



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

Campus Protection Unit

Safeguarding
your campus
environment.



www.ru.ac.za/cpu

Common sense is your best defence. CPU watching out for you.

Campus Protection Unit - safeguarding your campus environment

The Campus Protection Unit (CPU), which operates from Rhodes Avenue adjacent to Hobson House, is committed to protecting the safety of the Rhodes community and its property.

The core objectives of the CPU are:

- To satisfy the needs of staff, students and parents for a safe and secure environment for academic studies and activities thereby enhancing the quality of the Rhodes experience.
- To contribute to the overall purpose of Rhodes as a provider of life skills by educating people in proactive measures to reduce security risks and safety hazards.
- To strive to earn the respect and confidence of the Rhodes community by projecting an image of courtesy, concern and competence and by providing a quick and knowledgeable response to emergency situations.

The team includes CPU and Hi-Tec guards and operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

The team also includes a number of students who assist on the CPU Help desk and provide additional security bicycle patrols at night.

The CPU 24-hour Help desk can be contacted on 046 603 8146 or 7. Please save this number on cell phones and with emergency numbers.



The CPU head office situated in Rhodes Avenue near Hobson House.

Uniformed guards maintain a high profile on campus while patrolling on foot and bicycles. Their presence acts as a deterrent against potential crime situations.

While the CPU aims to provide an effective service, the campus is large and in order to assist the CPU the Unit encourages students and staff to anticipate and recognise impending crime or safety risk situations.

Please always involve the CPU in the implementation of any action against a potential criminal.

The **CPU guards** are the official campus guards employed by the University. They patrol the campus and are trained to react to crime incidents, provide security escorts on campus in the evening and open and close University buildings.



CPU guards wear reflective vests for evening shifts.

In addition, the University has contracted **Hi-Tec Security** to supply guards who are stationed at strategic points on the perimeter of the campus.

The Hi-Tec guards primarily fulfill a limited role of 'watchmen' and are not trained to perform other duties such as security escorts etc. In the event of a potential crime situation arising, the Hi-Tec guards are in radio contact with the CPU main office.

The **CPU main office** (Control-Room and Help desk) is the central nerve center of security operations on the campus. Numerous alarm sites, CCTV cameras and panic buttons are monitored from the Control-Room which is in radio contact with the guards on the ground. CPU will summons police and other emergency services when necessary.

Please note it is important for staff and students proceeding on **field trips** to register details of their field trip with CPU before departure. During the field trip the persons in the field will be required to make regular contact at pre-arranged times with a contact person either from their department, a friend or relative etc.

In the event that they fail to make contact with this person he/she need only report this fact to the CPU Help desk to immediately set in motion a search and rescue operation. Visit www.ru.ac.za/research/safety for more detailed information.

Whilst there are relatively few incidents of crime on campus one must always be aware of potential threats.

Please visit www.ru.ac.za/cpu for an updated graph of crime stats and the crime watch map.



Hi-Tec guards monitor the perimeter of the campus.

1. Crime prevention

Common sense is your best defence and it is important to realise that responsibility for personal safety rests with the individual. The best method to prevent crime is to be aware of your surroundings and the people in your environment. Be aware that your ability to do this will be severely impaired when under the influence of alcohol. It is an established fact that a high percentage of violent crime and serious injuries are alcohol related. Always be alert for suspicious persons in and around campus buildings and in parking areas. Criminals rely on the community being indifferent and 'minding their own business'.

Ask yourself:

- Are they loitering for no apparent reason?
- Are they looking into cars?
- Are they going from room to room trying doorknobs?
- Are they carrying valuable property from buildings after normal lecture/working hours?

Do not pursue them - call the CPU on 046 603 8146/7.

2. If you are a victim of crime

If confronted with a threatening situation, remember that *no material possession is worth endangering your life*. Try and remember what the criminal looks like i.e. age, height, hair colour, clothes, voice etc. and attempt to remain calm and contact the CPU as soon as possible.

Remember to keep emergency numbers next to a phone, on a list in your purse/wallet or saved in your cell phone.

Take the time to learn a few basic self-defence techniques.

3. Protecting your property

Theft is the most common crime on campus. The best means of prevention is to reduce or remove the opportunity for potential criminals.

