

Rhodes Connect: Digital Code of Conduct

November 2020

Welcome to Rhodes Connect ('platform'), an online service designed for use by Rhodes Scholars, Rhodes Trustees and Rhodes Staff ('users') to connect with each other, and to build a lasting community. Rhodes Connect integrates social and professional networking capabilities to empower users to engage meaningfully across sectors, geographies and generations in their quest to stand up for the world.

We want Rhodes Connect to enable you to participate in important conversations, and to share views, opportunities and content of interest. By joining this community, you are able to post or upload text and other materials (including documents, files, photographs, and videos (henceforth referred to as 'content')) on interactive locations (such as conversation threads, discussion forums and groups) within Rhodes Connect.

For Scholars in Residence, this platform serves as the primary mode of communication between you and the Scholar Affairs team, enabling you to sign up for Rhodes events, book space in Rhodes House, reserve time with the Warden, have easy access to all key documents associated with the Scholarship and join Scholar-led groups among other functions.

This Digital Code of Conduct ('terms') governs your use of Rhodes Connect, its affiliated features, services, and functions which are provided to you by the Rhodes Trust ('the Trust'). By creating a Rhodes Connect account and using the platform, you agree to the terms of this Digital Code of Conduct.

General Information

Who can use Rhodes Connect?

- Participation in Rhodes Connect is by invitation only for authorised employees of the Rhodes Trust and Rhodes Scholars from the time they become Scholars-Elect onwards. You are required to provide accurate information to identify yourself on Rhodes Connect when you create your user account. You may create a maximum of one account on your own behalf. You must never share your login details or give access to your account to anyone else for any reason. By extension, you may not access another user's account.
- Your full name, Rhodes constituency, election year, Oxford college and education history (or affiliation to the Rhodes Trust if you are an authorised user but not a Rhodes Scholar) will be displayed publicly to all community members. You have the option to display other information, for example a profile picture, current employment, professional interests, expertise and location on your profile.

You cannot use Rhodes Connect if:

- You are not a Rhodes Scholar, or authorised to do so by the Rhodes Trust.
- Your account has been previously terminated by the Conduct and Review Committee for breaching the terms of services detailed in this document.
- You are a former employee of the Rhodes Trust who is no longer employed by the Trust.

Conduct and Review Committee

The Conduct and Review Committee is responsible for moderating the content on Rhodes Connect and enforcing this Digital Code of Conduct. Its duties include:

- resolving disputes arising between users of the platform due to their activity on Rhodes Connect (such as notices of violations of these terms)
- addressing reports of allegedly offensive, objectionable or inappropriate content on the platform
- resolving issues that involve the platform but were not foreseen at the time this Digital Code of Conduct was published.

The Conduct and Review Committee reserves the right to remove, delete or block any content on Rhodes Connect, and to suspend or terminate any user's access to Rhodes. Details of the membership and working procedures of the Committee can be found in its Terms of Reference.

Use of Rhodes Connect

Our goal is for Rhodes Connect to facilitate interaction and connection between you and other Rhodes Scholars at different stages of your professional life from your time as a matriculated student at the University of Oxford throughout your career anywhere in the world. While we encourage a diversity of views on the platform, we require all users to engage with each other respectfully, to disagree thoughtfully and to express themselves freely. You agree that your use of Rhodes Connect is bound by the following provisions:

1. Any personal information or content downloaded from Rhodes Connect is for personal use only and must not be shared or redistributed without the owner's written permission. This includes members' email addresses, photographs, professional affiliations, locations, documents, files and forum discussions.
2. You agree to conduct yourself in a polite, and respectful manner in all your interactions on Rhodes Connect and refrain from ad hominem attacks. Content that is created to bully, abuse, harass, intimidate or threaten other users is prohibited.

3. Objectionable content, for example that which is defamatory, deceptive, discriminatory, derogatory, hateful, indecent, pornographic, obscene, insulting or graphic in nature is prohibited. You are not permitted to use slurs or hate speech against any person on Rhodes Connect on the basis of their race, national origin, religious affiliation, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, caste, and disability. Further details of how this rule is applied in practice can be found in the *Rhodes Connect: Acceptable Content and Moderation Guide*.
4. You are prohibited from uploading content that contains software that may damage another user's computer system or internet enabled device or interfere with the proper functioning of Rhodes Connect. This includes viruses, corrupted files and other malicious code.
5. You agree to share content that you have the legal right to do so. Content that is unlawful or that infringes the proprietary rights of others for example patents, intellectual property, trade secrets, and copyrights is prohibited.
6. You may use Rhodes Connect to sign up for events hosted by the Rhodes Trust, provided you abide by the privacy stipulations outlined for such events.

