

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP : DETAILED CONDITIONS OF TENURE

We expect Rhodes Scholars to flourish academically at Oxford and to make thoughtful choices about their academic trajectory, taking into account the knowledge, skills and experience they hope to gain for their future contribution and impact.

The Rhodes Scholarship is a two-year scholarship. The expectation is that Scholars will undertake a coherent programme of postgraduate study at the University of Oxford that can normally be completed within two years.

Whilst the standard tenure of the Rhodes Scholarship is two years, the Trust supports a range of academic pathways, including professional programmes and doctoral study. However, these latter two categories fall outside the standard tenure model and are therefore subject to additional conditions and annual limits as described below.

Award of the Rhodes Scholarship does not guarantee admission to Oxford. Scholars-elect will apply to Oxford for their preferred course immediately post-selection. Subject to the requirements outlined below, Rhodes Scholars may read for any eligible full-time postgraduate taught or research degree at the University of Oxford (see *Degrees Eligible for Study* overleaf).

The University of Oxford offers two broad categories of full-time graduate study: [taught postgraduate degrees](#) (PGT) and [research degrees](#) (PGR). See '[Where do I start?](#)' for details of the different types of degrees offered by the University of Oxford and for guidance on how to choose.

STANDARD TENURE (Two Years)

For most Scholars, we expect a standard tenure of two years to complete studies at Master's level or to undertake a second undergraduate degree.

Scholars may choose to pursue:

- A two-year MPhil or BPhil
- A two-year MSc by Research
- Two successive one-year taught Master's degrees (e.g. MSc, MSt, MFA, BCL), subject to the restrictions below
- BA with Senior Status over two years (Second BA)

For Scholars on the Standard Tenure, the Trust will support University tuition fees (at the appropriate rate) and stipend for up to two years, depending on the length of the course.

ALTERNATIVE TENURES

The Rhodes Scholarship is principally a two-year scholarship. One-year tenure of the Scholarship and Doctoral Tenure fall outside the standard tenure model and are subject to additional conditions and limitations, as described below:

One-Year Tenure

The 'professional' degrees offered by Oxford, [such as the MPP (Master of Public Policy), MBA (Master of Business Administration) and MFE (Master of Financial Economics)], are available only as a one-year tenure on the Rhodes Scholarship. The number of Scholars able to pursue these programmes each year will be subject to annual limits. See *Detailed Notes* overleaf.

Scholars wishing to pursue other one-year Master's degrees may also elect to undertake a one-year tenure where this best supports their intended academic and professional trajectory.

For Scholars undertaking a one-year tenure, the Trust will support University tuition fees and stipend for up to twelve months depending on the length of their chosen programme.

DOCTORAL TENURE

The Rhodes Trust is committed to supporting exceptional doctoral Scholars whose proposed DPhil is central to the future contribution and impact they hope to make in the world. The doctoral tenure options below are intended for

Scholars who can demonstrate that undertaking the DPhil at Oxford at this stage of their academic and professional journey is a necessary next step towards achieving their long-term aspirations. As non-standard tenure options, places for Doctoral Tenure are approved after selection as a Rhodes Scholar and subject to a further competitive process for a limited number of awards. Candidates will be guided through the doctoral review process following selection as a Rhodes Scholar-elect. For more information, see Detailed Notes on Doctoral Pathways overleaf.

There are two possible pathways, as below, depending on your intended academic discipline and whether you already hold, or will shortly hold, a Master's qualification:

Doctoral Tenure : Direct Entry

Candidates in the following categories may apply direct to a DPhil at Oxford and are encouraged to do so:

- i) Those who already have, or will have by the time of entry to Oxford, a Master's qualification may apply direct to DPhil in any of Oxford's four [Academic Divisions](#);
- ii) Those wishing to pursue a DPhil under one of the Science Divisions ([Mathematical](#), [Physical & Life Sciences](#) or [Medical Sciences](#)) are usually eligible to apply direct from their undergraduate qualification (subject to the detailed eligibility requirements listed on the course page for your course).

Those wishing to pursue this option on the Scholarship should make a clear statement of intent to do so within their Rhodes application. Please note that the Three-year Doctoral Tenure (Direct Entry) is conditional on admission to the degree by Oxford *and* to approval by the Rhodes Academic Review Board via a competitive applications process. We therefore expect candidates for this route to have a clearly thought through two-year 'standard tenure' academic programme in mind as well.

For Scholars approved for Doctoral Tenure (Direct Entry), the Trust will support University tuition fees and stipend for up to three years, conditional on satisfactory academic progress and personal conduct.

