

## THE RHODES GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2026

### Guidance for Nominating Institutions

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 31 July 2025 (11:59 PM, GMT)**

#### Overview

Based at the University of Oxford, The Rhodes Scholarships bring together and develop exceptional young people from all over the world, and in all fields of study, who are committed to being of service, impatient with the way things are, and have the courage to act.

The Rhodes Scholarship is a life changing opportunity: a fully funded, full time, postgraduate award which enables talented young people from around the world to study at the University of Oxford for two or more years. Our mission is to identify, support and develop leaders to achieve public good and this is what the Rhodes Scholarships have done, with remarkable success, since their inception in 1903.

Administered by The Rhodes Trust, scholarships are awarded in 25 Rhodes constituencies (representing over 60 different countries) around the world, to over 100 recipients each year. In 2018, the Global Scholarships were launched and two Global Scholarships are now available each year to eligible candidates from the rest of the world. As part of the application process for the Global Scholarships, candidates must be nominated by their university. The Rhodes Selection Committee is looking for outstanding young people who are motivated to engage with the global challenges facing humankind, to 'esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim', and to promote international understanding and peace. In short, the Committee seeks young people of outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service, who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as 'leaders for the world's future', wherever their careers might take them, and in any field.

Proven intellectual and academic quality of a very high standard is the first quality required of candidates. However, and just as important, they will also be required to demonstrate integrity of character, interest in and respect for their fellow human beings, the ability to lead, the energy to use their talents to the full and the desire to make an effective contribution to the world around them as described above. An academically brilliant candidate who does not display these other traits is unlikely to be successful.

For more information on the Rhodes Scholarship itself, or tailored information for advisors and referees, please see our website: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/>

#### Guidance for institutional nominations

When the candidate starts their application in the online application portal (Embark), they must fill out the details of their Nominator. This triggers an email to the Nominator who will be asked to complete a brief form with their details and submit their Nomination Letter via the Embark portal. In nominating a candidate, institutions must attest that the student is very highly academically qualified (an outstanding student amongst their classmates); that the student is in good standing at the University; and that they have not been subject to any disciplinary proceedings.

Nominators should write a frank and confidential letter regarding the candidate's qualifications. It is helpful for nominators to comment on the candidate's relative academic standing in comparison with other students on the same course at the same institution – e.g., top 1%, 5%, 10%, 25%? And this is in comparison with how many students in the candidate's year group on their programme of study? On what basis are you making your assessment – personal assessment or official class rank?

In terms of the other selection criteria, we want to understand how long you have known the candidate; why you are nominating them to be a Rhodes Global Scholar; what you consider to be the candidate's strengths as a person and what aspects of their character are particularly notable as well as their leadership traits and any extra-curricular accomplishments or awards. Please speak of the applicant's limitations as well as strong points. Committees tend naturally to be dubious of hyperbole and appraisals that imply a given individual has no limitations. Your reply will, of course, be treated as strictly confidential by the Selection Committee.

Senior institutional officials, including the President, Dean, Rector, Vice-Provost or other official responsible for graduate fellowships, may nominate a candidate. An undergraduate institution may nominate a candidate by stating that he or she has satisfactorily completed two years of full-time study and received a bachelor's degree, or will have in the year following the Rhodes Scholarship application. It is necessary that candidates receive their nomination from the institution from which they received their degree, or from the institution at which they are currently studying. *Each institution may nominate up to three candidates.*

The Rhodes Trust requires that the Nomination Letter be on headed paper, signed and uploaded in pdf format. The Nomination Letter should not exceed two A4 pages.

**Rhodes Scholarship nomination letters are confidential and institutional representatives should not share them directly with nominated applicants.**

**Nominations must be received before 11:59 PM GMT, 31 July 2025.**

## Timeline

2 June 2025	Nominations and applications open
31 July 2025	Final deadline for applications, references and nominations
August–September 2025	Longlisting, shortlisting and preliminary virtual interviews
30–31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025	Final selection interviews at Rhodes House, Oxford
December 2025 – Jan 2026	Deadlines for applications to Oxford University
Late September 2026	Arrival in Oxford to commence studies

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Question:** How many nominations may each University submit?

