

THE 2024 RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS 4 OCTOBER 2023 (11:59 PM, Eastern Time)

GUIDANCE FOR INSTITUTIONAL ENDORSEMENTS:

The criteria which determined the first Rhodes Scholars in 1902 still guide the selection committees today. These four criteria by which prospective Rhodes Scholars are judged are:

1. literary and scholastic attainments;
2. energy to use one's talents to the full;
3. truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship;
4. moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings.

Proven intellectual and academic quality of a high standard is the first quality required of applicants. The intellectual standard sought is very high and candidates must meet the entry requirements for their chosen course. It is unlikely that an applicant will be successful unless they are sufficiently able academically to be admitted to one of America's most selective graduate schools, and has a GPA of 3.7 / 4.0 or higher.

Beyond academic distinction, however, applicants will also be required to show integrity of character, interest in and respect for their fellow beings, the ability to lead, and the energy to use their talents to the full. Applicants should be able to demonstrate the vigor which will enable Rhodes Scholars to make an effective contribution to the world around them in whichever field they choose.

The Selection Committees for the Rhodes Scholarships will have a copy of the applicant's academic transcript, their academic statement of study, curriculum vitae, personal statement and letters of reference.

Institutional officials, including the President, Dean, or other official responsible for graduate fellowships, may endorse an applicant. An undergraduate institution may endorse an applicant by stating that they have satisfactorily completed two years of full-time study and received a bachelor's degree, or will have in the year following the Rhodes Scholarship application. It is preferred that applicants in their first year of graduate study receive an endorsement from the undergraduate institution from which they received their degree; for those in their second or later year of graduate study, the preference is for the endorsement to come from the graduate institution.

As part of the endorsement process, Colleges and universities are also invited, but not required, to organize committees competent to comment on the relative merits of applicants for the Rhodes Scholarship. The criteria used by Committees of Selection are explained above. Institutions are encouraged to submit an evaluation of the candidate within the institutional endorsement letter. This evaluation will be used by Selection Committees, and, in the event of the applicant's selection for a Rhodes Scholarship, will be forwarded to the authorities in Oxford for consideration of the Rhodes Scholar-elect's admission to an academic program and to a college of the University of Oxford.

In 2014, the Rhodes Trust strengthened the attestation associated with the personal statement, both for applicants and institutions. All institutional endorsements must include something explicitly to this effect:

"I am knowledgeable regarding the institutional practices of [name of institution] in connection with applications for the Rhodes Scholarship. To the best of my knowledge and belief, [name of institution] has provided no editorial review of the applicant's [or applicant's name] personal statement."

We understand that this requirement has caused concerns in some fellowship advisory offices. The reason for the requirement is simple. We concluded that, in many cases, personal statements have become highly edited and formulaic productions that do not accurately reflect the applicant's actual writing style, personal story, or educational objectives. Fundamentally, they are no longer the work of the applicant. Our selection committees and Trustees asked us to restore the original intent of the personal statement requirement. The focus of the change is solely on the personal statement, not other elements of fellowship advising. We ask simply that applicants be the sole writers and sole editors of their personal statements, from draft to final form, and that the statements be unedited by institutional representatives, advisors, professors, or anyone else.

Letters of endorsement must be submitted online and an automated email from the application system will be generated once an applicant has registered their endorser. This email will include a link to the online endorsement form where the letter can be submitted.

For more information for advisors please visit our website:
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/information-for-advisors/.

For information for US candidates please visit our website:
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/applications/united-states.

Endorsements must be received by 11:59 PM Eastern Time, 4 October 2023.