RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

STANDING UP FOR THE WORLD

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

RHODES TRUST

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

WHAT IS THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP?

The Rhodes Scholarship is a **fully funded postgraduate award for young people to study at the University of Oxford, UK**. The Rhodes Trust funds 100 Scholars per year. We select young leaders of outstanding intellect and character who are motivated to engage with global challenges, committed to the service of others and show promise of becoming value-driven, principled leaders for the world's future.

SELECTION CRITERIA – we look for:

- literary and scholastic attainments.
- energy to use one's talents to the full.
- 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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – you must be:

- **Citizenship & residency: Each applicant must fulfil the citizenship and residency** requirements of the Rhodes constituency for which they are applying.
- **Age:** Age limits vary between constituencies and are based on country specific circumstances. **The standard age limit is 19-24 years.**
- **Education:** You must have completed (or will have completed by June / July 2020) an undergraduate degree from a college or university (normally a Bachelor's degree) with a GPA of 3.7 out of 4.0 or higher.
- **Full details for eligibility**: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/apply/

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications for Rhodes Scholarships open by **1 June**. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited for an in-person interview. Candidates should read the general information about the Scholarships, and then proceed to their country-specific page for further detailed information.

Please apply at www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply.

APPLICATION OPENING and CLOSING	RHODES INTERVIEW & SELECTION	OXFORD APPLICATION	ARRIVE IN OXFORD
JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2019	OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019	JANUARY – MARCH 2020	SEPTEMBER 2020

CONTACT & USEFUL LINKS

APPLICATION ADVICE: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/application-overview/ - Rhodes Scholars give top tips and advice on eligibility, choice of course, personal statement, reference letters, social engagement and the final interview.
GENERAL INFORMATION: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/ - the key things you need to know about the Rhodes Scholarship.
CONTACT: Email your questions to the Selection & Outreach Office at scholarship.queries@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

CONNECT WITH US – Search 'Rhodes Trust'

APPLY AT: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply

WHY APPLY FOR THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP?

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

WHAT IS THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP?

The Rhodes Scholarship is a **fully funded postgraduate award for young people to study at the University of Oxford**. The Rhodes Trust funds 100 Scholars per year. We select young leaders of outstanding intellect and character who are motivated to engage with global challenges, committed to the service of others and show promise of becoming value-driven, principled leaders for the world's future.

WHY APPLY?

The Scholarship is not just a financial bursary, **it is a life-changing opportunity for exceptional young people with the potential to make a difference for good in the world**. **Rhodes Scholars are people who have a vision of how the world could be better and the energy to make a difference** – whatever their sphere of interest. Rhodes alumni have distinguished themselves in every field.

"I value the global community of Scholars at Rhodes House where the breadth of intellectual conversations gives me the confidence to reflect on my role and interests beyond my own context. My experience here teaches me to take upon greater challenges, because there is a first time for everything. I highly recommend the Rhodes Scholarship!" - **Saman Malik (Pakistan & Somerville 2017)**

RHODES SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection in each Rhodes constituency is by committees comprised of Rhodes alumni and distinguished non-Scholar members of the community.

The selection criteria are:

- **literary and scholastic attainments**
- **energy to use one's talents to the full**
- **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**

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

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

CONNECT WITH US – Search 'Rhodes Trust'

www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply

WHY APPLY FOR THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP?

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following eligibility criteria apply to all applicants for the Rhodes Scholarships:

Citizenship & residency: Each applicant must fulfil the citizenship and residency requirements of the Rhodes constituency for which they are applying.

Age: Age limits vary between constituencies and are based on country specific circumstances. **The standard age limit is 19-24 years.**

Education: You must have completed (or will have completed by June / July 2020) an undergraduate degree from a college or university (normally a Bachelor's degree) with a GPA of 3.7 out of 4.0 or higher.

