

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Covering South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and eSwatini (formerly Swaziland)

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES - for selection for 2023 only

(This Memorandum cancels those issued for previous years)

Background Information

The Rhodes Scholarships, established in 1903, are the oldest international scholarship programme in the world, and one of the most prestigious. Administered by the Rhodes Trust in Oxford, the programme offers over 100 fully-funded Scholarships each year for full-time postgraduate study at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom - one of the world's leading universities. Rhodes Scholarships are for 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. The selection criteria are:

- Academic excellence – specific academic requirements can be found under 'Eligibility Criteria' below.
- Energy to use your talents to the full (as demonstrated by success in areas such as sports, music, debate, dance, theatre, and artistic pursuits, including where teamwork is involved).
- Truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship.
- Moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in your fellow human beings.

Please see the Scholarships area of the Rhodes Trust website for full details: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/

Given the current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, aspects of the application requirements and subsequent selection processes may be subject to change. Our [website](#) and this document will be updated with any changes, and once you have started an application any changes will be communicated via email. If you have any specific concerns regarding the application requirements, please contact the National Secretary for your constituency.

1. Closing Date

Applications must be submitted online **by 23:59 SAST, Monday, 01 August 2022.**

2. Countries, regions and schools

Scholarships in Southern Africa are distributed as follows:

a. South Africa-at-Large Scholarships: You should apply to the Regional Selection Committee in whose area you permanently live or in which you have received, or are currently receiving, any considerable part of your education. All successful candidates from Regional Selection Committees (except for KwaZulu-Natal as explained below), are sent to the South Africa-at-Large Selection Committee, for the final round of interviews. The South Africa-at-Large Selection Committee selects successful candidates.

There are four regional Selection Committees, namely:

- i. Eastern Cape and Free State;
- ii. KwaZulu-Natal;
- iii. Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North-West; and
- iv. Western Cape and Northern Cape.

b. KwaZulu-Natal Scholarship: You may apply for the KwaZulu-Natal Scholarship if you live permanently or have received, or are receiving, a considerable part of your education in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). The KZN Selection Committee may select one successful candidate each year, and also acts as a Regional Selection Committee.

c. Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and eSwatini (formerly 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 BLMNS Selection Committee may select one candidate each year.

d. Named and partner schools: Former pupils of the four named schools and their partner schools, listed below, may apply for their relevant school Scholarship, or for the South Africa-at-Large (including KZN) or BLMNS Scholarships:

- i. Diocesan College (Bishops), St Cyprian's School, St George's Grammar School, Herschel Girls School, and LEAP 1 School (Langa), (all in Cape Town);
- ii. Paul Roos Gymnasium, Rhenish Girls' High School and Bloemhof Girls' High School (all in Stellenbosch);
- iii. South African College School (SACS), Sans Souci Girls' High School and Rustenburg High School for Girls (all in Cape Town); and
- iv. St Andrew's College and Diocesan School for Girls (DSG) (both in Makhanda, formerly Grahamstown).

NOTE - For Southern Africa applications, you may only apply to **one region or one school**.

3. Eligibility Criteria

- a. Nationality/citizenship: You must be a citizen or legal permanent resident of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia or eSwatini. Applications from refugees/asylum seekers in South Africa will also be considered in this constituency.
- b. Education/residency: You must have been resident in South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia or eSwatini for at least five of the last ten years.
- c. Age: (i) Upon entry to Oxford on 01 October 2023, you must be at least 19 years old and not have passed your 25th birthday (which means you must have been born after 01 October 1998 and on or before 01 October 2004).

(ii) **For older candidates** who will have passed their 25th birthday on 01 October 2023, and completed their first undergraduate degree later than usual:

- Candidates must have completed their first undergraduate degree within the last 2 years, i.e. after 1 October 2021*; and
- may not have passed their 28th birthday on 01 October 2023 (which means they must have been born after 01 October 1995).

* A university's policy determines the date of completion of academic requirement for a degree and this may be different from when a degree is considered awarded by the university or the date of a graduation ceremony. In ambiguous cases, the decision of the National Secretary is final.

