

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP 2016

SOUTHERN AFRICA

including South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland



INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

(This Memorandum cancels those issued for previous years)

Updated April 2015

This document assumes that you have read and are familiar with the basic admission criteria for the Rhodes Scholarships, available on the main Rhodes website. For detailed conditions of tenure, view the document at www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/Application/Conditions-of-Tenure.pdf

1. Closing date

Your application must be submitted online by midnight, South African Standard Time (SAST) on 15 August 2015

2. Countries, regions and schools

Scholarships in Southern Africa are distributed as follows:

- a. **South Africa-at-Large Scholarships:** You should apply to the committee in whose area you permanently live or in which you have received, or are currently receiving, any considerable part of your education. (The regional selection committee reviews all completed applications. A short-list is drawn up, and these candidates are invited to attend an interview. Those candidates whom the committee feel are most suitable are referred to the South Africa-at-Large Selection Committee, which makes the final recommendations to the Rhodes Trust.)
- b. **KwaZulu-Natal Scholarship:** You may apply for the KwaZulu-Natal Scholarship if you live permanently or have received, or are currently receiving, a considerable part of your education in KwaZulu-Natal. The KwaZulu-Natal Selection Committee has the power to make one direct selection (similar to those of the South Africa-at-Large Selection Committee) to the Rhodes Trust, each year, and also acts as a regional short-listing committee for the South Africa-at-Large Scholarships.
- c. **Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland Scholarship (BLMNS):** You may apply to the BLMNS selection committee if you fulfil the citizenship or legal residence requirement in one of the mentioned countries. The procedure is the same as that for the South Africa-at-Large Scholarships.
- d. **Named schools:** Former pupils of the four named schools and their partner schools, as listed on the Rhodes Trust website (www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/southern-africa), may apply for their relevant school Scholarship, as well as for the South Africa-at-Large (including KZN) or BLMNS Scholarships.

3. Eligibility criteria

- a. You must have a first degree by the time you start at Oxford, which means that you must be at least in the final year of your first degree when you apply for the Scholarship.
- b. Generally, applicants from South African universities will have had to do very well in their discipline. You will need to obtain a first class or a very strong upper second class degree.

- c. You must be a citizen or legal permanent resident of, and have resided for at least five years within the period of ten years immediately preceding your application, in South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia or Swaziland.
- d. You must have reached your 19th and not have passed your 25th birthday on 01 October 2016, which means you must have been born after 30 September 1991 and on or before 01 October 1997.
- e. For medical students and medical doctors the age limit is extended by three years. This means applicants must have been born after 30 September 1988 and on or before 1 October, 1997. The intention is to:
 - i. Avoid successful medical school applicants having to postpone taking up the Scholarship;
 - ii. Enable applicants to complete their medical internships before going to Oxford and to take up the Scholarship before completing their post-internship medical residency.
- f. If you are registered for an MBChB or an MBBCh degree you may apply during your internship, provided that you have not passed your 28th birthday on 1 October in the year after selection, i.e. the year you would start at Oxford.

4. Application procedure

- a. You may apply to one country only and, in South Africa, in one region only. **Except that**, if you are from one of the four schools Rhodes nominated or their partner schools, you may in addition apply to South Africa-at-Large (i.e. including KZN) or BLMNS. If you intend applying to both your school and the South Africa-at-Large or BLMNS regional selection committee, you should send your application to both of these committees.
- b. You should apply online from early June, and by the closing date at (1) above: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/southern-africa Online applications are preferred. If you cannot submit online, contact your regional secretary (see www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/page/people-in-southern-africa or page 6 of this document) for a hard copy application form, which will need to be submitted with all supporting documents as below.
- c. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. Applicants who cannot attend the relevant selection committee interview in person will not be considered.
 - The regional and school selection committees usually meet in October/November;
 - The BLMNS selection committee will hold its interviews towards the end of November;
 - The South Africa-at-Large selections are usually held on the last weekend of November or the first weekend of December.
 - Reasonable travel expenses to the nearest selection committee for the purposes of interviews will be paid. The Trust will not be responsible for the cost of overseas travel;
 - Accommodation within South Africa will be supplied and paid for by the Trust;
 - If you are invited to a preliminary interview in KwaZulu-Natal, but are living outside the province, the Trust will, on demonstrated need, consider assisting you in covering your expenses. Overseas travel expenses will not be considered.

5. Information to be submitted with application

As part of the application process, you must provide personal contact details and upload the following documents as specified. All documents must be in English or English translations must be provided. Please ensure that you retain any originals or authorised copies of documents you upload, since your Selection Committee will require them of all candidates invited for interview.

- i. A certified copy of your birth certificate, to show that you meet the age criterion;
- ii. A certified copy of your school leaving certificate;
- iii. Certified copies of your degree certificates;

- iv. A certified official record of your academic results;
- v. Details of any employment or enterprise you have undertaken during your studies or thereafter;
- vi. Curriculum vitae, showing details of what you have achieved: your high school career; your college or university career; your involvement in student or community affairs, cultural, sporting or political activities; your leadership roles; and any other significant achievements or involvements;
- vii. A statement divided into parts A and B (together not to exceed 1,000 words):

Part A (Personal Statement)

- Explain your general interests and activities and what you plan to do with your life once you have completed your studies;
- In this statement you get a chance to discuss your aims and priorities and the contribution you have made and would like to make to society;
- The Personal Statement must be endorsed with clear signature attesting to no external help being given in its creation.

Part B (Statement of Intended Study)

- Indicate the course of study and degree you wish to follow at Oxford;
 - Demonstrate that you are able to meet the requirements of the specific course you have chosen;
 - Applicants wishing to undertake a DPhil must provide a brief outline of their proposed research;
 - Your personal statement is a very important part of your application. It is very important for you to have considered what course and degree you wish to follow at Oxford before you submit your application. It is a good idea to discuss your proposed course of study with your professors or lecturers in that field, and, if possible, with someone who has knowledge of United Kingdom universities. You should explore the detailed information on the Oxford University webpages <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate>, as well as departmental websites.
 - To see current Scholars talking about the personal statement: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply
- viii. A list of six people (your referees) who will provide the selection committee with further detailed information about you:
 - Furnish the business and home (or mobile) telephone and fax numbers as well as the postal and email addresses of all your referees.
 - Choose reliable people who are likely to respond to requests for written reports as their reports will be crucial to your application. Ask their permission before listing them as referees.
 - At least four of your referees should be university academics who have taught you and who can comment on your academic ability and how well they think you would fare at Oxford.
 - Other referees can include teachers and other persons who are able to comment critically on whether you fulfil the requirements Rhodes set out in his Will. A good referee is one who knows you well, rather than a well-known person who only knows you superficially. It is not advisable to get close contemporaries or personal friends to be referees.
 - ix. A head-and-shoulder colour photograph (jpg format). Please note your photo will not be available to reviewers until after final shortlisting decisions have been made.
 - x. If submitting a paper application (see 4b above), please remember that all documents you submit have to be photocopied, so do not bind, staple or clip them in a folder.
 - xi. CD-Rom and emailed applications will not be accepted.

6. Selection procedure

- a. The Rhodes Trust does not require any financial information from applicants, since selection for

the Rhodes Scholarship is made without regard to financial means.

- b. If you have dual citizenship, you may apply to one constituency only;
- c. 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.
- d. The Rhodes Scholarship for which you are applying is for entry to Oxford in October 2016 and may not be deferred.
- e. The Rhodes Scholarship is confirmed only upon successful admission to the University of Oxford.
- f. A selection committee will make no nomination if it is of the opinion that there is no sufficiently qualified candidate.
- g. The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

7. Procedure after selection

- a. Please note that successful applicants will need to apply to the University of Oxford very soon after selection. Full details will be given upon selection.
- b. 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.
- c. Applicants for a second undergraduate degree with senior status will need to submit a paper application, provided on selection, which must reach Oxford by Friday, 27 November 2015. Candidates must therefore make a quick submission immediately following election.
- d. 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 Trust and the Rhodes Scholarships, see

www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

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See overleaf for the addresses of the Southern African regional selection committee secretaries:

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The four named schools and their identified partner schools

Enquire from the Headmaster or Headmistress about special procedures and conditions.

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