

**THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA**

including South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES** – for selection for 2018 only

(This Memorandum cancels those issued for previous years)

*This document assumes that you have read and are familiar with the basic admission criteria for the Rhodes Scholarships, available on the main Rhodes website. For detailed conditions of tenure, view the document at [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**

Your application must be submitted online by midnight, South African Standard Time (SAST) on 15 August 2017

**2. Countries, regions and schools**

Scholarships in Southern Africa are distributed as follows:

- a. **South Africa-at-Large Scholarships:** You should apply to the committee (the “Regional Selection Committee”) in whose area you permanently live or in which you have received, or are currently receiving, any considerable part of your education. Save for KwaZulu-Natal as explained below, all successful candidates from Regional Selection Committees are sent to the South Africa-at-Large Selection Committee, for the final round of interviews. The South Africa-at-Large Selection Committee selects successful candidates and recommends them to the Rhodes Trust, which ultimately makes the scholarship awards. There are four regional selection committees, namely:
  - i. Eastern Cape and Free State;
  - ii. KwaZulu-Natal;
  - iii. Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North-West; and
  - iv. Western Cape and Northern Cape.
- b. **KwaZulu-Natal Scholarship:** You may apply for the KwaZulu-Natal Scholarship if you live permanently or have received, or are currently receiving, a considerable part of your education in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). The KZN Selection Committee may make one direct recommendation (similar to those of the South Africa-at-Large Selection Committee) to the Rhodes Trust each year, and also acts as a Regional Selection Committee.
- c. **Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland Scholarship (BLMNS):** You may apply to the BLMNS selection committee if you fulfil the citizenship or legal residence requirement in one of the mentioned countries. The procedure is the same as that for the South Africa-at-Large Scholarships.
- d. **Named and partner schools:** Former pupils of the four named schools and their partner schools, namely:
  - i. Diocesan College (Bishops), St Cyprian's School, St George's Grammar School, Herschel Girls School, and LEAP 1 School (all in Rondebosch);
  - ii. Paul Roos Gymnasium, Rhenish Girls' High School and Bloemhof Girls' High School (all in [Stellenbosch](#));
  - iii. South African College School (SACS), Sans Souci Girls' High School and Rustenburg High School for Girls (all in Newlands); and
  - iv. St Andrew's College and Diocesan School for Girls (DSG) (both in Grahamstown), may apply for their relevant school Scholarship, or for the South Africa-at-Large (including KZN) or BLMNS Scholarships.

**3. Eligibility criteria**

- a. You must have a first degree by the time you start at Oxford, which means that you must be at least in the final year of your first degree when you apply for the Scholarship.
- b. Generally, applicants from South African universities will have had to do very well in their discipline. You will need to obtain a first class or a very strong upper second class degree.
- c. You must be a citizen or legal permanent resident of, and have resided for at least five years within the period of ten years immediately preceding your application, in South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia or Swaziland.
- d. You must have reached your 19<sup>th</sup> and not have passed your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday on 01 October 2018, which means you must have been born after 30 September 1993 and on or before 01 October 1999.
- e. For medical students and medical doctors the age limit is extended by up to three years to allow them to complete internship and community service. This means applicants must have been born after 30 September 1990 and on or before 1 October, 1999. The intention is to:
  - v. Avoid successful medical applicants having to postpone taking up the Scholarship;
  - vi. Enable applicants to complete their medical internships (2 years) and community service (1 year) before going to Oxford and to take up the Scholarship before completing their post-internship medical residency. Therefore, for applicants who do not intend to complete community service before taking up the scholarship the age limit is only extended by the two years required to complete the internship. For applicants who apply for the scholarship before commencing internship the normal age limit in (d) above applies.
- f. If you are registered for an MBChB or an MBBCh degree you may apply during your second year of internship, provided that you would not have not passed your 28<sup>th</sup> birthday on 1 October 2018.

**4. Application procedure**

- a. You may apply to one country only and, in South Africa, in one region or school only.
- b. You should apply online from early June, and by the closing date at (1) above: [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk) via the scholarship tab. Only in exceptional circumstances will paper applications be entertained. If you cannot submit online, contact your regional secretary (see page 6 of this document) for assistance. You are encouraged to do so sooner rather than waiting until the last minute.
- c. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. Applicants who cannot attend the relevant selection committee interview in person will not be considered.
  - The regional and school selection committees usually meet in October/November.
  - The BLMNS selection committee will hold its interviews towards the end of November.
  - The South Africa-at-Large selections are usually held on the last weekend of November or the first weekend of December.
  - Reasonable travel expenses to the nearest selection committee (and for those shortlisted by the KZN committee) for the purposes of interviews will be paid. The Trust will not be responsible for the cost of overseas travel.
  - Accommodation within South Africa will, where necessary, be provided.

**5. Information to be submitted with application**

As part of the application process, you must provide personal contact details and upload the following documents as specified. All documents must be in English, or English translations must be provided. Please ensure that you retain

any originals or authorised copies of documents you upload, since your Selection Committee will require them of all candidates invited for interview.

