be de-registered. Please note there are serious consequences to a fraud of any kind, which will immediately be reported.

On-campus assistance

The International Office will be on campus in the Eden Grove Building to assist in person with any visa and medical aid issues, and all our staff will be on hand to assist as required.

We intend to ask the medical aid providers to be on campus.

Will the University provide me with a device? Will the University provide me an allowance for data?

Data

Data provision to the equivalent value of the provision for South African students will be credited to student accounts.

Devices or Laptops

All students, except for NSFAS students, must fund devices themselves. The purchase and couriering of laptops outside the country is less cost-effective for international students than purchasing laptops in their home countries themselves.

5. Will my parents or guardians be able to accompany me to campus for registration?

It is a concern that we have seen a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases. In line with the principle of saving lives, a student may only be accompanied by two persons (no children under the age of 18) onto campus. Both the student and the two persons will have to follow the health and safety protocol as per the next question. **No children will be permitted.**

PLEASE: Only 2 persons (no children under the age of 18) may accompany a student during registration to minimise risks related to COVID-19.

6. What measures have the University put in place to ensure that Health and Safety (H&S) precautions are followed?

The University has a designated Health and Safety Officer and a team that has put the necessary H&S measures in place. There will also only be one entrance for us to have better control over the screening of all students and persons accompanying them.

All persons planning on visiting the University for registration and/or to drop students off are encouraged to make use of the Higher Health Screening tool (see next question) to do the screening beforehand to minimise contact and make the process easier.

All students and the two persons accompanying them to campus should make sure that they are **always wearing a mask and bring along some sanitiser for their use** as well.

Sanitising stations will be available but especially for students who will stay in residence, they should bring extra masks and sanitiser with them.

7. What do I need to do in terms of COVID-19 H&S protocol at home before arriving on campus for registration?

Since the University does not have quarantine facilities, you and the two persons accompanying you should go into self-quarantine for ten days before traveling to the University or Makhanda. You need to do the self-screening on the Higher Health app and present the outcome of your screening on the day you arrive for registration.

Details for the Higher Health Screening tool:

WhatsApp number: 060 011 0000

(PLEASE: save this number on your phone; on WhatsApp say “Hi” and follow the prompts after this).

Link to screening tool:

<https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za/login/?next=/>.

8. What if I have symptoms of COVID-19?

PLEASE DO NOT TRAVEL TO MAKHANDA (Grahamstown).

How will I register?

Once you have received an offer, made your initial payment, and received your letter of acceptance; you will be able to register online.

You will be sent login information for ROSS, our student portal. There you will update information and register yourselves. You will only be able to register when you have met all the requirements that

precede registration. Details of what is holding up your registration will be displayed on the same screen.

9. What do I need to bring with me for registration?

You and the two persons accompanying you must present the outcome of the higher health app at the University entrance point to gain entrance.

All new first-year students will be requested to provide their:

- Letter of acceptance or confirmation of an offer
- ID document or passport
- proof of Initial Fee clearance
- where possible proof of online registration
- proof of their Higher Health Screening outcome

You will not be permitted to enter the campus without these documents.

The **two persons** accompanying the student must also produce their (i) ID document and (ii) proof of their Higher Health Screening outcome.

10. What if I have not received my NSFAS clearance yet?

Please do not arrive on campus if you have not been NSFAS cleared. The University cannot register you if you have not been NSFAS cleared.

Email Fees and Initial Fees queries to studentfees@ru.ac.za.

How will curriculum approval take place?

Curriculum Approval will be online via ROSS. The online session comprises the following: a student will submit a proposed curriculum which will be considered by a member of the academic staff. The proposed curriculum will either be approved, in which case the curriculum approval process is complete, or not approved, in which case the student is provided with feedback and requested to submit a revised curriculum.

Rhodes University Student Recruitment

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