



General Guide for 2021 First-Time Entry Students (FTENs) and Transfer Students

We at Rhodes University would firstly like to take the opportunity to thank you for considering us as your institution of choice!

We look forward in welcoming you, but first we would like to provide you with some guidelines as to what you can expect as we are still facing the Covid-19 pandemic. By now you would have received a Question and Answer (Q&A) document advising you on Plan A and Plan B. Considering the President's announcement that we are at Adjusted Lockdown Level 3, Rhodes University is going with Plan B (please read your Q&A on this). Plan B is a hybrid model between online and limited face-to-face registration processes.

***PLEASE NOTE: ONLY FTENs WILL BE TRAVELLING TO MAKHANDA AND REPORTING TO THE RHODES UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. TRANSFER STUDENTS FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING WILL NOT BE TRAVELLING OR REPORTING TO CAMPUS AT THIS TIME UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

What are First-Time Entry Students (FTENs) and Transfer Students?

FTENs are students who have not been registered for a qualification at an institution of higher learning (such as a university or TVET) before and who have completed their senior school studies (grade 12 or equivalent such as N6) in 2020, or earlier.

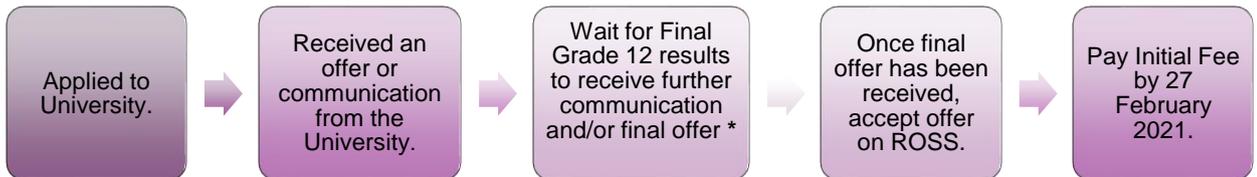
Transfer students are students who have registered for a qualification at another institution of higher learning such as a university or TVET, in 2020 or earlier, and now wish to transfer to Rhodes University.

The Q&A document can be accessed at tinyurl.com/1688vuuy



Below, is a broad outline of what can be expected:

1. What can I expect from the University during January to mid-February 2021?



***Please allow Rhodes University up between 48-72 hours to process final Grade 12 results and send final offers.**



Meaning of terminology:

Offer – Based on your academic performance, the university provides you with an offer to study at Rhodes University, pending your final results.

Dean’s decision – Based on your academic performance, your application has been referred to the Dean of the Faculty in which you have applied for consideration – please allow until release of the final results for the University to communicate further with you.

2. What will happen once the Grade 12 results are released? How will I know if my offer has been confirmed and what is expected from me?



***Information will be provided to you on how to accept an offer on the ROSS system and what the initial fee payment is that you need to pay.**



3. What is the Initial fee that needs to be paid and should I pay the Initial Fee when I am NSFAS funded?

All information regarding the initial fee for South African students, including students who have confirmed NSFAS funding as well as International students and the options on how to do payments can be found at <https://www.ru.ac.za/studentfeesandfinancialaid/>.

4. When will I hear about my final campus-based residence placement?

The residence allocations can only be done after the initial fee payment deadline, but will be done prior to your arrival and will be published on ROSS. The allocations will be published by no later than 16h00 on Thursday 4 March 2021. If you had applied for residence accommodation and do not see your residence allocation by that date and time, please contact the University on Friday 5 March for assistance. You can contact us at registrar@ru.ac.za or on 046 603 8276.

5. When will registration take place?

The University will follow a hybrid registration model which is scheduled to take place on 06 & 07 March 2021 between 07:00-18:00 at Rhodes University in Makhanda.