Doctoral Tenure : via a one-year Master's degree (1+3 pathway)

Whereas the majority of DPhil programmes within the Science Divisions (as above) admit direct from an undergraduate degree, the majority of DPhil programmes within the [Humanities](#) & [Social Sciences](#) Divisions require a Master's qualification for admission to DPhil. For those who do not possess a Master's on first entry to Oxford, there is provision for some Scholars to take a one-year Master's degree as preparation for the DPhil (the 1+3 pathway).

For full details of this exceptional tenure, please see Detailed Notes overleaf. Given the very restricted number of places available for this longer doctoral tenure (four years), candidates for this route (approved during your first year of study at Oxford) should ensure they have a clearly thought through 'standard tenure' academic programme in mind as an alternative

For Scholars approved for a 1+3 doctoral tenure, the Trust will support University tuition fees and stipend for up to four years.

DEGREES ELIGIBLE FOR STUDY UNDER THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Rhodes Scholars may pursue almost any full-time postgraduate degree offered by Oxford. (Note: a postgraduate diploma or certificate is not deemed to be a postgraduate degree).

Exceptions: The four-year Accelerated Graduate-Entry course in Medicine is not tenable on the Rhodes Scholarship, nor is the DCLinPsych (Doctorate in Clinical Psychology) or other courses requiring employment within the National Health Service. For courses which require a term or more at other universities, please direct your query to scholarship.queries@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

IMPORTANT NOTE ON TENURE OF THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Continuing tenure of the Rhodes Scholarship is subject always to satisfactory academic progress and personal conduct, regardless of degree choice or approved tenure length.

Deferral of the Rhodes Scholarship is not permitted save in the most exceptional circumstances.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP : CONDITIONS OF TENURE : ADDITIONAL NOTES

One-year Tenure

The Rhodes Scholarship is principally a two-year award and we expect the majority of Scholars to take full advantage of the opportunity to spend two years at Oxford. However, we recognise that, for a small number of Scholars, a one-year tenure makes sense in light of their particular circumstances.

'Professional' degrees : The Rhodes Scholarship represents an investment in talented young people who wish to contribute to, and make impact for, the world through their future life and career. For some, one of the professionally-oriented degrees offered by Oxford (such as the MPP, MBA, MFE) may be the best choice. These courses aim to equip students for the next step in their professional journey. The Rhodes Scholarship therefore supports a limited number of professional degrees – but these must be taken as a one-year tenure.

Doctoral Tenure : direct entry

Following selection as a Rhodes Scholar, Rhodes House will give full guidance on the process for applying to pursue the doctoral tenure on the Scholarship. The process is not onerous. Candidates should understand that proceeding on a doctoral tenure is conditional upon both admission by Oxford for your proposed DPhil and by the Rhodes Academic Review Board. As such, candidates are strongly encouraged to also apply for a course which falls under the standard two-year tenure.

Doctoral Tenure : (1+3)

Candidates interested in pursuing this tenure will apply in the first instance for a one-year Master's degree which will serve as preparation for the doctoral degree they wish to pursue. In the course of their first term at Oxford, they will apply to Oxford for the DPhil and to the Rhodes Trust, as above, for decision by the Rhodes Academic Review Board. Progression to DPhil will be conditional on both admission to Oxford and approval by the Rhodes Doctoral Review Board. In addition, awards for this longer tenure are very limited, so candidates are strongly encouraged to apply for a second one-year Master's degree as well.

Doctoral Tenure : Oxford's integrated 4-year degrees

Oxford, through its [MPLS Doctoral Training Centre](#) and [Medical Sciences Doctoral Training Centre](#), offers a number of integrated four-year DPhil programmes. These programmes can only be considered for tenure on the Scholarship if a) alternative funding is secured from the programme concerned for at least one year of the 4-year programme and b) if approved by the Rhodes Academic Review Board. For application purposes, candidates wishing to pursue these programmes should proceed as for the Doctoral Tenure – direct entry. Further guidance will be offered on award of the Scholarship and Scholars are expected to have a two-year alternative in mind.

Doctoral Tenure : General

Candidates should note that Oxford DPhil programmes often take longer than three years to complete (typically 3-4 years). Candidates should therefore consider carefully how they will support themselves beyond Rhodes tenure. Alternative sources of funding might include Oxford departmental funding (occasional), grants, other external scholarship support, part-time work (as permitted by your visa) and junior deanships.