Full details for eligibility:
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/apply

USEFUL LINKS & INFORMATION

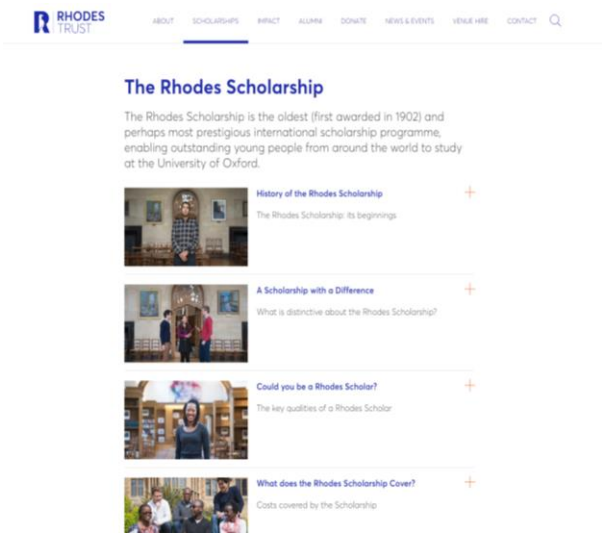
Go to our website:

Rhodes Scholarship Overview:
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/

Application Overview:
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/application-overview/

Apply Page: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply

Conditions of Tenure – the T's and C's of the Rhodes Scholarship:
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/conditions-of-tenure



CONNECT WITH US – Search 'Rhodes Trust'

RHODES APPLICATION PROCESS

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

TIMELINE

APPLICATION OPENING and CLOSING	RHODES INTERVIEW & SELECTION	OXFORD APPLICATION	ARRIVE IN OXFORD
JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2019	OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019	JANUARY – MARCH 2020	SEPTEMBER 2020

Please note: dates vary slightly due to which Rhodes constituency you are apply to. Candidates must first win a Scholarship before applying to the University of Oxford.

THE PROCESS

1. Application to the Scholarship:
Applications for the Rhodes scholarships open 1 June of the year preceding commencement of study at the University of Oxford.

All candidates for the Scholarship should read the general information about the Scholarships, and then proceed to their country-specific page at www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply.

In broad terms, all constituencies will require the following materials in differing forms:

- Evidence of academic record/transcript (complete or in progress) of undergraduate degree and any postgraduate study
- Curriculum vitae/resumé or list of principal activities
- Personal statement or essay (including, crucially, a clear statement of what the applicant wishes to study at Oxford and why)
- Evidence of age/birth certificate/nationality
- English Language proficiency (where English is not the first language)
- Photograph (not visible to selectors until after shortlisting)
- List of referees (several are required) who can attest in confidential references to the character and intellect of the applicant, including academic, personal, extra-curricular and leadership achievements

"I encourage future applicants to think long and hard about the contribution they want to make in their families, communities and the world, then live and act as if that mattered. By my estimation, that makes a great Rhodes candidate." **– Ngoni Mugwisi (Zimbabwe & Trinity 2017)**

www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/application-overview/

RHODES APPLICATION PROCESS

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

2. Choice of course in the University of Oxford:
Subject to limited restrictions, Rhodes Scholars may read for any full-time postgraduate degree (including the BA with senior status over two years) at the University of Oxford. The basic tenure of the Scholarship is two years, subject always, and at all times, to satisfactory academic performance and personal conduct.

For the full listing of degrees offered by the University of Oxford, visit www.ox.ac.uk

At the discretion of the Trustees, the Scholarship may be extended for a third year for those who take a recognised route to the DPhil. See the *Conditions of Tenure* on the Rhodes Trust website: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/

Note to applicants
Successful candidates may be asked to provide original copies of academic transcripts (and other supporting documents as required). References may be checked during application review, and any applications deemed fraudulent may be rejected.

A Rhodes Scholarship is confirmed once a successful candidate has been offered a place in a Department or Faculty of the University of Oxford and in a college.