Some tips:

- Whenever leaving residence, an office or laboratory, lock the door and close all windows
- When storing a valuable item or a purse or a wallet, lock it in a filing cabinet or cupboard
- Do not leave bags unsupervised in open public areas especially in cafeterias and the library
- Keep your cell phone on you at all times (preferably out of sight) as these are highly desirable and sought after by criminals
- Keep a record of serial numbers and descriptions of valuables
- Never leave items on display, i.e. jackets and valuables inside a car
- Invest in car gear-locks or steering wheel locks and anti-theft wheel nuts
- Do not leave house keys hidden in an expected area such as under a doormat etc.
- Know the neighbours – they can keep an eye on your rooms/digs when you are not there
- Do not leave any messages on the door to indicate that you will be away for any length of time
- Do not keep large sums of money inside your room



CPU guards patrol the campus on foot and on bicycles.

4. Protecting yourself

Some tips:

When Walking

- Remember you are safer when walking in a group, especially at night
- Get into a habit of being escorted by a CPU guard when walking late at night within the Rhodes campus. The CPU guard will require a student number to radio the CPU main office to log the escort (this is for your own safety to avoid criminals posing as guards). Hi-Tec guards do not offer the service of an escort but can call a CPU guard to do so. Please note CPU guards can unfortunately not escort students to areas outside the University campus
- Use the 'Blue safe route' along Prince Alfred Street when walking late at night. This route has additional guards patrolling it and is well lit
- Avoid walking in dark and deserted areas
- Do not accept a lift in a vehicle driven by a stranger or person who is under the influence of alcohol
- If used correctly, pepper spray could assist in your defence (available from the SRC)

When Driving

- Never drive under the influence of alcohol

- Avoid parking in isolated areas
- Lock all possessions in the boot
- Have the car key ready when approaching your car and lock the door once inside
- Never pick up hitchhikers

5. Fire Emergencies

- Raise the alarm and call the CPU
- In residence inform the Warden or any other authorised person on duty as soon as possible. (Each year the CPU visits residences and demonstrates safety equipment in case of a fire emergency. Please pay attention to this demonstration – it could be life saving)
- Follow the building evacuation procedure and try check that everyone is out of the building
- Only attempt to extinguish the fire if it can be done without danger

6. Lost and found

Lost and found items are stored at the CPU. Report lost items at the CPU and drop off found items at the Unit.

7. Sexual Assault

A sexual assault is not always perpetrated by a stranger – it can happen on a date or by someone you know. If you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, know who to call for a lift home, or always have a cell phone or small change to make a phone call.

Note that the more alcohol consumed, the less aware and more vulnerable you become. Do not accept drinks from strangers and watch drinks at all times. Remember to go out and return in a group and allocate a designated driver for the trip home.

In the case of a sexual assault:

- Call a friend, relative or Warden and go straight to the Sanatorium
- Call the CPU office on 046 603 8146/7
- Ensure that the matter is reported to the local SAPS as soon as possible (although it is advisable to do so, you will not be forced to report the matter to the police)
- Do not take a bath or shower, or change clothes as important evidence will be lost
- Contact the Anti-Harassment Officer, Student Counsellor, family, friends or a Psychologist for support

Tips for students living off campus

Students who reside off campus should be very aware of potential crime situations, as incidents of crime are higher. When deciding on a digs choose a property that has good security systems i.e. burglar bars and gates, an alarm system or panic buttons with armed response.

If the property does not have secure off-street parking always remove your car radio and invest in a car alarm, gear lock or steering wheel lock and anti-theft wheel nuts (this advice applies to students residing on campus as well).

Communicate with fellow digs mates in terms of security guidelines – i.e. be aware of who has access to keys for the property, ensure whoever leaves the property last checks that it is secure (all windows and doors locked and the alarm system is armed) and notify each other as to when digsmates are away or working late, etc. If the property has a perimeter fence and gates make it a habit to keep the gates locked at all times, this will discourage criminals from coming onto the property on the pretext of looking for work etc.

Insure your valuable items and note serial numbers, make and model of electronic goods. When going on holiday take all valuable items with you and ensure that the property is very well secured before departing. Notify the armed response company/neighbours of the dates that you will be away.

Visit www.ru.ac.za/cpu for more information and for access to the Crime Map where students and staff can log incidents of crime on campus.



Important Contact Numbers:

CPU	046 603 8146 or 7
SAPS	046 603 9111
Ambulance	Medlife: 083 708 2928 046 622 7976
Settlers Hospital	046 622 2215
Sanatorium	046 603 8523 or 082 801 1409
Student Counsellor	046 603 8180
Fire Brigade	046 622 4444

CPU contact us:
Tel: 046 603 8146/7
Rhodes Avenue
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