

International Programs Office

Rhodes University

South Africa

Fact Sheet



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Website

Rhodes University's homepage: www.ru.ac.za
RU's Webpage for International Exchange students:
www.ru.ac.za/international

Location

Rhodes University is one of the oldest South African universities and is situated in Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape. Grahamstown is a pretty, historic town. It started as a garrison in 1812 on the old Eastern Frontier where the British Empire met the Xhosa people. The town has a beautiful cathedral, a High Street, and the look is Georgian. Today it is a major educational and legal centre. It hosts the two premier South African Festivals: the National Arts Festival (June-July) and the Science Festival (March). The town is close to stunning beaches of the Eastern Cape, a wide range of game reserves, and the mountains and plains of the Karoo desert.

Accommodation costs

Accommodation is covered in the exchange agreement, so students will pay their normal accommodation costs to Bellarmine, and will be accommodated at Rhodes in the university residences. Students are provided with 3 meals a day in the residence dining halls and have laundry facilities, a common room, and TV and public phones. Other important facilities such as postal services, ATMs, etc. can be found either on campus or nearby in town.

Costs

Study Material/books/joining sports clubs and societies:
approx. R3 000 per semester

Food/drinks: approx. R2 000 per month

Transport: Students will not need to spend money on transport around the town or University, only if they wish to travel around South Africa, or to the airport.

Monthly miscellaneous costs (toiletries, eating out, travelling): approx. R1500 - R3000

Health Insurance: R295 per month (may be subject to increase in years to come)

Please note that many of these expenses will vary greatly depending on the individual student.

Currency

The currency is the South African Rand (R).

Visas

Students should contact their nearest South African Embassy in order to obtain a study permit. The following documentation will be required:

- An official letter of acceptance from Rhodes
- Medical and radiological reports
- Relevant certificate if married, divorced, widowed, etc.
- Proof of valid medical insurance recognised in SA
- Details regarding accommodation
- Proof of sufficient funds
- Police clearance certificate (less than 6 months old)
- Repatriation deposit
- Application fee

Disciplines

Rhodes University offers courses to exchange / study abroad students in the faculties of:

- Humanities
- Science
- Commerce
- Law

Structure of University

Within each faculty there are numerous departments responsible for the various fields of study.

Average semester work-load

Minimum: 12 credits (2 or 3 courses)

Full load: 16 credits (2 to 4 courses)

Maximum: 20 credits (3 to 5 courses)

Subjects

Each department offers courses at various levels. The level is indicated by the first number of the course, e.g.

Psychology 1 is for students in their first year of study.

History 3 is for students in their third year of study.

Sometimes the semester is indicated in the course code, e.g. Politics 102 will be the second semester of Politics 1.

Exchange students may take courses at any level, depending on whether the department thinks the student will have sufficient background knowledge, and depending on approval from the student's home institution.

General Semester dates

First Semester:

Mid February - late June

Second Semester:

Mid-late July - late November

Student Life – from an exchange student's perspective

"It's the small things that stand out – the hugs, the smiley greetings. Rhodes is a very sociable university." – Kim van Arendonk (The Netherlands).

"My experience at Rhodes University has been life changing..." – Saskia Roskam (The Netherlands)

For More Information Contact:

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