

Preface to Rhodes University Research Report

Rhodes University defines as one of its three core activities the production of knowledge through stimulating imaginative and rigorous research of all kinds (fundamental, applied, policy-oriented, etc.), and in all disciplines and fields.

Though a small university with less than 6 000 students, the student profile and research output (publications, Masters and doctoral graduates) of Rhodes ensures that it occupies a distinctive place in the overall South African higher education landscape.

For one, almost 25% of Rhodes' students are postgraduates. Coming from a diversity of countries, these postgraduates ensure that Rhodes is a cosmopolitan and fertile environment of thinking and ideas.

For another, Rhodes has the best research output of all South African universities, a testimony to the dedication and passion of its academics for research and the commitment of the University to nurture and cultivate knowledge production of all kinds. During 2006, Rhodes academics published ** books, *** articles, and contributed ** papers to conferences. ** students graduated with Masters degrees and ** with doctorates.

In a number of areas Rhodes' academics are at the cutting-edge of research, pushing the frontiers knowledge production. The award of a Department of Science and Technology sponsored Research Chair in Chemistry to Prof. Nyokong is one indicator of national recognition of this reality. Rhodes researchers are at the forefront of a number of national projects, and also continue to attract research funding from a variety of international and national research agencies and industry.

Rhodes possesses an admirable research culture, and provides the intellectual space for the flourishing and debate of ideas, as evidenced by the number and diversity of seminars, public lectures, and the quality of local and international academics that visit Rhodes. A number of Rhodes academics also make important contributions to national public debate, enhancing the visibility of Rhodes in the intellectual life of South Africa.

Rhodes University is committed to maintain and, in the years to come, to enhance its research output, to bring on steam new generations of researchers (who are also increasing women and black), and to continue being a distinctive South African university in the domain of knowledge production.

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