Only First-Time Entry Students (*students who have never attended an institution of higher learning before eg: no transfer students*) will be allowed on campus. **All other students (eg: transfer students) need to register online.**

Strict COVID-19 protocols will be followed during this process and **only 2** persons will be allowed to accompany the student. The **2 persons** who will accompany the student, will **only be allowed to accompany them to the residence** (if they will be staying in a campus-based residence). These persons will not be permitted **into the registration venue or on the lawns surrounding the venue**, due to the adjusted lockdown level 3 restrictions).

Please note: no children under the age of 18 will be allowed to accompany the student onto campus.



6. If I must travel to Makhanda for registration on 06 & 07 March 2021, what should I bring with and look for when arriving in Makhanda?

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

- Letter of acceptance or confirmation of an offer
- ID document or passport (with visa and medical aid)
- proof of Initial Fee clearance
- where possible, proof of online registration
- proof of Higher Health Screening outcome
- E-permit (if you have received one) – this permit is only for access to the university and not a travel permits. Under lockdown level 3, you do not need a travel permit.

Campus Access Permits

After the grade 12 results are published a confirmation of offer letter will be sent to ALL applicants (first-time entering and transfers applicants) who have been accepted for 2021. Once you receive this confirmation of offer you need to confirm your acceptance of it on ROSS. On receipt of this acceptance of offer, a confirmation will be sent with an E-permit to access campus. You should keep this permit safe as you will need to produce it at various points on campus.

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

The **two persons** accompanying the student must also produce their proof of their Higher Health Screening outcome. Please note that it is not compulsory for a student to be accompanied. You are welcome to arrive on your own.

As strict COVID-19 protocols will be followed, only a limited number of people will be allowed onto the university grounds.

Please take note of our **Health and Safety Guide** which are accompanied by this **document with all the necessary information required**. It will also illustrate to you all the information required from your arrival prior to Makhanda, COVID-19 protocols to observe throughout the registration process as well as Residence and Library information.

The Health and Safety Guide will also be available on the University Website at <https://www.ru.ac.za/registrar/sub-sections/studentrecruitment/>



7. If I arrive in Makhanda and do not have accommodation and have not applied for university residence, what is my alternative or will the University accommodate me in a residence?

Please note that it is important that you have either applied for residence or have made accommodation arrangements before arriving in Makhanda.

For further detailed information on the operational arrangements in residences and dining halls, please access the Operational Guide for Residences on the website at <https://www.ru.ac.za/registrar/subsections/studentrecruitment/>

8. Will there be a student orientation process and/or welcoming address?

The University would like all our first-time entry students to have the same welcoming experience as others in the previous years, but we will have to do it in the current COVID-19 context. Our welcoming address by our Vice-Chancellor and SRC President, as well as our orientation programme will take place through online events, starting Sunday 07 March 2021.

Further information regarding these events will still be communicated.

9. What will I need for Teaching and Learning purposes?

As the University will be following Plan B, only first-time entering students (students who have never attended an Institution of Higher Learning before) will be allowed on campus but teaching and learning will still take place online. Students will however have access to resources on campus. It is expected that all students, including first-time entering students, will have an internet enabled device, preferably a laptop. Appropriate arrangements will be made by the I&TS Division and the Finance Division for NSFAS students to use part of their funding for the purchase of a laptop.

Students not on NSFAS may also purchase a laptop directly from our I & TS shop but cannot charge this to their student account.

You can access the Academic Planning 2021 document with all detailed information on the Teaching and Learning at

<https://www.ru.ac.za/registrar/subsections/studentrecruitment/>



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10. If you have any enquiries, please contact the following divisions for assistance:

General application, admission, and residence placement – registrar@ru.ac.za

Initial or other fees and bursaries studentfees@ru.ac.za

NSFAS enquiries – finaid@ru.ac.za

International students - internationaloffice@ru.ac.za

For further detailed information on the plans of the University, please refer to our information documents which is available at the following link:

<https://www.ru.ac.za/registrar/sub-sections/studentrecruitment/>

We at Rhodes University look forward to welcoming you as part of the Purple community!