Exchange Scheme with Rhodes University, South Africa

Where is Rhodes?

Founded in 1904, Rhodes University is one of the top ten universities in South Africa with a student population of over 7,000. Located in Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, Rhodes is also one of the oldest universities in the country. Grahamstown is a city of about 70,000 people in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. It is situated about 110 kilometres (70 mi) northeast of Port Elizabeth.

Who can go?

- **Two places** will be made available to a York Arts and Humanities undergraduate students in 2020/21.
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York (or the 2nd/3rd year of study if you’re on a 4 year programme) for credit-replacing programmes. Students taking an additional year are also able to select Rhodes. Please speak to your department about the availability of extended degrees that allow you to take an additional year to study abroad.
- This exchange is not available for Education and Pharmacy students on credit replacement years.
- Please consult the Opportunities by Subject webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.

Courses

- Students will be expected to take a minimum of **32 credits** during their year at Rhodes (i.e. **16 credits per semester**). All 32 credits should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
- Students are expected to take the majority of their classes in their school; no departmental restrictions.
- If a student wishes to take extra courses in other non-degree related subjects, they should limit this to an additional 3 credits per semester.
- The course catalogue serves as a **general guide** to the courses available. However, not all courses may be available in each semester and some may be restricted. You should check the Rhodes scheduling for a directory of courses available in the following academic year.
- The course catalogue for 2018 can be accessed here as a guide: [ru.ac.za/academic/departments/](http://ru.ac.za/academic/departments/)

How will my marks be assessed/converted?

- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants. Grades will only be converted for credit replacement students. 
- University of York staff can access Grade Conversion Tables here: [york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/accepted/#tab-5](http://york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/accepted/#tab-5)
- Please ensure that you are fully aware of how your grades will be converted on your return to York. Students on additional years will have different arrangements to those on credit-replacing exchange.

Costs

- **Tuition Fees**: Students will pay no tuition fees to Rhodes and in 2018/19 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.
- **Visas**: Exchange visa costs approximately £35.
Medical insurance: International students are required to have applied for and obtained membership with an approved registered South African Medical scheme before applying for their study visa. For assistance relating to appropriate medical cover, students should contact the appointed ABSA Health Care Consultants via email on abshahealthcare@absa.co.za.

Proof of a South African Medical Aid membership while in South Africa, is required for registration purposes at Rhodes University.

Please note that all international students must have their South African medical aid cover facilitated via ABSA Health Care Consultants.

Additional costs to consider: A York student on the Rhodes exchange will pay for a standard room with a meal plan here at York and their accommodation and meals on the exchange will be paid by the student outgoing from Rhodes to York. Other costs to consider will be flights, travel insurance, additional meals, books and visas.

Financial Assistance

York Futures Scholarship new for 2019/20. Support for personal and professional development. Funding of up to £6000 available to students applying to study abroad in 2020/21. There are two rounds of applications for this funding, Autumn Term and Easter Vacation/start of Summer Term. We recommend that you apply for the first round of funding to secure this before you have received confirmation of your study abroad place. For more information please see the following web pages: york.ac.uk/students/work-volunteering-careers/skills/work-experience/yfs/

Visa & Study/Exchange Permit

Please be aware that Centre for Global Programmes staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes. Therefore if you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate Embassy directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.

All international students must obtain a valid exchange permit (for students under 25). This can be obtained by submitting an application along with supporting documentation and a £35 (approx.) administration fee to the South African High Commission, Home Affairs Consular Section, 15 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2DD.

What’s it like to study there?

In 2016/17 English Literature and History student Anna went to Rhodes, she completed a Blog for the university during her time there. You can read all her posts on the University of York’s Student Voices webpage here.

Where will I live?

Large numbers of undergraduates live on campus; there are twelve Halls of Residence, each including three or four houses of between 50 to 120 students, grouped around a central dining hall. All exchange students are required to stay in campus accommodation, you will be allocated to one of the various residences.

For more information on Rhodes University’s Halls of Residence visit their website here: ru.ac.za/admissiongateway/campuslife/hallsofresidence/

Is it the right choice for me?

When thinking about choosing your destination for studying abroad please look through the Considerations Checklist on our web pages.

This will help you find the best opportunity for your degree and personal circumstances.

Contact details at Rhodes

Your principal source of general advice at Rhodes will be Debby Wolhunder and Dingaan Booi. Email: internationaloffice@ru.ac.za

Address: The International Office, Rhodes University, P.O. Box 94, Grahamstown, 6140, South Africa.
Useful web links

- Main Rhodes University Site
- Rhodes Admissions Gateway
- Rhodes International Students Page
- Global Graduates
- Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice
- Cost of living Comparison Site
- Alternative cost of living comparison site

Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. The Centre for Global Programmes cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

All information included in these guidelines correct at time of printing, October 2019.

Students are responsible for researching their own exchanges and making sure that they have considered all costs and the compatibility of the overseas programme to their own degree, in discussion with their departments and supervisors. The Centre for Global Programmes are here to offer support.