(iii) **For candidates who are MBBCh or an MBChB graduates**, and required to complete their compulsory internship and/or community service:

- Candidates may not have passed their 28th birthday on 01 October 2023 (which means they must have been born after 01 October 1995).
- Candidates should apply either during their second year of internship, or during their community service year, provided that they meet the age requirement above.
- Candidates that can apply in their community service year (without breaching the age requirement in above) are encouraged to do so.

Note: For candidates that have to or choose to apply in their second year of internship, the Rhodes Scholarship National Secretariat will endeavour, as it has done in past years, to reach agreement with the National Department of Health to allow those medical doctors awarded the Rhodes Scholarship to complete their community service year requirement by September, in the year after they apply, and before going to Oxford in October 2023. While the Secretariat will strive to reach such dispensations, the granting of such cannot be guaranteed.

(iv) Other health sciences graduates in order to complete any compulsory internship and/or community service:

Candidates who have completed the necessary health sciences degrees for admission to, and intend to be admitted to, any registered health profession that requires the completion of any compulsory internship and/or community service, may write to the Rhodes Scholarship National Secretariat to seek exemption to allow them to apply in their internship or community service year, provided that they will not have passed their 28th birthday on 01 October 2023 (which means they must have been born after 01 October 1995), and if:

- they cannot be accommodated under (c)(i)(ii) above; and
- they are in a similar position to medical students given that, even if there are no delays or breaks in or between the completion of their compulsory university studies, internship and/or community service, they would not be able to be accommodated either under the general age limit or under exception (c)(ii) above;

- d. Academic achievement: You must have already completed, or will have completed by July 2023, an undergraduate degree (normally a Bachelor's degree) with an academic background and grade that - at a minimum - meets or exceeds the specific entry requirements of your chosen full-time course at the University of Oxford (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/courses-a-z-listing>)

Given the very intense international competition for places at the University of Oxford, candidates will have a greater chance of successful admission to Oxford if they have:

- A First Class Honours Degree or equivalent, or,
- A GPA of 3.70/4.0 or higher, or,
- an Honours degree (or have taken an Honours year) from a University outside of your country OR if you have studied to Masters level within your country (with the exception of those studying in South Africa and Namibia, and for some countries, those studying medicine). Candidates may wish to consider applying to the Rhodes Trust's sister Foundation, The Mandela Rhodes Foundation (<https://mandelarhodes.org/>), to pursue an Honour's year or a Master's degree prior to making an application for the Rhodes Scholarship.

Please contact the National Secretary if you require further advice about academic requirements of the Scholarship.

- e. If unsuccessful in your first application to the Rhodes Scholarships, you may subsequently re-apply only once more (and this must be in the same constituency), subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.

Multi-jurisdictional Candidates: If you meet the eligibility criteria for more than one Rhodes Constituency, you must only apply to one. You should apply to the Rhodes Constituency with which you have the greatest connection.

Inter-jurisdictional Candidates: If you have strong and demonstrable connections to **two or more Rhodes Constituencies** but do not meet the eligibility criteria for any of them, you may be eligible to apply for inter-jurisdictional consideration. Please visit the '[Applying for Inter-Jurisdictional Consideration](#)' page for further details.

Global Scholarship Candidates: If you are not eligible to apply to any existing Rhodes Constituency ([see list here](#)) and you are not eligible to apply for inter-jurisdictional consideration, then you can apply for a Global Scholarship, subject to meeting all other Global Scholarship eligibility criteria and subject to institutional nomination.

4. Application Procedure

- a. You can apply online from **01 June 2022** at <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/applications/>.

