



## THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

### AUSTRALIA

(For Election in 2011 for 2012)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*How important is sport? I love playing, but I have never managed to get above 2nd or 3rd grade. I have been told you need to have a University Blue to be in the running.*

The Will of Cecil Rhodes specified that Scholars must exhibit “energy to use one’s talents,” rather than demonstrate a certain level of sporting achievement. Sporting involvement can also be used to demonstrate your leadership skills (for example coaching a team) and your ability to work with others in a team.

*What is community work?*

There is no set definition for service. Rather, we are interested in students who demonstrate certain characteristics including:

- truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship; and
- moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings.

*Does my school principal count as an academic referee?*

No. Your school principal would be a referee who "can write of your school days". Academic referees should have more recent knowledge of your academic abilities and should preferably know you through your university study.

***One or more of my referees will be overseas when reports are due. Is it possible for them to supply their reports before they go?***

Yes. You will need to start completing your application and enter your referee's details on-line. An email will be automatically sent to your referee with instructions on how to lodge their report – which they may do before the due date.

***I had all of my schooling in South Australia, but I am doing my University degree in New South Wales. Where should I apply?***

You should apply in the State in which you receive, or will receive, your first degree.

***I completed my degree in Victoria and am completing my honours year in the ACT. Where should I apply?***

You should apply in Victoria.

***One of the conditions of eligibility states that I should not have reached my twenty-fifth birthday by 1 October in the year I submit my application. I turn 25 on 25 September. It is only 5 days outside the limit – can a special case be made for me to apply?***

No. Not even if you turn 25 on 30 September.

***I have permanent residency, but I am not an Australian citizen. Can I apply for the scholarship?***

No, not unless you can produce evidence of citizenship no later than 1 September.

***I have seven referees – can I use them all?***

No, and if you supply seven names, we will use the first six.

***I will not complete my honours thesis until the end of the first semester next year. Can I apply this year?***

Yes, if you believe your academic referees will be able to speak with complete confidence about your expected performance at the end of your honours year. While you can apply this year (and next year, if you are still within the age limit) we do discourage candidates from having a "trial run".

***It's the middle of August and I have just learned one of my referees is too ill to supply a reference. Can I substitute another?***

Yes. You will need to delete that referees details from your on-line application and enter your new referee's details. The report will still be due by 1 September or the date advised by your State or Territory Secretary.

***I'm planning to do a research degree. When should I get in touch with the department at Oxford in which I want to work?***

The sooner the better. You should be aware that the Oxford academic year runs from the beginning of October to the end of June. This means that many members of the academic staff may be away from Oxford between July and September, and you may find it difficult to make contact with the person in your research area who can best advise you.

You will need to be well advanced by May, otherwise you may find it difficult to get any commitment or indication from the Oxford department that they would be keen to have you on their research team. In general, any expression of interest from Oxford is conditional on you obtaining a scholarship of some sort, whether it be a Rhodes Scholarship, or any other.

***Would the fact that I am applying for other scholarships adversely influence the committee's decision in any way?***

Not at all. Indeed, the Committee would be very surprised if Rhodes applicants were not also applying for other scholarships in order to maximise their chances of being able to study overseas.

***I am doing a Science/Law degree. I got First Class Honours in Physics in my Science degree course, and I expect to complete Law this year. Should I apply this year or wait until I see how I go in Law?***

It is not easy to generalise, but you should probably apply this year unless you have a very good reason for waiting a year (assuming you will still be within the age limit). It would be surprising if you did not have a fairly good idea of how you are going in your Law studies by mid-year!

If you are unsure what to do, please talk to the Honorary Secretary.