Groups on Rhodes Connect

Groups are an excellent way for users to connect and build community around causes and topics that are important to them. To that end, Rhodes Connect supports virtual group spaces that can either be public, and open for all to join, or private and subject to verification.

Examples include Scholar-led groups on women empowerment, entrepreneurship, disability advocacy, creative arts among others. Content posted on public groups is visible to and accessible by any member of Rhodes Connect. While we encourage groups to be inclusive, tolerant, and receptive to diverse views, membership to private special interest groups is administered by the leadership of any such group and not by the Rhodes Trust.

Users may create groups around other topics that garner sufficient interest such as event organising (for example Organising Committee of the Healthcare Forum), class groups (by year of coming up), groups for users in different locations (for example Rhodes Scholars in London) etc.

Administration/Moderation

Each group must have an administrator who is active on Rhodes Connect and responsible for approving access to the group if it is private, as well as curating content in the group. The group administrator may, at the request of the Online Community Manager, be asked to assist in moderating issues arising in the group.

Advertising on Rhodes Connect

We appreciate that the Rhodes community in Oxford (especially Scholars in Residence) benefits from buying and selling pre-owned products to each other (for example bikes and household furniture) as well as subletting accommodation during periods of transition. If you choose to solicit or offer these services on Rhodes Connect you agree to abide by the following stipulations:

1. You may only advertise the sale of products that you are legally allowed to do so. By extension, the sale or solicitation of illegal products on Rhodes Connect is prohibited. These include, but are not limited to, drugs, weapons, gambling services and other regulated products.
2. You may only post content selling or soliciting pre-owned products or sublets in the dedicated groups on Rhodes Connect.
3. Posts advertising or soliciting sales or sublets that are three months or older will be archived.
4. The Conduct and Review Committee reserves the right to reject, approve, or remove any products listed for sale at its sole discretion.
5. Rhodes Connect does not support payments for pre-owned products on this platform.

Additional Terms

Updating our terms

In order to improve our services to you and to stay compliant with applicable laws, we may update this Digital Code of Conduct and the accompanying Privacy Policy from time to time. When we make any such changes, we will notify you by email or you will be prompted to review the updated terms when you access Rhodes Connect after the changes come into effect. If you continue to access Rhodes Connect after the updated terms are in effect, it means you agree to all the changes.

Account Suspension and Termination

- If you no longer wish to participate in Rhodes Connect, you may deactivate your user account. Contributions you have made to groups will remain in place, but access to your profile by other members will be limited to basic information. Scholars in Residence are not able to deactivate their Rhodes Connect accounts.
- The Conduct and Review Committee may remove, disable or terminate your user account when it deems such an action necessary. If such an action is taken you will be notified of the options available to you upon request.

Limitations on Liability

- Use of Rhodes Connect, including the contents and services it provides, is at your own risk. The Rhodes Trust will be diligent in protecting your data to the extent required by the applicable GDPR laws and outlined in our Privacy Policy. Your data will not be shared outside of the platform or sold to advertisers. For more information on how we use your data, please refer to our Privacy Policy and the Scholar Code of Conduct. We do not accept responsibility for any loss of data or any damage to property (such as your internet enabled device) that may result from the download or use of any material or data on Rhodes Connect, which you agree to access at your own discretion and risk.

- While the Conduct and Review Committee will respond diligently to reports of objectionable content uploaded to Rhodes Connect, and moderate (block or remove) such content at its own discretion, Rhodes Connect is not responsible for the accuracy, reliability and intellectual rights of any content created by users on the platform. The content shared on Rhodes Connect does not represent the views of the Rhodes Trust and the Trust does not endorse any opinions, advice, views or recommendations expressed by users on the platform.
- User content may be removed at any time without notice to the creator at the discretion of the Conduct and Review Committee. A review of the decision to remove any content will be made to users whose content is removed upon request.

Other

- If, for any reason, we are unable to enforce these terms, it does not mean we waive those rights, unless otherwise stated in writing by us.
- As we continue to develop Rhodes Connect, we would like to hear your feedback, suggestions or concerns about these terms or our services. If you have something to share with us, please contact us on: transformation@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk.