

**THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FOR JAMAICA AND COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN**

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES** - for selection for 2018 only  
(This Memorandum cancels those issued for previous years)

**Background Information**

The Rhodes Scholarship is administered by the Rhodes Trust, Oxford, United Kingdom. Scholarships are awarded in 20 Rhodes constituencies (64 different countries) around the world. Selection Committees for the Rhodes Scholarship are looking for outstanding leaders who are motivated to engage with global challenges, to 'esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim', and to promote international understanding and peace. In short, Selection Committees seek young women and men of outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service, and who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as 'leaders for the world's future'.

Please see the Rhodes Trust website for full details: [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)

*The information below assumes that you have read and familiarised yourself with the basic selection criteria for the Rhodes Scholarships on the Rhodes Trust website. You should also pay close attention to the detailed Conditions of Tenure for the Scholarship, available her: [http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/application\\_conditions-of-tenure](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/application_conditions-of-tenure)*

**1. Closing date**

Applications must be submitted online by 23:59, local time, 30 September 2017.

**2. Eligibility criteria**

Candidates from the Commonwealth Caribbean may apply for one of two Scholarships as follows:

- The Jamaica Rhodes Scholarship, available to candidates from Jamaica only;
- The Commonwealth Caribbean Rhodes Scholarship, available to candidates from the Caribbean generally, excluding Jamaicans (but subject to the Selection Committee's discretion).

Candidates with dual citizenship may not apply to more than one of the [Rhodes constituencies](#).

a. *Nationality/citizenship* : You must fulfil one of the following criteria:

- i. You must be a citizen of one of those countries that have gained independence from Great Britain (Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, St. Kitts-Nevis); OR
- ii. you must be a Commonwealth Dependent Territories citizen of Montserrat, Anguilla, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands or British Virgin Islands; OR
- iii. One of your parents must have been domiciled and resident in one or more of these territories for at least five (5) years immediately preceding 1st January in the year of your candidature, or, in the event of both being dead, was domiciled and resident in one of these territories for at least five (5) years prior to his or her death.

b. *Education/residency* : You must have been educated in one or more of the above territories for at least five (5) years between the ages of nine and twenty.

c. *Age* : You must have reached your 19th and not have passed your 25th birthday on 1 October 2018, which means you must have been born after 30 September 1993 and on or before 1 October 1999.

d. *Academic achievement* : You must have completed (or will have completed by the summer of 2018) an undergraduate degree from a college or university (normally a Bachelor's degree) to a sufficiently high standard to be admitted to postgraduate study at the University of Oxford. In this respect, please note carefully the requirements for your chosen course [at Oxford](#).

### 3. Application Procedure

- a. Candidates may apply online from **1 June 2017** at <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk> via the scholarships tab.
- b. You must submit your application online, with all supporting documents, **by 23:59, local time, 30 September 2017**.
- c. In preparation for making their application, all candidates should read carefully the general information for candidates on the Rhodes website, the [Conditions of Tenure](#) for the Rhodes Scholarship, the information in this document and the graduate admissions pages of the University of Oxford: [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate).
- d. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. No candidate will be selected without interview. You must be available to attend the interview, **in person**, as no accommodations can be made on date and time of interview.

The interviews will take place in Jamaica, for the Jamaica Rhodes Scholarship; and in Barbados for the Commonwealth Caribbean Rhodes Scholarship. Although Jamaican candidates will not generally be considered for the Commonwealth Caribbean Scholarship, the discretion in this regard resides with the Secretary of the Selection Committee which might invite one or more Jamaican candidates after his/her interview to attend the interview in Barbados. Candidates for the Commonwealth Caribbean Scholarship invited for interview residing outside of Barbados may apply to the Secretary for financial assistance to travel from their country of origin within the Caribbean region to Barbados and return, provided that the travel is not funded by their University or other sponsorship source.

- e. Candidates who do not receive further communication by the above date should assume that their application has not been successful.

### 4. Documents and details to be submitted with application

You must submit a completed application form on-line (please see 3a) with the documents and information detailed below. All documents must be submitted in English, or English translations provided. Please note that, if you are invited to interview, you will be asked to bring the originals of all documents with you:

- a. Your birth certificate confirming that you meet the age criterion;
- b. A copy of a valid passport, confirming that you meet the citizenship criteria.
- c. An official transcript from the university at which you are studying, or have studied, showing grades achieved.
- d. A certified copy of 'O level', 'A level', CAPE or CSEC certificates or other certified evidence of subjects studied and examinations passed.
- e. A full curriculum vitae which should include details about prizes, scholarships, positions of leadership, involvement in student, voluntary, community or political activities and any cultural, musical or sporting accomplishments. This should not exceed two A4 (12pt) pages in length.
- f. A head-and-shoulder colour photograph (jpg format). Please note your photo will not be available to the selection committee until after final shortlisting decisions have been made.
- g. A signed personal statement of no more than 1,000 words which:
  - i. Addresses your general interests and activities and what you plan to do with your life once you have completed your studies;
  - ii. Discusses your aims and priorities and the contribution you have made and would like to make to your home country and the region;
  - iii. Indicates the course of study and degree you wish to follow at Oxford.

**It is very important for you to have considered what course and degree you wish to follow at Oxford before you submit your application.** It is a good idea to discuss your proposed course of study with your professors or lecturers in that field, and, if possible, with someone who has knowledge of United Kingdom universities.

Additional sources of information are available online at [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions), as well as on individual faculty/departmental websites;

- iv. Demonstrates that you are able to meet the requirements of the specific course you have chosen. Candidates are advised that it is a requirement of many post-graduate courses to submit samples of written work. Some courses also require successful completion of the GRE or GMAT. Please read the Oxford graduate studies prospectus carefully: [www.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ox.ac.uk)
- v. If you wish to undertake a DPhil, you must provide an outline of your proposed research, how it contributes to your future career plans and list one or more researchers under whom you would like to work in Oxford.

Your personal statement must be clearly signed by you and **must state under your signature that it is your own work and that no external help was given in its creation or editing.**

*Notes on the personal statement:* The personal statement is your chance to tell your story in your own voice: Who are you? What matters to you? What are you hoping to do in the world? Your academic transcript, your curriculum vitae and your reference letters will provide the substantive detail of your commitments and accomplishments, but this essay gives you the opportunity to cast the overarching narrative for the selection committee. You can see current Rhodes Scholars speaking about the personal statement via the link within the 'Have you prepared a personal statement?' section at [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarship/how-to-apply-for-a-rhodes-scholarship/](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarship/how-to-apply-for-a-rhodes-scholarship/)

- h. You will need to provide a list of six people (your referees), who are willing to submit references on your behalf:
  - i. You will need to provide email addresses of all your referees.
  - ii. At least four of your referees should be academics who have taught you in your undergraduate studies and who can comment in detail on your academic ability and how well they think you would fare at Oxford.
  - iii. Additional character referees should testify to your character and/or your involvement in extra-curricular/service or leadership activities. These referees should be persons who are able to comment critically on whether you fulfil the extra-curricular, non-academic requirements of the Scholarship and who can speak in detail to your character. A good referee is one who knows you well, rather than a well-known person who only knows you superficially. Your referees must not be personal friends, relations or contemporaries.
  - iv. Choose reliable people who are likely to respond to your request for a detailed reference, as their reports will be crucial to your application.
  - v. Ask their permission before listing them as referees.
  - vi. Forward to them the Guidance for Referees available on the final page of this document. They will receive an auto-generated email request for reference once you have completed the referee section of the online form. They will also be asked to provide their business and home (or mobile) telephone and fax numbers as well as their postal address for verification purposes.
  - vii. It is your responsibility to ensure that referees submit their reference in good time (before the application deadline of **23:59 local time, 6 October 2017**).
- i. Candidates should not include documents, certificates or testimonials other than those required.
- j. All applications must be submitted online. No alternate method of application is accepted.

## 5. Selection Procedure

- a. Selection for the Rhodes Scholarship is made without regard to financial means.
- b. If you have dual citizenship, you may apply to one constituency only.

- c. Selection for the Rhodes Scholarship is made without regard to marital status, race, ethnic origin, colour, gender, religion, sexual orientation, social background, disability, caste or other irrelevant distinction.
- d. The Rhodes Scholarship for which you are applying is for entry to Oxford in October 2018 and may not be deferred.
- e. The Rhodes Scholarship is confirmed only upon successful admission to the University of Oxford.
- f. If there is no suitable candidate in any given year, the Selection Committee will not select.
- g. The decision of the Selection Committee is final. A selection committee will make no nomination if it is of the opinion that there is no sufficiently qualified candidate.

