



Makhanda Forever: Over 120 local disadvantaged students register at Rhodes University

In 2023, for the second successive year, over **120 local disadvantaged students** from 4 no-fee schools (Nombulelo Secondary School, Ntsika High School, Mary Waters High School and Khutliso Daniels Secondary School) and the **GADRA Matric School (GMS)**, registered as full-time 1st year students at Rhodes.



GADRA Education and **Rhodes University** share a common purpose of maximising meaningful access to the university for deserving local students. Rhodes has positioned itself as a “locally responsive and globally engaged” university, whilst GADRA’s purpose is to create good quality educational opportunities for all the young people of Makhanda.

One of the most useful indicators of the extent to which GADRA and Rhodes are succeeding in their joint endeavour to make the university accessible is

the number of local students registered on an annual basis as full-time Rhodes students.

On Thursday 16 February, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mabizela invited the local students to join him to take commemorative photographs to acknowledge the joint successes of the students, the university and GADRA Education.

Prof. Mabizela commented: “I cannot tell you how excited I am to see so many of you. You have come through various programmes that were there to support you and now you have earned your right into Rhodes University. Now all you need to do is to work hard and do well and if you continue to do well you have a wonderful future ahead of you.”



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9/10s Mentoring Programme

All four local public high schools participate in the outstanding **9/10ths mentoring programme**. This programme was recognised in 2021 by the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship as one of the leading mentoring

initiatives in the world. Forty two of the registered students came through this mentoring programme.

GMS - Rhodes Biggest Feeder School

Since 2015, GMS has been Rhodes University's biggest feeder school. In 2023, there are 80 GMS alumni registered as full-time 1st year students at Rhodes. In 2011, only 10 local disadvantaged students registered for full-time 1st Year study at Rhodes. GADRA and Rhodes are therefore proud of the massive advances made in this regard in recent years. But GADRA has set more ambitious targets for the future. It hopes to reach the milestone figure of 200 local disadvantaged students registering for full-time study at Rhodes by the year 2027.

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GMS - Rhodes Biggest source of Graduates

Whilst registering at Rhodes does not guarantee students will ultimately graduate from the university with a Bachelor Degree, there are already very positive signs regarding graduation levels. For the second year running, **over 50 former GMS students graduated from Rhodes in April 2022**. This makes the GADRA Matric School the biggest single source of Rhodes graduates in 2022.



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