

**THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SAÏD FOUNDATION FOR
SYRIA, JORDAN, LEBANON AND PALESTINE**

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 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, who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as 'leaders for the world's future'.

Two Scholarships will be offered this year, one for an outstanding Syrian student and one for an outstanding Lebanese, Palestinian or Jordanian student.

Candidates for the Rhodes Scholarship will be assessed against four criteria:

- literary and scholastic attainments
- energy to use one's talents to the full (as demonstrated by extracurricular strength, such as in sport, debate, music, dance, etc.)
- truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship
- moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings.

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

1. Closing date

Applications must be submitted online by midnight GMT, 31 August 2017

2. Eligibility criteria

- a. You must be Syrian, Jordanian, Lebanese or Palestinian and have received at least 5 years of education in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, Gaza or Israel between the ages of 8-22 years. Candidates with dual citizenship may not apply to more than one of the [Rhodes constituencies](#).
- b. You must have reached your 19th and not have passed your 27th birthday on 01 October 2018, which means you must have been born after 30 September 1991 and on or before 01 October 1999.
- c. You must have completed (or will have completed by 30 June 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](#).
- d. Candidates must have a sufficiently high standard of English to meet the English language proficiency requirements (at the Higher Level listed) of the University of Oxford:
<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/applying-to-oxford/application-guide>

3. Application Procedure

- a. Candidates may apply online from early June at www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk via the scholarship tab.

- b. 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.
- c. Longlisted candidates might be invited to attend a Skype preliminary interview in early October.
- d. Shortlisted candidates will be notified by October 10th and will be invited to a final interview, which they are expected to attend in person on the second weekend of November. The interview will take place in Amman, Jordan. Candidates for the Scholarship invited for the final interview and residing outside of the location may apply to the Secretary for financial assistance to travel from their country of origin, provided that the travel could not be funded by their University or other sponsorship source.

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 with certified 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, refugee travel document or national identity card. Holders of Syrian passports that expired after 2011 may be considered if the expired passport or evidence of sustained residency in Syria up to 2011 can be provided.
- c. An official transcript from the university at which you are studying, or have studied, showing grades achieved.
- d. A certified copy of your high school marks/high school graduation certificate.
- e. A full curriculum vitae, which should include details about positions of leadership; prizes and scholarships; 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. Your English Language Proficiency certificate and results (IELTS Academic or TOEFL iBT) .
- g. 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.
- h. A signed personal statement of no more than 1,000 words that covers the following:
 - i. Your general interests and activities and what you plan to do with your life once you have completed your studies;
 - ii. Your aims and priorities and the contribution you have made and would like to make to your home country and the region;
 - iii. The course of study and degree you wish to follow at Oxford;
 - iv. Your ability 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
 - v. For those wishing to undertake a DPhil, an outline of your proposed research, how it contributes to your future career plans and a list of 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/

It is crucial that you provide a clear statement about what you wish to study at Oxford and why. Detailed information on postgraduate courses of study can be found in the University of Oxford graduate studies prospectus available online at www.ox.ac.uk/admissions, as well as on departmental websites.

- i. A list of minimum four people (a maximum of six) who are willing to submit references on your behalf:
 - i. You will need to provide email addresses of all your referees.
 - ii. At least three 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. An additional one or two 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. 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 numbers as well as their postal address for verification purposes.**
 - vii. It is your responsibility to ensure that your referees submit their reference in good time (before the application deadline of the 31 August).
- j. **Candidates should not include certificates or testimonials other than those required.**

5. Selection Procedure

1. The Rhodes Trust does not require any financial information from applicants, since selection for the Rhodes Scholarship is made without regard to financial means.
2. 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.
3. The Rhodes Scholarship for which you are applying is for entry to Oxford in October 2018 and may not be deferred.
4. The Rhodes Scholarship is confirmed only upon successful admission to the University of Oxford.
5. If there is no suitable candidate in any given year, the Selection Committee will not select.
6. The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

6. Procedure after Selection

1. Please note that successful applicants will still need to apply to the University of Oxford very soon after selection. Full details will be given upon selection.
2. 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.

3. Applicants for a second undergraduate degree with senior status will need to submit a paper application, provided on selection, which must reach Oxford by 2nd of December 2017. Candidates must therefore make a quick submission immediately following selection.
4. 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.
The Rhodes Trust reserves the right to vary these conditions at any time without notice.*

**THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SA'ID FOUNDATION FOR
SYRIA, JORDAN, LEBANON AND PALESTINE****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, GMT, 31 August 2017.**