APPLICATION HELP

Rhodes Application Help:

Application Advice: Rhodes Scholars share **their top tips on eligibility, choice of course, personal statement, reference letters, social engagement** and the **final interview** in this video playlist series.
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/application-overview/

Frequently Asked Questions:
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/faqs/

Graduate Course list:
www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses

Conditions of Tenure: details the terms and conditions of the Scholarship. www.rhodshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/conditions-of-tenure

Scholarship & Oxford: All you need to know about the experience and Oxford on our YouTube channel.
www.youtube.com/user/RhodesTrust

APPLY AT:
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply

SCHOLAR EXPERIENCES

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

MAITHA AL MEMARI
(United Arab Emirates & University 2018)

"I loved matriculation, as it was an embodiment of all the weird but beautiful traditions of Oxford. It was a celebration of the new beginnings and the new friends that make this place feel like home. My favourite experience so far is sharing karak tea with the other Rhodes Scholars and discussing the culture of the Arab world and I look forward to more events like this where we informally share our experiences and stories."

KABELO MURRAY
(South Africa-at-Large & Lady Margaret Hall 2017)

"Somewhere between having dinner with my favourite author, Philip Pullman, being able to row on the Isis in the snow - far more exciting in hindsight - and sitting on the floor of my friends' rooms debating what the greatest rap album of all time is."

I had applied to the Scholarship once and was unsuccessful. I think that's one of the main pieces of advice I could give. That there is nothing final about failure or being unsuccessful. In my mind, if I was awarded the Scholarship it was not because I wasn't "good enough" but rather that the Scholarship wasn't the best space for me. That lowered the stakes and allowed me to enjoy the experience as a whole.

YUHAN LI
(China & Magdalen 2018)

"I love my course - Biodiversity, Conservation and Management! I am always feeling inspired by the interdisciplinary studies, unconventional ideas and wonderful classmates!
Besides the course, Rhodes feels like home to me. Participating in Rhodes events, discussing with Rhodies, or simply reading in the garden bring me many wonderful moments.
In the past few months, I can feel the changes happening. I enjoy this new stage of life, which is full of surprises!"

USEFUL LINKS & INFORMATION

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

RHODES TRUST WEBSITE

Rhodes Application Help:

Application Overview: Rhodes Scholars share **their top tips on eligibility, choice of course, personal statement, reference letters, social engagement** and the **final interview** in this video playlist series.
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/application-overview/

Which Scholarship?: Find out which country you should apply to.
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/which-scholarship/

Frequently Asked Questions:
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/faqs/

Conditions of Tenure: details the terms and conditions of the Scholarship.
www.rhodshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/conditions-of-tenure

List of Rhodes Scholarship Countries:
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/list-of-rhodes-scholarship-countries/

Facebook Live Q&A about the Scholarship on our YouTube channel!

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD INFORMATION

University of Oxford's website:
www.ox.ac.uk

Graduate Course list:
www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses

Graduate Information:
www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate

What is an Oxford College?:
www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/colleges/introducing-colleges?wssl=1

Scholarship & Oxford: All you need to know about the experience and Oxford on our YouTube channel.
www.youtube.com/user/RhodesTrust

APPLY AT: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply

SCHOLAR PROFILES

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

"My name is Jean Balchin and I'm a 2018 Rhodes Scholar from Dunedin, New Zealand. I'm currently studying for an MSt in English language and literature (1830-1914). I'm really interested in Victorian literature, and in particular examining the intersection between science and literature in this period. The Victorian era saw so many incredible scientific developments, theories and discoveries, from Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection to Charles Lyell's explanations of how earthquakes worked. I'm enjoying immersing myself in the international community of Oxford University, and look forward to contributing more to student media." - **Jean Balchin (New Zealand & Trinity 2018)**

"I'm studying environmental and constitutional law and policy, focusing on protest movements in Australia. The Rhodes has blessed me with a life changing set of experiences – I have made incredible friends from around the world and have had the benefit of sensitive, attentive academic and pastoral support. I would encourage anyone to apply; the Scholarship teaches you so much about yourself – how to be a thoughtful, intentional leader, and what it means to live a life of impact and value." - **Harj Narulla (New South Wales & St John's 2016)**

"I am reading for an MSc in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation with a focus on programs for reducing inequality and promoting social mobility amongst disadvantaged groups. Outside of class, some of my favourite activities have included developing a social business venture in the Rhodes Incubator and offering impact consulting services for local charities through Oxford Impact Labs. I have also enjoyed going outside of my comfort zone by taking swimming and ice skating lessons!" – **Jordan Thomas (New Jersey & St Antony's 2018)**

"I have just completed a Master of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government. As a Rhodes Scholar, the friendships I've built, and the discussions I've had at Oxford inside and outside the classroom (pub), mean the way I see the world and my place serving in it will be forever enriched. Whatever your background, you should apply if you are intellectually curious, have a sense of humour, and see the value in building up those around you." – **Harriet Horsfall (Queensland & St Catherine's 2016)**

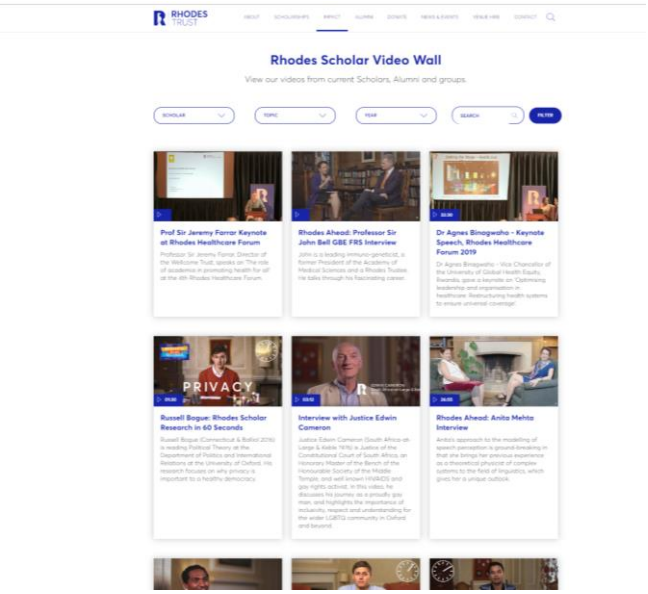
SCHOLAR PROFILES

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

"Back in 2015, the divisive rhetoric used in the primaries of the United States presidential elections prompted me to look for an avenue where I can engage people from around the globe. The Rhodes Scholarship stood out as the most diverse and global platform that not only gave me a chance to have these meaningful discussions with the people of diverse backgrounds and cultures but also provided me an opportunity to conduct state-of-the-art research at the University of Oxford. Thanks to the opportunities afforded by the generous funding of the Rhodes trust, I am working in one of the best technology companies in silicon valley." **–Arslan Chaudhry (Pakistan & New College 2016)**

"I would like to expand youth education pathways and contribute to Southern African tertiary education. Currently, my research is on the education and practice of ambassadors in early modern England. On the anthropology course next year, I look forward to studying religiosity and print culture in Southern Africa. Oxford provides excellent support for both literary and social sciences research, and I have already learnt so much from the Rhodes community." -
Lilian Dube (Zimbabwe & Corpus Christi 2017)

CURRENT SCHOLAR INTERVIEWS



Go to our **Rhodes Scholar Video Wall** to find out more about what current Scholars study, and their extra curricular activities plus interviews with the Rhodes alumni.

www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/impact/rhodes-scholar-videos/

CONNECT WITH US – Search 'Rhodes Trust'

www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply

MYTH-BUSTING THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

MYTHS

You must be the top of your class

Academic ability is essential as you will need to be able to thrive at the University of Oxford; however, equally important is your commitment to serve others.

Rhodes Scholarships are only for students from commonwealth countries

This is not true anymore! We now offer 2 Global Rhodes Scholarships to anyone who does not meet the existing selection criteria for the current Rhodes countries (constituencies). The application process varies slightly in that you must acquire a nomination from your university in order to apply for the Rhodes Scholarship. Please email scholarship.queries@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk if you have any queries.

It is only for students from "elite" universities

Scholars come from all types of universities and frequently students win the Scholarship at an institution that has never had a Rhodes scholar before. So don't be afraid to apply from wherever you are currently studying!

MYTH-BUSTING THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

MYTHS

You have to be sporty

This is not true – the selection criteria does mention that applicants need 'energy to use one's talents to the full' but this can be demonstrated through a wide variety of extra-curricular pursuits and leadership opportunities – e.g. in music, debate, dance, theatre, art and sports.

The public's most immediate associations with the Rhodes Scholarships are often western world political leaders such as Bill Clinton, Bob Hawke and Malcolm Turnbull. Today's Rhodes Scholars include Presidents and Prime Ministers, but also medical researchers, social workers, teachers and activists…

Most Scholars end up as political leaders

I can't apply because of the subject I want to study

The University of Oxford offers a wide range of subjects across all the academic disciplines. Their graduate course pages provide essential information about each department and the courses that they offer to help you to narrow your focus to a particular course. Go to: www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses.

As long as you can demonstrate you have worked to improve the lives of others that is what counts. It can be done in a multitude of ways in your own neighbourhood. You will also need to be able to talk in the interview about what you hope to do in the future.

You have to have done months of volunteer work abroad / started your own NGO

Do I stand a chance to be a winner?

Such fears should not stand in your way. We clearly state that "The Rhodes Trust warmly welcomes applications from talented young persons 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."

LIFE IN OXFORD & THE COMMUNITY

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Life as a Rhodes Scholar in Oxford is a busy, enriching, and often transformative, experience. Here is a flavour of what the current Scholars get involved in during their time.

CHARACTER, SERVICE & LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Rhodes Character, Service and Leadership programme is for Rhodes Scholars at Oxford. Its objectives include encouraging Scholars to develop a lifelong commitment to lead and serve others, whatever their chosen field. In addition, it seeks to equip Scholars with the practical skills and tools to craft a life of risk-taking, impact and passion.

The programme includes:
Welcome Week
First Year Retreat: Service & Leadership
Second Year Retreat: Building the Good Life: Purpose, Meaning and Balance
Skills workshop sessions
Speaker series
Weekly discussions on global challenges
Internships

SPEAKER SERIES

"**We welcomed Jen Howitt Browning (California & St John's 2005) back in Oxford for a collaboration between the Rhodes Women and Oxford Accessibility Project groups.** A Paralympic gold medallist in wheelchair basketball, a Rhodes Scholar and an expert in disability-inclusive development programmes and using sport for social change, Jen's youthful smile belied her wisdom and life experience. Surrounded by Scholars, partners and friends, Jen gave a unique and captivating insight into life as a Paralympian, Rhodes Scholar, disability advocate, woman, mother and person living with a disability… **Jen's presentation was one of the best they had seen at Rhodes House (and on a weekend no less) provided powerful motivation to continue our work to empower people with disabilities in Oxford and beyond."** – *Matt Pierri (Victoria & Lincoln 2016)*

LIFE IN OXFORD & THE COMMUNITY

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

RHODES SCHOLAR GROUPS

RHODES SCHOLARS AFRICA FORUM

"The Rhodes Scholars Africa Forum (RSAF) is a Scholar-led organisation dedicated to increasing the social, political and economic awareness of Africa. It also supports community development projects through grants and consulting projects. In the past year, I was co-convenor of the organisation as well as a co-leader for one of the consulting teams… For the grants programme, four community development organisations were selected from hundreds of applicants, and each received a small grant of £1,500. Funds for this were raised from voluntary stipend deductions and Scholar-led fundraising ventures, including the 'Welcome Day Auction' in Michaelmas, the 'Promises Auction' in Hilary, and the 'Rhodies and Friends Recital' in Trinity, all of which have become popular fixtures on the Rhodes community calendar." - *Nchimunya Nelisa Tebeka (Zambia & Wolfson 2016)*

There are many more groups to explore at: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/rhodes-scholar-groups/

RHODES SCHOLAR BLOG

Every year current and alumni Rhodes Scholars write for the blog on topical issues, their research and the Rhodes experience. Go to: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/blog

RHODES FORA & CONVENINGS

There are 3 -4 fora per year for Rhodes Scholars to get involved with by joining the Scholar Committee. This involves organising the programme, selecting the speakers and leading the conference. These fora attract more than 700 Rhodes Scholars and are a way to tackle issues of social justice, healthcare, entrepreneurship and climate change.

A recent convening was the 4th Rhodes Annual Healthcare Forum which explored the theme 'From Surviving to Thriving'.

COMING UP & GOING DOWN DINNER

Rhodes Scholars have an official welcome and farewell dinner with the Rhodes Trust's Trustees in Milner Hall at Rhodes House. This has happened since the house was built in 1929.

FAQS

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT COSTS DOES A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP COVER?

- All University and College fees;
- The University application fee;
- A personal stipend which is fixed by the Trustees (£14,700 per annum 2017/18); One economy class airfare to Oxford at the start of the scholarship and one economy flight back to the student's home country at the conclusion of the scholarship; International Health Charge.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP?

Please read the information here: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply.
There is an online application process followed by in person interviews for the shortlisted candidates.

WHEN DOES A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP COMMENCE?

Scholars come into residence in Oxford in September of the year following their selection.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE PERSONAL ESSAY/STATEMENT?

It is crucial. The requirements vary by country - consult the Memorandum for Candidates for your country. Keep in mind that the personal statement is your chance to tell your story: who you are, what matters to you, and what you hope to do in the world. Your academic transcript, your list of activities/CV 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 would also need to give a clear statement of what you wish to study at Oxford and why. The personal statement must be entirely your own work.

WHAT COURSE OF STUDY CAN A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP BE USED FOR?

It can be used for the vast majority of courses of study offered by the University of Oxford. However, it is more than just support for a degree, it is an investment in an individual's potential. Rhodes House offers a comprehensive Character, Service and Leadership Programme which includes workshops, speaker series and retreats.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP?

The Rhodes Scholarship is a life-changing opportunity for exceptional young people with the potential to make a difference for good in the world. A Rhodes Scholar joins a remarkable global community of Senior Scholars working across all sectors. It is a life-long connection which goes far beyond financial value.

FAQS

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AT THE INTERVIEW?

Selection committees are made up of Rhodes Scholars and community leaders from diverse backgrounds. The interview is of core importance as it is here that selection committees have the opportunity to weigh up a candidate's depth of engagement, accomplishments, and aspirations. In posing their questions, committee members initiate discussion that will help them ascertain who best represents the selection criteria.

Proven intellectual and academic attainment of a high standard is the first quality required of Scholars, but they are also required to show exceptional character, leadership in extra-curricular activities, and a commitment to service in the public good. The interview is therefore designed to assess not only academic achievements and intellectual ability but also character, core commitments, and potential to make a positive contribution to society.

WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS?

Please check the citizenship and age requirements for your particular country. Students with spouses/partners are very welcome to apply but should bear in mind that the Scholarship stipend is sufficient only for one person, and that the Trust takes no financial responsibility for the support of a Scholar's spouse/partner. Rhodes House warmly welcomes the partners of Rhodes Scholars, who are invited to Rhodes events.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR HELP?

In the first instance, please email the Selection & Outreach Office at scholarship.queries@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk.

Did you know that the Rhodes Scholar Community call themselves #Rhodies?

CONNECT WITH US – Search 'Rhodes Trust'

www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply