

Is ru.ac.za legit? TrustSniffer's high-trust assessment: 90/100

ru.ac.za

Verdict

90

OUT OF 100

HIGH TRUST

ru.ac.za appears legitimate.

Our checks found nothing pointing to fraud. Ordinary care still applies when you pay or sign in.

Not Scam

Safe for Login

Low Risk

Assessed 2026-08-13 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 75%.

What this site appears to be

Official Rhodes University site content: navigation for studying, admissions, faculties, student support, research and donation information. Contact details and campus services listed. No evident phishing or financial-investment solicitations.

Evidence status and limitations

- Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN
- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
 - Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

Malware engines	None flagged it VirusTotal	CLEAR
Google Safe Browsing	Not listed Google	CLEAR
Abuse reports on the host	0 reports AbuseIPDB; shared hosting inflates this count	NOTED
Domain age	29 years old Registered history	CLEAR
Web archive	Archived since 1997 5000 snapshots	CLEAR
Certificate	Encrypted connection Issued by WE1	NOTED

The page as captured

No screenshot is retained for this report.

Key findings

- Automated classification: Not Scam.
- Domain age: more than 10 years (registration continuity).
- Public web-archive history exists since 1997.
- No flags from the reputation services TrustSniffer consulted at assessment time.

Full analysis

Overview

The website is the public-facing institutional site of Rhodes University, presenting information about study and admissions, faculties, research, student and administrative support, campus services, and university giving, with an apparent purpose of serving students, staff, applicants, researchers, alumni, and the wider university community.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

No phishing, impersonation, brand-conflict, or other identity contradiction was observed. The homepage presents coherent university content, including admissions, faculties, student support, research, governance, and campus services, rather than investment or financial-solicitation mechanics. External reputation checks were clean, with no malicious or suspicious detections and no adverse broker-dataset match. Behavioral inspection did record hidden forms in both test runs and two suspicious inline scripts; however, no login form, password submission, wallet activity, credential-harvesting destination, cloaking, or other high-risk interaction was identified, so these remain implementation anomalies rather than evidence of impersonation.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage identifies the institutional page as “Rhodes University – Where leaders learn” and provides university-specific navigation for admissions, faculties, research, governance, and student services.
- Behavioral testing recorded ``hidden_forms_detected: true`` across 2 runs, but also recorded ``has_login_form: false``, ``password_external_forms: 0``, ``wallet_connect_runs: 0``, and ``cloaking_classification: none``.
- External reputation telemetry recorded ``vt_malicious: 0``, ``vt_suspicious: 0``, ``gsb_malicious: false``, ``external_blacklist: false``, and ``abuseipdb_reports: 0``.

Regulatory Verification Notes

The About Rhodes, governance, Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, and related institutional pages provide a coherent apparent identity for an academic institution. The available evidence supports an established, apparently legitimate website, but the real-world operator identity is not independently verified. The site does not present a financial-services licensing claim or license number; this is a transparency and applicability point for confirmation rather than evidence of a scam, particularly because the observed business model is public university information, admissions, student support, and donations rather than regulated investment activity. The long

continuous history, substantial page content, valid transport encryption, and clean external reputation materially support the legitimacy assessment.

EVIDENCE

- Archive history records domain continuity from 1997 to 2025, with 5,000 snapshots spanning 29 years tracked and a maximum observed gap of 1 year.
- The site's transport encryption uses a DV certificate issued by WE1, valid to 2026-09-19.
- The delivery sensor observed AS13335, CLOUDFLARENET – Cloudflare, Inc., US.
- The site's academic content is classified as University / Institutional, with an established maturity assessment and no page-level red flags.

What to Verify Next

Before credential or payment interactions, independently confirm that the institutional identity and the relevant admissions, donation, or administrative process correspond to Rhodes University. For any payment, confirm the applicable refund or cancellation terms and use payment methods that provide appropriate transaction protection. Contact details and payment instructions should be validated through an independently sourced university channel rather than relying solely on a message or page reached through an unsolicited link.

EVIDENCE

- The site contains dedicated Admissions, Fees and Financial Aid, Registration, Giving to RU, and Online Store navigation areas.
- The site provides About Rhodes, Governance, Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Staff Directory, and Contact-related institutional information for independent comparison.
- The observed page contained no sensitive form and no untrusted form destination during the available page analysis.

Summary Verdict

The overall posture is high trust and low risk, with strong convergence across the site's institutional purpose, sustained historical continuity, technical operation, and external reputation. Available evidence is consistent with an established, apparently legitimate website, while independent attribution of the real-world operator remains unverified.

Infrastructure Integrity

The site is protected by Cloudflare CDN/WAF infrastructure, with observed Cloudflare edge addresses and infrastructure records associating hosting with Rhodes University in South Africa under AS37520. This protective architecture is a mitigating security signal and helps manage exposure at the network edge, but it is not by itself proof of institutional ownership.

Closing Assessment

Normal browsing is proportionate to the assessed posture; ordinary independent identity, terms, and payment-protection checks should be completed before submitting credentials or making payments.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-13 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

What the analysis found

No rule findings contributed to this verdict.

Identity verification

Status	UNVERIFIED
Identity score	55/100
Identity verification confidence	60%

- Identity verified on page

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of ru.ac.za.

- The request stayed on ru.ac.za. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- The earliest public archive of this site is from 1997-06-25. CLEAR
- It is hosted on CLOUDFLARENET, from a server in US. NOTED

Domain intelligence

Registrar	Not available
Hosting	CLOUDFLARENET - Cloudflare, Inc., US
Country	US
Server IP	2606:4700:10::ac42:a4a2
Name servers	Not available
SSL issuer	WE1
SSL expiry	2026-09-19
Domain age	29.13 years (continuous registration)
Domain expiry	Not available
Archive first seen	1997-06-25
Archive snapshots	5000
Reputation	VirusTotal: 0 flagged AbuseIPDB: 0 reports Google Safe Browsing: 0 matches

About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about ru.ac.za at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.

This report online: <https://trustsniffer.com/report/ru.ac.za> · assessed 2026-08-13