**6. Procedure after Selection**

- a. Please note that successful applicants will need to apply to the University of Oxford very soon after selection. Full details will be given upon selection.
- b. The full application of successful candidates will be forwarded to Rhodes House, Oxford, where the Scholarship references will be used as appropriate in support of the candidate's subsequent application to Oxford.
- c. Applicants for a second undergraduate degree with senior status will need to submit a paper application, provided on selection, which must reach Oxford by Friday, 1 December 2017. Candidates must therefore make a quick submission immediately following selection.
- d. Successful candidates will be encouraged to disclose, in confidence, any medical condition or special needs which may require academic or personal support in Oxford. This disclosure is entirely voluntary and is requested only to enable Rhodes House to provide suitable support in Oxford and to make the transition to Oxford as smooth as possible.

*For further information about the Rhodes Scholarship, see [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)  
The Rhodes Trust reserves the right to vary these conditions at any time without notice.*

**THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP : JAMAICA AND COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN****GUIDANCE FOR REFEREES**

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a referee for one of the applicants for the Rhodes Scholarship. The following notes are intended to serve as a guide as you write your reference.

The Rhodes Scholarships are administered by the Rhodes Trust. The Rhodes Selection Committees are looking for outstanding young women and men 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. For further details, see: <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/>

The Rhodes Selection Committee will be grateful, therefore, if you would supply a frank and confidential statement regarding the candidate's qualifications. Your prompt response to the auto-generated email request will be of great assistance to the candidate and to the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee will have available for consideration a copy of the candidate's university academic transcript, curriculum vitae, and personal statement of academic interests, other pursuits, extracurricular activities and reasons for wishing to study at Oxford. Observations which would enhance the Committee's understanding of these records will be especially welcomed. **Your comments should not exceed two A4 pages.**

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.

A Rhodes Scholar will undertake postgraduate study at Oxford, a taught or research degree, or a second undergraduate degree with senior status. Subject to fulfilling the entry criteria for their chosen course, Rhodes Scholars may pursue any full-time postgraduate course offered by the University of Oxford, whether or not in their field of expertise. In all cases, entry to Oxford is very competitive indeed.

Whether you have been asked to provide an academic reference, or a character/extra-curricular reference, it is not expected that you will be able to speak from first-hand knowledge of all the candidate's qualifications.

**Academic referees:** If you are primarily acquainted with the candidate through a teacher/student relationship, it is expected that your appraisal will concentrate first and primarily on academic quality and potential, although your assessment of other qualities will be welcomed by the Committee. Academic referees should note that, in the case of a successful applicant, your letter will be used by Oxford departments and colleges for determining the Rhodes Scholar-elect's academic case for admission to postgraduate study. Consequently, a detailed assessment of the candidate's academic qualifications will be particularly helpful. Since the University of Oxford requires the following information from referees writing in support of graduate applicants, it would help the successful candidate if you can comment on: a) the applicant's relative academic standing in comparison with other students on the same course at the same institution – eg top 1%, 5%, 10%, 25%? b) In comparison with how many students in the applicant's year group on their programme of study, ie with how many students are you comparing the applicant? c) on what basis are you making the assessment – personal assessment/official class rank?

**Character referees:** If, on the other hand, you are better acquainted with the candidate through non-academic interests, it is expected that you will concentrate on assessment of character and non-academic qualities, in the knowledge that the Committee is looking for scholars who show promise of outstanding achievement in later life.

Please do not hesitate to speak of the candidate's limitations as well as strong points. Committees tend naturally to be dubious of appraisals that imply a given individual has no limitations. Your reply will, of course, be treated as strictly confidential to the Selection Committee (and to the necessary Oxford authorities in the case of the successful candidate).

All letters of recommendation for applicants should be addressed to the *Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee*. The Selection Committee asks that your letter of recommendation be on headed paper, signed, and uploaded in pdf format. You will receive an auto-generated email requesting the reference, which will contain instructions for completing and submitting your letter. All letters of reference are expected to be received via the Embark online system.

*Please note that candidates are asked **not** to list personal friends, contemporaries or relatives as referees.*

References **must be received by 23:59, local time, 6 October 2017.**