

Unlocking Futures

A Rhodes University Student Debt Relief Fundraising Campaign

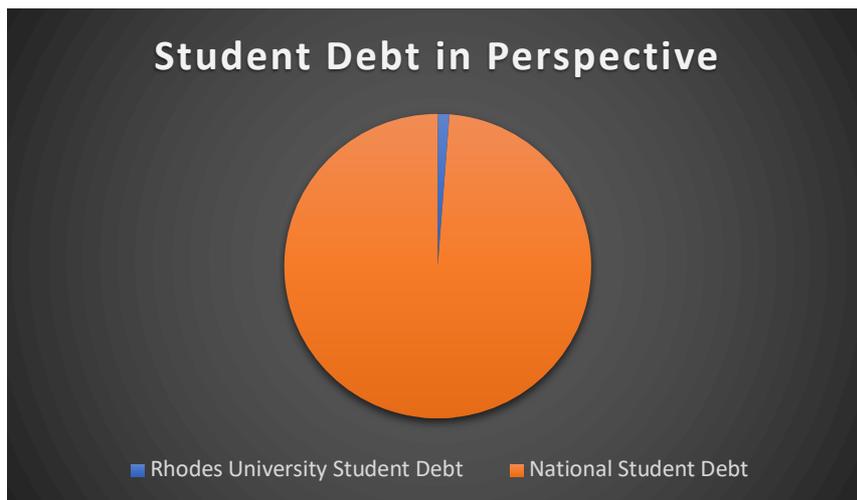
Executive Summary

Mounting student debt is a severe concern that affects millions of young graduates and students in South Africa. Despite the best efforts by the National Students Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) to provide students with financial assistance, student debt has exceeded R17 billion. Rhodes University students account for 321 million of this total. Student loans have been found to have long-lasting adverse effects on graduates' financial well-being, hindering their ability to save, invest, and contribute to the economy.

Since 2021, The Office of the Premier, Eastern Cape, has supported 346 Rhodes University students with R15 000 000 000 towards historical debt. To build on this, 'Unlocking Futures' is about a collective intervention to drive debt relief efforts at Rhodes University. As we celebrate our 120th anniversary in 2024, we focus on two broad categories of students who fall outside of the NSFAS funding threshold:

- **Graduating students**
- **Continuing students**

Rhodes University Student Debt	R321 million
National Student Debt	R17 billion





Objectives

- Provide debt relief to Rhodes University students.
- Enable the release of parchments for graduates and graduating students.
- Foster a collaborative pact for Unlocking Futures between funders, students and alums.

Motivation and Opportunities to be Created.

Beyond the significant financial, psychological, and mental stress, debt impacts students' career paths. There is a pressing need to raise funds to assist deserving students to complete their studies and contribute to the country's economy. Unlocking Futures is about students who have graduated without their parchments and those at risk of facing a similar fate. The total owed in these two categories is **R74 705 000. 00**

Our target

Graduating (Non-NSFAS)	R26 537 000. 00
Continuing (Non-NSFAS)	R48 168 000. 00
TOTAL	R74 705 000. 00

Deliverables

GOAL: Raise **R74 705 000. 00** towards historical debt owed by Graduating and Returning students

Impact and Outcomes

Unlocking Futures' fundraising campaign will significantly impact students, our University, and society. In our quarterly reporting, we aim to focus mainly on three impact areas:

- Financial freedom for students and graduates
- Career advancement
- Increased access to higher education



Outlined below are the projected expenses associated with Rhodes University tuition and residence fees for individual students, as detailed in the [2024 Fees Booklet](#):

	Amounts (Rands)	Amounts (USD)	Amounts (Canadian Dollars)
Undergrad			
Lowest Tuition Fees			
Bachelor of Business Science (4th Year)	R50 872.00	2,732.73	3,717.37
Highest Tuition Fees			
Bachelor of Journalism (4th Year)	R75 028.00	4,030.96	5,481.31
Honours			
Lowest Tuition Fees			
Financial Management (1st Year ¹)	R45 254.00	2,431.17	3,306.01
Highest Tuition Fees			
Accounting (1st Year)	R63 825.00	3,428.94	4,662.07
Undergraduate Residences			
Lowest	R84 061.00	4,516.20	6,140.20
Highest	R88 254.00	4,741.53	6,445.07
Postgraduate Residences			
Lowest	R71 600.00	3,848.36	5,230.20
Highest	R107 180.00	7,831.08	5,760.73

Please get in touch with our Development and Fundraising office at development@ru.ac.za or

- [Support our campaign by making an online donation on Given Gain](#) or clicking on the QR Code below:



- Access our secured [online donation page](#)
- Download a [Donate to Rhodes pledge form](#), complete it, and return it to us at development@ru.ac.za
- [Make an electronic transfer.](#)

¹ This cost applies to students who complete in one year.