

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP 2012

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Including South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland

MEMORANDUM

FOR ELECTION FOR 2012 ONLY

(This Memorandum cancels those issued for previous years)

Updated May 2011

This document assumes that you have read and are familiar with the basic admission criteria for the Rhodes Scholarships, available on the main Rhodes website. For detailed conditions of tenure, view the document at www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/Conditions-of-Tenure-2011.pdf

Closing date

- a. Your application must be submitted online or hand delivered, couriered, or posted on or before 15 August 2011.

2. Eligibility criteria

- a. You must have a first degree by the time you start at Oxford, which means that you must be at least in the final year of your first degree when you apply for the Scholarship.
- b. Generally, applicants from South African universities will have had to do very well in their discipline. You will need to obtain a first class or a very strong upper second class degree.
- c. You must live permanently in and have resided for at least five years within the period of ten years immediately preceding your application in South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia or Swaziland.
- d. Unless you are a medical student or medical doctor, you must be at least 19 years and younger than 25 years on 1 October in the year after selection. This means that 2012 applicants must have been born after 30 September 1987 and on or before 1 October, 1993.

- e. For medical students and medical doctors the age limit is extended by three years. The intention is to:
 - i. Avoid successful medical school applicants having to postpone taking up the Scholarship;
 - ii. Enable applicants to complete their medical internships before going to Oxford and to take up the Scholarship before completing their post-internship medical residency.
- f. If you are registered for an MBBCh or an MBChB degree you may apply during your internship, provided that you are younger than 28 on 1 October in the year after selection, i.e. the year you would start at Oxford.
- g. The Rhodes Trust and Oxford University require that selection for a Scholarship and for admission to the University will be without regard to marital status, race, ethnic origin, colour, sex and gender, religion, sexual orientation, social background, disability, caste or other irrelevant distinction.
- h. A selection committee will make no nomination if it is of the opinion that there is no sufficiently qualified candidate.
- i. You must make a commitment to work for the benefit of Africa in general or Southern Africa in particular after finishing at Oxford.

3. Application procedure

- a. In general, applicants apply online at <https://apply.embark.com/scholarship/RhodesTrust> (from June).
- b. You may **apply to one country only** and, in South Africa, in **one region only**. If you are from one of the four schools Rhodes nominated, however, you may in addition apply to South Africa-at-Large (i.e. including KZN) or BLMNS. If you intend applying to both your school and the South Africa-at-Large or BLMNS regional selection committee, you should send your application to both of these committees.
- c. The final selection is made by the Rhodes Trustees, who rely on selection procedures undertaken by selection committees in each constituency.
- d. **South Africa-at-Large Scholarships:** You should apply to the committee in whose area you permanently live or in which you have received or are currently receiving any considerable part of your education. (The regional selection committee reviews all completed applications. A short-list is drawn up, and these candidates are invited to attend an interview. Those candidates whom the committee feel are most suitable are referred to the South Africa-at-Large Selection Committee, which makes the final recommendations to the Rhodes Trust.)
- e. **KwaZulu-Natal Scholarship:** You may apply for the KwaZulu-Natal Scholarship if you live permanently or have received or are currently receiving a considerable part of your education in KwaZulu-Natal. The KwaZulu-Natal Selection Committee has the power to make one direct selection (similar to those of the South Africa-at-Large Selection Committee) to the Rhodes Trust, each year, and also acts as a regional

short-listing committee for the South Africa-at-Large Scholarships. The KwaZulu-Natal committee has an extended system of individual interviews before the final committee interview. You can find out more about this from the KZN Secretary, Mr Andreas Coutsoudis: coutsoudis@kznlaw.com

- f. ***Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland Scholarship:*** You may apply to the BLMNS selection committee if you fulfil the residence requirement in one of the mentioned countries. The procedure is the same as that for the South Africa-at-Large Scholarships.

4. Expenses

- a. Reasonable travel expenses to the nearest selection committee for the purpose of interviews will be paid.
- b. Accommodation within South Africa will be supplied and paid for by the Trust.
- c. If you are invited to a preliminary interview in KwaZulu-Natal but are living outside the province, the Trust will, on demonstrated need, consider assisting you in covering your expenses.

5. Information to be submitted with application

- a. You must submit a completed application form on-line at <https://apply.embark.com/scholarship/RhodesTrust> or in hard copy (available from your regional secretary www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/page/people-in-southern-africa) with the documents and information detailed below:
 - i. A certified copy of your birth certificate, to show that you are in the correct age group.
 - ii. Certified copies of your degree certificates.
 - iii. A certified official record of your academic results.
 - iv. Details of any employment or enterprise you have undertaken during your studies or thereafter.
 - v. Curriculum vitae, showing details of what you have achieved: your high school career; your college or university career; your involvement in student or community affairs, cultural, sporting or political activities; your leadership roles; and any other significant achievements or involvements.
 - vi. A statement divided into parts A and B:
 1. Part A
 - a. Explain your general interests and activities and what you plan to do with your life once you have completed your studies.
 - b. In this statement you get a chance to discuss your aims and priorities and the contribution you have made and would like to make to society.

- c. It is expected that Part A will be no more than three typed pages.
2. Part B
 - a. Indicate the course of study and degree you wish to follow at Oxford.
 - b. Also demonstrate that you are able to meet the requirements of the specific course you have chosen.
 - c. Applicants wishing to undertake a DPhil must provide a brief outline of their proposed research.
- vii. Your personal statement and Part B in particular, is a very important part of your application. **It is very important for you to have considered what course and degree you wish to follow at Oxford before you submit your application.** It is a good idea to discuss your proposed course of study with your professors or lecturers in that field, and, if possible, with someone who has knowledge of United Kingdom universities. Additional sources of information are the current issues of the *University of Oxford Graduate Prospectus* and the *University of Oxford Undergraduate Prospectus* available online at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions>, as well as departmental websites.
- viii. A list of six people (your referees) who can be contacted by the selection committee for further detailed information about you:
 1. Furnish the business and home (or mobile) telephone and fax numbers as well as the postal and email addresses of all your referees.
 2. Choose reliable people who are likely to respond to requests for written reports as their reports will be crucial to your application. Ask their permission before listing them as referees.
 3. At least four of your referees should be university academics who have taught you and who can comment on your academic ability and how well they think you would fare at Oxford.
 4. Other referees can include teachers and other persons who are able to comment critically on whether you fulfil the requirements Rhodes set out in his Will. A good referee is one who knows you well, rather than a well-known person who only knows you superficially. It is not advisable to get close contemporaries or personal friends to be referees.
- ix. If you are not applying on-line, two 15cm × 10cm (6" × 4") head-and-shoulder colour photographs – i.e. not passport photograph size.
- x. Include your home address, cellphone number and email address.
- xi. All documents must be in English or English translations must be provided.
- xii. CD-Rom and emailed applications will not be accepted.

- xiii. If submitting a paper application, please remember that all documents you submit have to be photocopied, so do not bind, staple or clip them in a folder.
6. **Interviews:** Applicants who cannot be at the relevant selection committee interviews will not be considered. For your guidance:
- a. The regional and school selection committees usually meet in October/November.
 - b. The BLMNS selection committee will hold its interviews towards the end of November and the South Africa-at-Large selections are usually held on the first weekend of December.

For further information about the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Scholarships,
see www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk