



“A privilege and a responsibility.”



“It’s not a scholarship just for academics, or for people who are sporty. It’s looking for a person who has leadership potential, and who also has a heart of service.”

“There’s no one model. It’s a bolt of lightning. You get it if you are who you are. If you do YOU really well.”

STEPHEN WANG ON BEING A RHODES SCHOLAR

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A RHODES SCHOLAR

It is both a privilege and a responsibility. There is not one type of Rhodes Scholar. There are many kinds of leaders and many ways to bring change to this world in the direction of greater international understanding. Global challenges are myriad and require many different types of people to overcome them.

What distinguishes the Rhodes from any other scholarship is that all-around excellence is not enough, you need to really have a vision for what you wish to contribute to this world, and it is based on a sense of service and moral leadership in whatever field that is.

WHAT IT IS LIKE TO STUDY AT OXFORD

It is about stepping off the treadmill and having the gift of time to think deeply about what your vision is and how it can be better realized. It is a character-building experience. It is humbling because you realize everyone is so much better than you in some particular aspect. Rather than it being about proving you have all the right ideas, it is about seeking understanding of why others have different perspectives.

SELECTION PROCESS EXPERIENCE

It is an honour just to make it to this final stage. One has made all the preparation in the world, but at this point, it is about being yourself, showing the panel who you really are, what you believe, what you aspire to in life and why. Given how qualified everyone is, whether you are chosen or not, is to some degree out of your control. But just reminding yourself of that can take off some of the pressure. Just be the best you.

I was asked about everything under the sun, including if there is one thing I want to be remembered for in life, what that would be. I am not sure if there is a secret to winning except I left the interview feeling that even if I was not chosen, at least I was able to show the panel who I was, and I left it all at the table. The rest is up to fate, as we say in Chinese culture, but there is a feeling of being at peace with oneself.