**Answer:** Each University may submit a maximum of **three** nominations for Global candidates. At present, only two Global Scholarships are available each year to eligible candidates so competition for the Global Rhodes Scholarship is fierce.

**Question:** Who is eligible to be nominated for a Global Rhodes Scholarship?

**Answer:** In short, most academically brilliant young people that already hold or will hold a strong undergraduate degree by July 2026, and are not citizens of [any other Rhodes constituency](#). You can check the eligibility of potential nominees by going through our [Eligibility Checker](#) with them. If you would prefer to print the eligibility criteria, or require an accessible version of them, you can find them in the Information for Candidates document found on [this page](#).

**Question:** What if a nominee is eligible to apply in another Rhodes constituency?

**Answer:** If a candidate is eligible to apply in [another Rhodes constituency](#), (for example if they hold dual citizenship and meet that constituency's criteria), they must apply there. The Global Scholarship is only open to candidates who are ineligible to apply in any other Rhodes constituency.

**Question: What are the characteristics of an ideal Rhodes Global Scholar nominee? Precisely what type of person are you looking for?**

**Answer:** We are looking for young people who are outstanding in their chosen field, with the ambition and drive to be future leaders in society. The selection criteria for nominees are:

- literary and scholastic attainments (academic excellence)
- energy to use one's talents to the full (as demonstrated by mastery in areas such as sports, music, debate, dance, theatre, and artistic pursuits, particularly where teamwork is involved)
- truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindliness, unselfishness and fellowship
- moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings

Applicants must have already completed, or will have completed by July 2026, an undergraduate degree (normally a Bachelor's degree) with an academic background and grade that - at a minimum - meets or exceeds the specific entry requirements [of their chosen full-time course at the University of Oxford](#). Given the very intense international competition for places at the University of Oxford, candidates will have a greater chance of successful admission to Oxford if they have: a First Class Honours Degree or equivalent, or, a GPA of 3.70/4.0 or higher (with no rounding), or international grades that are the equivalent of these.

The Rhodes Trust warmly welcomes applications from talented young people of diverse backgrounds. Selection of Rhodes Scholars is made without regard to gender, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, colour, religion, social background, caste, or disability.

**Question: Which universities are eligible to make a nomination? Does my institution need to register before nominating candidates?**

**Answer:** In principle, any internationally recognised University may nominate up to three young people who fulfil the eligibility criteria. There is no requirement for institutions to formally register if they wish to nominate students, but we do warmly invite universities to reach out to us at [global.secretary@rhodetrust.com](mailto:global.secretary@rhodetrust.com) with any questions they may have, either about the nomination itself, or any other aspect of the Rhodes Scholarship selection process.

**Question: Within my institution, who should nominate our chosen candidates?**

**Answer:** Senior institutional officials, including the President, Dean, Rector, Vice-Provost or other official responsible for graduate fellowships, may nominate a candidate. We know that candidates may reach out to the head of their course or academic department, but ideally nominations should come from a senior individual that works across the entire institution to ensure that candidates from all disciplines are considered. By having a senior official as the sole nominator, this also ensures that each institution does not nominate more than three candidates.

**Question: What information needs to be provided in order to nominate candidates?**

**Answer:** When the candidate starts their application in the online application portal (Embark), they must fill out the details of their Nominator. This triggers a request via email to the Nominator who will be asked to complete a brief form with their details, and submit their Nomination Letter via the Embark portal. Without this nomination, the candidate will not be able to submit their application.

Further questions may be submitted to: [global.secretary@rhodetrust.com](mailto:global.secretary@rhodetrust.com) or [scholarship.queries@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](mailto:scholarship.queries@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)