- i. A certified copy of your birth certificate. For those candidates not born in one of the above countries, please also supply additional materials necessary to validate citizenship or legal permanent residency;
- ii. A certified copy of your school leaving certificate;
- iii. Certified copies of your degree certificates;
- iv. A certified official record of your academic results;
- v. Details of any employment or enterprise you have undertaken during your studies or thereafter;
- vi. Curriculum vitae, showing details of what you have achieved: your high school career; your college or university career; your involvement in student or community affairs, cultural, sporting or political activities; your leadership roles; and any other significant achievements or involvements;
- vii. A statement divided into parts A and B (together not to exceed 1,000 words):

**Part A (Personal Statement)**

- Explain your general interests and activities and what you plan to do with your life once you have completed your studies;
- In this statement you get a chance to discuss your aims and priorities and the contribution you have made and would like to make to society;
- The Personal Statement must be endorsed with clear signature attesting to no external help being given in its creation.

**Part B (Statement of Intended Study)**

- Indicate the course of study and degree you wish to follow at Oxford;
  - Demonstrate that you are able to meet the requirements of the specific course you have chosen;
  - Applicants wishing to undertake a DPhil must provide a brief outline of their proposed research;
  - Your personal statement is a very important part of your application. It is 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. You should explore the detailed information on the Oxford University webpages <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate>, as well as departmental websites.
  - 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/)
- viii. A list of six people (your referees) who will provide the selection committee with further detailed information about you:
    - Furnish the business and home (or mobile) telephone and fax numbers as well as the postal and email addresses of all your referees.
    - Choose reliable people who are likely to respond to requests for written reports as their reports will be crucial to your application. Ask their permission before listing them as referees.
    - At least four of your referees should be university academics who have taught you and who can comment on your academic ability and how well they think you would fare at Oxford.
    - Other referees can include teachers and other persons who are able to comment critically on whether you fulfil the requirements Rhodes set out in his Will. A good referee is one who knows you well, rather than a well-known person who only knows you superficially. It is not advisable to get close contemporaries or personal friends to be referees.
  - ix. A head-and-shoulder colour photograph (jpg format). Please note your photo will not be available to reviewers until after final shortlisting decisions have been made.

- x. If submitting a paper application (see 4b above), please remember that all documents you submit have to be photocopied, so do not bind, staple or clip them in a folder.
- xi. CD-Rom and emailed applications will not be accepted.

**6. Selection procedure**

- a. The Rhodes Trust does not require any financial information from applicants, since 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 2017 and may not be deferred.
- e. The Rhodes Scholarship is confirmed only upon successful admission to the University of Oxford.
- f. A selection committee will make no nomination if it is of the opinion that there is no sufficiently qualified candidate.
- g. The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

**7. 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, 25 November 2017. Candidates must therefore make a quick submission immediately following election.
- 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 Trust and the Rhodes Scholarships, see [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk), details on how to apply can be found on the scholarships tab.

**General Secretary for the Rhodes Scholarships in Southern Africa**

Mr Ndumiso Luthuli

**Assistant General Secretaries**

Mr Nick Ferreira and Ms Trudi Makhaya

**Secretary**

Mrs Annette Gibson

PO Box 41468, Craighall 2024

Tel: (011) 794 4693 Fax: 086 606 2545

Cell: 082 770 0515

Email: [Rhotrust@pixie.co.za](mailto:Rhotrust@pixie.co.za)

See overleaf for the addresses of the Southern African regional selection committee secretaries:

***Western Cape and Northern Cape***

Dr Salih Solomon  
39 Fairway Avenue  
Fairways  
Cape Town 7800  
Email: [salihsolomon@gmail.com](mailto:salihsolomon@gmail.com)

***KwaZulu-Natal***

Mr Andreas Coutsoudis  
Advocates Group 21  
21<sup>st</sup> Floor, The Marine  
22 Dorothy Nyembe Street  
Durban 4001  
Email: [coutsoudis@kznlaw.com](mailto:coutsoudis@kznlaw.com)

***Free State and Eastern Cape***

Dr Merridy Wilson-Strydom  
Senior Research Fellow  
Centre for Higher Education and  
Capabilities Research  
Room 110, Benito Khotseng Building  
University of the Free State  
Nelson Mandela Drive  
Park West, Bloemfontein, 9300  
[wilsonstrydommg@ufs.ac.za](mailto:wilsonstrydommg@ufs.ac.za)

***Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga and North-West***

Dr Chris Maske  
PostNet Suite 296  
Private Bag X8, Northriding 2162  
Email: [Rhotrust@pixie.co.za](mailto:Rhotrust@pixie.co.za)

***Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland***

Mr Omphemetse Mooki  
PostNet Suite 296  
Private Bag X8, Northriding 2162  
Email: [Rhotrust@pixie.co.za](mailto:Rhotrust@pixie.co.za)

***The four named schools and their identified partner schools***

Enquire from the Headmaster or Headmistress about special procedures and conditions.

For further information about the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Scholarships, visit [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)

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#### **GUIDANCE FOR REFEREEES**

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'. For further details, see the Rhodes Trust website: <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/>

The Rhodes Selection Committee would be grateful, therefore for 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 the 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 applicants. 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 an 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, you are requested to concentrate 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 of reference will be used by Oxford departments and colleges for determining the Rhodes Scholar-elect's academic case for admission to postgraduate study, so a detailed assessment of the candidate's academic qualifications will be particularly helpful. The University of Oxford routinely requests the following information from referees, so an indication of the following would be very helpful: 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%? 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)? And on what basis are you making the assessment (personal judgement/grades)?

**Character referees** : If on the other hand, you are better acquainted with the candidate through non-academic interests, you are requested to 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 would prefer your letter of recommendation to 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 reference.

*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, 14 September 2017.**