- b. You must submit your application online, with all supporting documents, **by 23:59 SAST, 01 August 2022**. All applications must be submitted online. No alternate method of application is accepted. There is no application fee for submission of the Rhodes Scholarship application form.
- c. In preparation for making your application, you should carefully read the information held on the Scholarships tab on the [Rhodes House website](#), the [Conditions of Tenure](#) for the Rhodes Scholarship, the information in this document and the graduate admissions pages of the University of Oxford: www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate.
- d. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a social engagement and a final interview. You must be available to attend both, **in person**, as no accommodations can be made on date and time, or mode, of these events. Interviews will be held in the region to which you have applied, all interviews will have taken place by the end of November. The Selection Committees for KZN, BLMNS, regions and schools, meet in September and October. The South Africa-at-Large selections are usually held in November. No candidate will be selected without an interview. Reasonable travel expenses to the designated 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 provided, where necessary.
- e. All applicants will be emailed with the outcome of their application. We regret that we are unable to provide feedback to applicants or finalists who are unsuccessful in their applications. The Selection Committees' decisions are final.
- f. **Please note** – before starting an online Rhodes Scholarship application you should be aware of the Rhodes Trust data protection policy for applications: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/pages/personal-data-cookies/>.

5. Documents and details to be submitted with application

You must submit a completed application form online with copies of the documents and information detailed below. All documents must be submitted in English. If your official documents, such as your birth certificate, passport or transcript are not in English you must submit them with English translations included. Please note that if you are invited to interview, you may be asked to bring the originals of all documents with you:

- a. A copy of your birth certificate.
- b. A copy of a valid passport or ID document. For those candidates not born in one of the above countries, please also supply additional materials necessary to validate citizenship, legal permanent residency or refugee status.
- c. An official transcript from the college or university at which you are studying, or have studied, showing grades achieved (to date). You should also upload copies of your degree certificates.
- d. A copy of your school leaving certificate.
- e. If English is not your first language, please also see Oxford University's English language requirements: <http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/englishproficiency>.
- f. A full curriculum vitae which should include specific details about academic qualifications, prizes, scholarships, positions of leadership, employment positions, involvement in student, voluntary, community or political activities and any cultural, musical or sporting accomplishments. This should not exceed two A4 (12pt font size) pages in length. **Please do not include a photograph in your CV. Your CV should be wholly accurate and a fair representation of your achievements. You should anticipate that details will be checked for embellishments and inaccuracies. Material misrepresentation will result in disqualification of an application or, where appropriate, the rescinding of a scholarship. Examples of misrepresentation include exaggeration of roles/accomplishments/ participation/biography; embellished publication lists; inflation of GPA/grades.**
- g. A head-and-shoulders colour photograph (jpg format). Please note your photo will not be available to the selection committee until after final shortlisting decisions have been made. If you are selected, this photograph will be used on the [Rhodes webpage](#) unless or until you provide another version.
- h. A **personal statement** of no more than 750 words.

The personal statement is your chance to tell your story in your own voice: *Who are you?*

Your academic transcript and academic statement of study, your curriculum vitae, and your reference letters will provide the substantive detail of your commitments and accomplishments, whereas the personal statement gives you the opportunity to cast an overarching narrative for the selection committee.

Prompts

In your personal statement of 750 words, we ask you to address each of the following prompts (the word allocation across the three is up to you):

1. *Which Rhodes Scholar quality do you display most strongly, and how are other contexts and people helping you to develop the others?*
2. *What would you like to learn from the Rhodes and wider community in Oxford?*
3. *From your place in the world, what is humanity's greatest need?*

Guidance

The Rhodes selection criteria are powerful and have remained largely unchanged over the past 100 years, having been drawn directly from the founder's Will.

In your personal statement we are asking you to reflect on your experiences, influences and intentions through the lens of those Rhodes Scholar qualities outlined in the three criteria: "*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 human beings*". [Note that the fourth selection criterion of "*Literary and scholastic attainments*" are evidenced in your transcript, academic statement of study and academic reference letters.]

The three prompts are set within the Rhodes leadership development framework that informs the [Scholar Program](#) at Rhodes House in Oxford. It asks for reflection and engagement within three interrelated spheres of three voices 'self, others, and world':

1st "self": *Which Rhodes Scholar quality do you display most strongly, and how are other contexts and people helping you to develop the others?* – this asks you to reflect on which of the Rhodes selection criteria you best exemplify. But we don't expect you to be the 'finished product', we want to hear how you intend to evolve further.

2nd "others": *What would you like to learn from the Rhodes and wider community in Oxford?* – this asks you to reflect on the relationship between self and community, on how you want to learn from the Rhodes and other communities when you come to Oxford, and how you hope to grow through that experience.

3rd "world": *From your place in the world, what is humanity's greatest need?* – this asks you to look at the world from the place that you are now and to reflect on what is missing in society, whilst considering the complexity and nuance of the world's challenges. We are seeking in Rhodes Scholars people who aspire to make a difference and contribute in some way to "fighting the world's fight." Here we want to know your thoughts on what is most needed in the world.

You can find further guidance on the personal statement on the '[Application Overview](#)' page of our website. By definition, each statement is individual; there is no single, "right", model for the personal statement.

Your personal statement should be wholly accurate, and written in your own words from your own perspective. Material misrepresentation will result in disqualification of an application and, where appropriate, the rescinding of a scholarship. It should be entirely your own work, with no assistance received. Through the online application form you will be asked to confirm that the entered / uploaded personal statement is accurate, is your own work and that no external help was given in its creation or editing.

- i. An **academic statement of study** of no more than 350 words.

The reason we ask for an academic statement is that entry to the University of Oxford is becoming ever more competitive and, should you win a Rhodes Scholarship, you will have to submit your application to Oxford within a very short timeframe. Researching and writing this statement will help you prepare for that. You should also be

aware that once you are at the University of Oxford it is very difficult to change courses. It is therefore advisable to give some serious thought to your desired courses in advance. Rhodes selectors will use the statement to assess whether you will thrive academically in one of the most competitive graduate environments in the world.

The academic statement of study should, in a factual and concise manner:

- i. Tell us your reasons for wishing to study at the University of Oxford, what your chosen course(s) of study is (are), and how this fits in your academic trajectory. Further, you may wish to explain how you hope to be stretched academically at the University of Oxford, or any academic support you imagine might be helpful.
- ii. Demonstrate that you are able to at a minimum meet or exceed the specific entry and other academic requirements of the course(s) you have chosen. Tell us how you are prepared for the course(s) academically and otherwise.

It is very important that you have a firm idea of which courses are viable for you to study at the University of Oxford (if you are listing a one-year course, please give an indication of your intentions for the second year). Please read the Oxford graduate studies course pages carefully: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate>. Note that not all University of Oxford courses are covered by the Rhodes Scholarship - and you should refer to the [Conditions of Tenure](#) for further information. For applicants interested in pursuing a second BA degree please see guidance under 'Procedure after Selection' below.

- iii. If you wish to undertake a DPhil, provide a brief outline of your proposed research area, how it contributes to your future career plans, and list both the Department in which you propose to undertake your research and one or more researchers with whom you would like to work in Oxford.

It is a good idea to discuss your proposed course of study and your academic statement with your academic mentors and/or professors or lecturers in that field, and, if possible, with someone who has knowledge of United Kingdom universities.

Additional sources of information are available online at www.ox.ac.uk/admissions, as well as on individual faculty/departamental websites. If you are selected for the Scholarship you will have the opportunity to revisit your course choice.

DPhil candidates: DPhil candidates: a number of Oxford departments recommend that applicants make contact with potential research supervisor(s) before submitting an application to Oxford. Advice on contacting potential supervisors in advance of your application is course-specific and you should follow the guidance found on the individual [prospectus pages](#), most often on the How to Apply tab.

Master's candidates: please note that Oxford faculty members are not able to correspond with applicants.

- j. You will need to provide a list of **four** people (your referees) who are willing to submit references on your behalf:
 - i. At least three of your referees should be academics who have formally taught and graded you in your undergraduate (or, if relevant, postgraduate) studies and who can comment in detail on your academic ability and how well they think you would fare at Oxford. In addition to uploading a reference, your academic referees will be asked a small number of additional questions, including a request to provide an estimated class ranking. Note – for successful Rhodes Scholarship applicants, these references can later be used to form part of the application to study at the University of Oxford, so it is important that you and your referees bear this in mind. See referee guidance on the final page of this document and on our website: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/information-for-referees/.
 - ii. The other referee should testify to your character and/or your involvement in extra-curricular/service or leadership activities. These referees should be persons who are able to comment critically on whether you fulfil the extra-curricular, non-academic requirements of the Scholarship and who can speak in detail to your character.

- iii. You must ask their permission before listing them as referees.
 - iv. A good referee is one who knows you well, rather than a well-known person who only knows you superficially. Please note that Rhodes Scholarship referees are not typically personal friends, contemporaries or relatives. If a referee fits into one of these categories, they should make the connection clear within the reference.
 - v. Choose reliable people who are likely to respond to your request for a detailed reference, as their letters will be crucial to your application. If you do not have the minimum number of required references, your application will not be considered by the Selection Committee.
 - vi. You will need to provide email addresses for all of your referees.
 - vii. You should forward the Guidance for Referees (available on our [website](#) and at the end of this document) to your referees. They will receive an automatically-generated email request for a reference once you have completed the referee registration section of the online form. They will also be asked to provide their business and home (or mobile) telephone, as well as their postal address for verification purposes.
 - viii. Ensure that you register your referees within the application form early, to allow them sufficient time to provide a detailed reference letter. **It is your responsibility to ensure that referees submit their references online by 23:59, SAST, 15 August 2022.** You can track the progress of their references within the application form.
 - ix. Please note that your referees may be contacted for further information.
- k. Please do not upload documents, certificates, testimonials or links / URL's other than those required.

6. Selection Procedure

- a. Selection for the Rhodes Scholarship is made without regard to financial means.
- b. 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. The provision of such information in the 'Equity and Inclusion' section of the application form is optional, but helps us to ensure that our selection processes are fair and that our outreach efforts are effective. The information you provide does not form part of your application and is only shared with those involved in selection in an anonymized format after scholarships have been awarded. If you have disclosed a disability and requested additional support at interview stage, your answers for this section may be shared with the National Secretary, who may contact you to discuss and confirm your requested arrangements for support or suitable alternatives during the selection process. Any requests made will not affect shortlisting, or the progress of your application, in any way.
- c. You are applying for a Rhodes Scholarship for entry to the University of Oxford in October 2023; the scholarship cannot be brought forward or deferred to a later academic year.
- d. Applications are made in the first instance to the Rhodes Scholarships. Following the Rhodes Scholarship selection process, successful candidates are then required to apply separately to their chosen programme of study via the University of Oxford's graduate application form. The Rhodes Scholarship is confirmed only upon successful admission to the University of Oxford.
- e. No selection will be made if a sufficiently qualified candidate cannot be found.
- f. 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, however candidates who intend to apply for a course in Medical Sciences and Engineering should note the graduate application deadline is now **9th December 2022**.

- b. The full application of successful candidates will be accessible to Rhodes House, Oxford, where the Scholarship references can be re-used, if appropriate, in support of the successful candidate's subsequent application to the University of Oxford.
- c. Applicants invited to the final interview or newly-selected Scholars who are intending to do a second BA at Oxford can obtain an application form from the Registrar at Rhodes House (registrar@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk). The completed form must reach the Registrar by **no later than noon GMT Friday 25 November 2022**. Depending on the timing of the final Rhodes Scholarship interviews, candidates must either make a quick submission immediately following selection or they will need to submit the completed form ahead of the final interview. Candidates who are firm in their choice of a second BA may wish to maximise their chances of admittance onto the course by applying via [UCAS](#) ahead of the UCAS mid-October deadline. If you miss both the UCAS and the Rhodes deadline for the second BA application, the chances of successful admittance to the University of Oxford to study a second BA with senior status are slim.
- 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.

The Rhodes Trust may contact you some time after the submission deadline to ask for feedback on the application process and any interactions you have had with the Rhodes Trust staff and volunteers.

Glossary of terms:

Conditions of Tenure: This document outlines what courses and course combinations are covered by the Rhodes Scholarship. It details some of the exceptions and explains how many years of study are covered by the Scholarship.

Jurisdiction: See Rhodes Constituency below.

District/Regional/State Secretary: Some constituencies conduct selection by region/district/state/territory. In those cases, the regional selection process is managed by a district/regional secretary, who will oversee outreach, queries, shortlisting and final interviews. Selection across the constituency is still overseen by the National Secretary (see below).

National Secretary: There is one National Secretary for each Rhodes constituency. The National Secretaries oversee the selection process, from outreach, to applicant queries, to shortlisting and final selection. Most National Secretaries will also sit on the Selection Committee, although where a National Secretary oversees multiple regions this may not always be possible. For National Secretary contact details please see the constituency [webpage](#).

Rhodes constituency: A Rhodes constituency is a country, a group of countries, and/or territories, and/or states for the purposes of administering scholarships. The list of Rhodes constituencies and the countries they cover (where relevant) can be found here: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/list-of-rhodes-scholarship-constituencies/

Second BA (with Senior Status): All Rhodes Scholarship candidates will have already completed, or will be about to complete, an undergraduate degree. Successful candidates can apply to do a second undergraduate degree at Oxford University over two years (i.e. with Senior Status). Senior Status is the only basis on which a Rhodes Scholar may pursue an undergraduate degree. Further details can be found [here](#). Please note you can apply for your Oxford BA to be converted to an MA after a few years (see the 'When do graduates become eligible for the MA' question [here](#)). Second BA applications have an early deadline – see the 'Procedure after Selection' instructions above.

Selection Committee: The selection committees conduct the final interviews and make the decisions that lead to the selection of the Rhodes Scholars. The committee will include Senior Rhodes Scholars and distinguished members of the community representing a diverse range of interests and experience.

Useful Links:

An explanation of the types of graduate degrees at Oxford University can be found here:

www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/introducing-our-courses?wssl=1

Rhodes House Website: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

Guidance on completing your application: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/application-overview/

Conditions of Tenure: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/conditions-of-tenure

Data protection statement: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/pages/personal-data-cookies/

Rhodes constituencies list: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/list-of-rhodes-scholarship-constituencies/

University of Oxford English language proficiency: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/englishproficiency

University of Oxford Graduate Admissions: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate>

For further information about the Rhodes Scholarship, see www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/

The Rhodes Trust reserves the right to vary these conditions at any time without notice.

National Secretary for the Rhodes Scholarships in Southern Africa

Mr Ndumiso Luthuli

Deputy National Secretaries

Mr Nick Ferreira, Ms Trudi Makhaya and Professor Malebogo Ngoepe

Regional Manager

Ms Bev Johnson

P O Box 41468, Craighall 2024 Johannesburg

Email: beverley.johnson@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

Tel: +27 (0) 74 054-4300

Southern African regional selection committee secretaries:**Western Cape and Northern Cape**

Dr Salih Solomon or Ms Janet Jobson (Deputy)

Email: southernafrica.secretary@rhodetrust.com

Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North-West

Ms Lusanda Juda-Kgakololo

Email: southernafrica.secretary@rhodetrust.com

KwaZulu-Natal

Mr Andreas Coutsooudis or Mr Mbongeni Ndlovu

Email: southernafrica.secretary@rhodetrust.com

Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and eSwatini

Mr Omphemetse Mooki

Email: southernafrica.secretary@rhodetrust.com

Eastern Cape and Free State

Mr Chris McConnachie

Email: southernafrica.secretary@rhodetrust.com

The four named schools and their identified partner schools:

Enquire from the School Principal about special procedures and conditions for application.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: 2023

Covering South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and eSwatini (formerly Swaziland)

GUIDANCE FOR REFEREES

References must be written in English and **must be uploaded by 23:59, SAST, 15 August 2022.**

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a referee for an applicant for the Rhodes Scholarship. References form a crucial part of the selection process, and your reference could make the difference to an applicant's success. The following notes are intended to serve as a guide as you write your reference.

Background Information

The Rhodes Scholarship programme is the oldest (established 1903), and perhaps the most prestigious, international scholarship in the world. Administered by the Rhodes Trust in Oxford, the programme offers over 100 fully-funded Scholarships each year for postgraduate study at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom - one of the world's leading universities. Rhodes Scholarships are for young leaders of outstanding intellect and character who are motivated to engage with global challenges and are committed to the service of others. They show promise of becoming value-driven, principled leaders for the world's future, wherever their careers might take them, and in any field.

- Academic excellence: the University of Oxford is one of the most competitive graduate environments in the world and applicants must meet or exceed the entry requirements of their chosen course. (candidates will have a greater chance of successful admission if they have a First Class Honours or GPA of 3.70/4.00 or higher, or equivalent).
- Energy to use their talents to the full (as demonstrated by success in areas such as sports, music, debate, dance, theatre, and artistic pursuits, including where teamwork is involved).
- 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 their fellow human beings.

For further details, see: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/.

Writing Your Letter of Recommendation

We would be grateful if you would provide a frank and confidential letter regarding the applicant's qualifications and suitability for the Rhodes Scholarship. You should consider the below points when writing your letter:

- The Selection Committee will have a copy of the applicant's university academic transcript, curriculum vitae, and their academic and personal statements. We would welcome any observations you have which would enhance the Committee's understanding of these documents.
- A brief introduction of yourself would be helpful, including any connections that you have with the Rhodes Trust, Rhodes Scholars and the University of Oxford (such connections are certainly not necessary).
- Where you are able, you should comment on how the applicant demonstrates the four selection criteria outlined above. While proven academic excellence is the first quality listed, the other criteria are equally important.
- It is not expected that you will be able to speak from first-hand knowledge of all of the applicant's qualifications.
- Please speak of the applicant's limitations as well as strong points. Committees tend naturally to be dubious of hyperbole and appraisals that imply a given individual has no limitations. **Your reply will, of course, be treated as strictly confidential by the Selection Committee.**
- **References must be written in English and your comments should not exceed two A4 pages (minimum 10 point type).**

Applicants for the Rhodes Scholarships are asked to seek both character and academic references. The reference form will clarify which type of reference you have been asked to submit.

Academic referees:

If you are primarily acquainted with the candidate through a teacher/student relationship, it is expected that your reference will concentrate primarily on academic quality and potential, although your assessment of other qualities will be welcomed. A Rhodes Scholar will undertake postgraduate study at Oxford, a taught or research degree, or a second undergraduate degree with senior status (over two years). In all cases, entry to Oxford is very competitive and so please consider whether the applicant is prepared for their chosen course of study at one of the most competitive graduate environments in the world.

Academic referees should note that, in the case of a successful applicant, your letter will be used by Oxford departments and colleges for determining the applicant's academic case for admission to postgraduate study. Consequently, a detailed assessment of the candidate's academic qualifications and suitability to undertake Master's / doctoral level study at Oxford will be very important. You are specifically asked to comment on:

- The applicant's relative academic standing in comparison with other students on the same course at the same institution – e.g. top 1%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 25%?
- How many students are in the applicant's year group on their programme of study, i.e. with how many students are you comparing the applicant?
- On what basis are you making the assessment - personal assessment/official class rank?

Character referees:

If you are better acquainted with the applicant through non-academic interests, it is expected that you will concentrate on assessment of character and non-academic qualities, in the knowledge that the Committee is looking for scholars who show promise of outstanding achievement in later life. With reference to the selection criteria above, please pay particular attention to the following: energy to use their 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.

Submitting Your Letter of Recommendation

- When an applicant has registered your details in the application form, you will receive an auto-generated email, which will contain instructions on submitting your letter of recommendation. The email will include a link to the online reference form where you will be able to upload your reference letter. The form will also include questions requesting basic information about yourself and your relationship to the applicant.
- All letters of recommendation should be addressed to the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee.
- The Selection Committee asks **that your letter of recommendation be on headed paper, signed, and uploaded in pdf format.** If you are unable to access an official/institutional letterhead we can, on an exceptional basis, accept references on a personal letterhead that clearly states your institutional affiliation and provides official contact information including an email address and phone number.
- All letters of reference should be submitted via the online reference form. **Please ensure that you press submit once you have completed the form.**
- Once you submit the reference form, both you and the applicant will receive an automated email to confirm receipt; the applicant will not be able to see the submitted reference, which will remain confidential.
- Please note that during the selection process you may be contacted for further information.

Please note that Rhodes Scholarship referees are not typically personal friends, contemporaries or relatives. If a referee fits into one of these categories, they should make the connection clear within the reference.

References must be written in English and must be uploaded by 23:59, SAST, 15 August 2022.