

RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CANADA

Introduction of University Certification for Canadian Rhodes Scholarship Applications

Deadline for submission: Monday 28 September 2026, before 23:59 Pacific Time

Overview:

The Rhodes Trust is introducing an update to the role of universities in the Canadian Rhodes Scholarships application process, moving *from* an institutional endorsement model *to* a “**certification model**”. Under this revised approach, universities will no longer be required to provide institutional endorsement letters for applicants from their university for the Rhodes Scholarships. Instead, universities will need to complete a short certification form, completing four questions to attest to the applicant’s status at the institution. In addition, there will be the *option* for universities to provide additional commentary about a particular applicant’s candidacy at their discretion. The online submission process will otherwise remain unchanged.

Rationale for the Change:

Under the former “university endorsement” model, applicants were required to obtain an institutional endorsement, often accompanied by an evaluative letter from their university. While this has often enabled institutions to provide valuable input to the Rhodes Scholarships selection committee, some applicants have, from time to time, experienced challenges in receiving their university’s endorsement, including uncertainty around identifying the appropriate endorser and/or navigating their university’s processes. In some cases, we understand that highly qualified candidates have chosen not to proceed with an application due to these challenges.

The proposed new “certification” model is intended to clarify the university role in the Rhodes Scholarship application process, and ensuring all eligible students the opportunity to submit a complete application for review by Rhodes Selection Committees.

New Process:

Under the **certification model**, institutions will confirm that an applicant to the Rhodes Scholarships meets four base criteria. This will be done through a standardized format, establishing a baseline of institutional verification, consistent across all applicants to Rhodes Scholarships Selection Committees in Canada.

The certification consists of the following:

Required Certification Component (yes/no format):

- 1) Is/was the applicant a student at your university?
- 2) Is the applicant in good standing (e.g. academic performance; is not subject to disciplinary action; etc.)?
 - i) Please input the candidate’s cumulative GPA: (open field)
- 3) To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant on track to have completed an undergraduate degree by July 2027?
- 4) To the best of your knowledge, is there any aspect of the applicant’s conduct, character, or history that is inconsistent with the high standards of behaviour expected of Rhodes Scholars, as exemplified in the selection criteria?

The university certification remains a required component for an application to be considered complete and continues to be an opportunity to enhance the application through institutional validation, adding credibility and support to the application while aiming to remove disparities between candidates who cannot secure a full endorsement.

Institutions may, at their discretion, provide additional commentary through two optional text fields:

Optional component (free-text fields):

1. Comment on the student's demonstration of the [four selection criteria](#)
2. Provide further information on the applicant's candidacy for the Rhodes Scholarship (e.g. commentary on the applicant's performance at your university and beyond).

If choosing to submit additional information through the two optional questions, universities should consider that the Selection Committees for the Rhodes Scholarships will have a copy of the applicant's academic transcript, their academic statement of study, curriculum vitae, personal statement and letters of reference so any additional information included here should be commentary in addition to what is found in these elements of the application package.

The online submission process will otherwise remain unchanged – an automated email from the application system will be generated once an applicant has registered their certifier. This email will include a link to the online certification form. Institutions are welcome to continue their existing internal application procedures.

Information Session:

We will be holding a virtual session to provide further information about the Rhodes Scholarships and how you can support applicants from your university. This session will take place on May 21, 2026 at 2:00 PM ET and will be recorded. Please feel welcome to share this session with other staff or faculty at your university who may be interested to attend.

Register here: https://rhodeshouse-ox-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZnvT-m_XR7S8iLyVHPQWDQ

If you have you have questions/concerns, please reach out to Pamela Chang, Regional Director, at pamela.chang@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk