

## DETAILED CONDITIONS OF TENURE OF THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Studying at Oxford is a wonderful experience! Rhodes Scholars may read for any full-time postgraduate degree at the University of Oxford, subject to the few Rhodes requirements outlined below.

The basic tenure of the Scholarship is **two years**, subject always to satisfactory academic performance and personal conduct. In certain cases, at the discretion of the Academic Committee of the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Trustees, Scholars may apply for a third year of Scholarship to complete the DPhil, see *Notes* below.

The Rhodes Scholarship is for not less than two years.

*Permitted degrees/degree combinations :*

- **A BA with Senior Status** (ie done over two years, rather than the normal three) : Scholars who read for a 2<sup>nd</sup> BA may not apply for a third year of Scholarship
- **A one-year taught Master's course** (MSc, MSt, BCL), followed in the second year by another one-year taught Master's course (subject to successful completion of the first course) : Scholars who read two consecutive one-year Master's courses may not apply for a third year of Scholarship
- **A one-year taught Master's course** (MSc, MSt, BCL) : Scholars who read for a one-year taught Master's course may progress to DPhil, and subsequently apply for a third year of Scholarship, subject to the *Notes* below. This progression is **not** open to Scholars in the Maths, Physical & Life Sciences Division (see below)
- **A two-year MPhil or BPhil** (or BCL/MPhil) : Scholars taking the MPhil/BPhil (or the two-year BCL/MPhil route) may apply for a third year of Scholarship to read for DPhil, subject to the *Notes* below.
- **A two-year MSc by research** (or MLitt) : Scholars who read a two-year MSc by research may not apply for a third year of Scholarship
- **A three-year DPhil** : Scholars entering Oxford direct to DPhil follow the same application process for a third year, as described in the *Notes* below. Please note candidates for a DPhil within the Maths, Physical & Life Sciences Division may not take the Master's route to DPhil, and **must** apply to start the DPhil in their first year in Oxford

*Exceptions:*

- The **MFE** (Masters in Financial Economics) and the **MBA** (Masters in Business Administration) : Scholars may only read these degrees **in the second year** of the Scholarship
- The **MPP-MBA** or **MPP-MFE** combination is not available (that is, neither the MBA nor the MFE may be pursued in the second year for those who take the MPP (Masters in Public Policy) in their first year
- **The four-year Accelerated Graduate-Entry course in Medicine** is not tenable on the Rhodes Scholarship
- **Four-year DPhil programmes**, eg the Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) and the Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) programmes. Scholars may pursue these programmes only if alternative funding is obtained for the final (4th) year of the programme. Interested Scholars or applicants should contact : [registrar@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](mailto:registrar@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk) before applying.

### Notes on the discretionary third year of Scholarship

Scholars may apply to progress to DPhil via a one or two year Master's degree. Interested Scholars will be required to make a competitive application, in their first or second year, demonstrating a sound academic rationale and a clear academic plan. The proposed doctoral thesis must be clearly an outgrowth of work done in the Master's course, since beginning a wholly new topic inescapably leads to unfunded overruns. Decisions on progression to DPhil are made at the discretion of the Academic Committee of the Rhodes Trust. The Academic Committee will look for outstanding academic performance, combined with a strong rationale for DPhil, in the context of intended career path. Progression to DPhil is therefore a competitive process, and should not be taken

for granted. Admission to the DPhil is also based on meeting the conditions placed on a DPhil offer by your Department/Faculty. The DPhil rarely makes sense for a Scholar who intends a terminal professional or other degree.

Scholars who take the Master's route to DPhil should expect to spend at least four years in Oxford. The total University fee liability for any Scholar progressing to DPhil from a Master's course (one-year or two-year) is four years (12 terms) in total, whereas the *maximum* duration of full funding (fees & stipend) on the Rhodes Scholarship is three years (nine terms). Please note, therefore, the differing arrangements for Scholars pursuing doctoral work in the four academic divisions at Oxford.

- i) *Humanities Division & Social Sciences Division* - Most departments within the Humanities and Social Sciences insist on the Master's route to DPhil. In view of this insistence, **if** a Scholar is awarded a third year of Scholarship, the Trust *may* underwrite the fourth (final) year of fees for Scholars within these **two** Divisions only. The word "underwrite" is used deliberately. Fourth year fees present a substantial additional financial burden on the Trust and it can only be seen as a funder of last resort for year four. Scholars are expected to make all reasonable efforts to secure alternative funding<sup>1</sup> and any access to Rhodes underwriting will be means tested and competitive.
- ii) *Medical Sciences Division* – From time to time, Scholars opt to take the Master's route to DPhil within the Medical Sciences Division (subject to approval of the Academic Committee of the Rhodes Trust, as above). If such a route is approved, fourth (final) year of fees is borne by the Medical Sciences Division, under an arrangement the Trust has with the Division. If a Scholar enters Oxford for a four-year DPhil (under one of the Doctoral Training Centres) the same provision applies.
- iii) *Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences Division* – Because direct entry is possible, the Master's route to DPhil is **not** open to candidates in the Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences Division (unless funding for the fourth year comes from other sources<sup>1</sup>). Candidates within these disciplines should apply direct to DPhil. However, Scholars or candidates interested in a 4-year programme within one of the Centres for Doctoral Training in this Division should contact [registrar@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](mailto:registrar@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Under no circumstances does the Rhodes Trust pay stipend (living expenses) beyond the third year of Scholarship.

Alternative sources of funding could include self-financing, grants, other external scholarship support, loans or family support. The Rhodes Trust will require appropriate evidence of alternative funding.

*The Rhodes Trust reserves the right to vary these conditions at any time without notice. For the latest, definitive, conditions please see <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/conditions-of-tenure>.*