



Rhodes Scholars are selected annually from 64 countries around the world to pursue graduate degrees at the University of Oxford. They are young women and men from diverse backgrounds and interests who show potential to be impactful leaders for the world's future.

For the second year running, following the generous support of the Saïd Foundation and successful selection first round of selection in 2017, two new Rhodes Scholars (one Syrian, one from either Syria, Jordan, Lebanon or Palestine) will be selected to join the community in Oxford in 2018.

RHODES SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection committees comprised of Rhodes alumni and distinguished leaders from diverse backgrounds choose Rhodes Scholars from the pool of applicants based on the following criteria:

- literary and scholastic attainments
- energy to use one's talents to the full
- 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 one's fellow beings.

Selection of Rhodes Scholars is made without regard to gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, colour, religion, social background, caste, or disability.

“No one imagined someone like me would ever be here.”

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Admission to the University of Oxford is incredibly competitive and Rhodes Scholarships eligibility criteria reflect this requirement. The following criteria apply to all applicants for the Rhodes Scholarships for Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine:

- **Citizenship & residency:** Syrian, Jordanian, Lebanese or Palestinian having received at least 5 years of education between age 9-22 in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza or Israel.
- **Age:** The age limit is 19-27 by 1st October 2018.
- **Education:** Candidates must have completed a Bachelor's degree before arriving to Oxford. Academic standing must be sufficiently high to ensure admission to the University of Oxford, which has very competitive entry requirements, and to give confidence that Rhodes Scholars will perform to a high academic standard in their chosen degree. **Normally a GPA over 3.8/4 is expected.**
- **English requirements:** IELTS minimum (7.5) or TOEFL iBT (110).

Please check full university requirements on <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/applying-to-oxford/application-guide>

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Researching your course

Browse the University of Oxford graduate courses to find your course of interest. Check any specific requirements for this course to make sure you have the right qualifications.

Subject to limited restrictions, Rhodes Scholars may read for any full-time postgraduate degree (including the BA with senior status over two years) at the University of Oxford. The basic tenure of the Scholarship is two years, subject always, and at all times, to satisfactory academic performance and personal conduct.

At the discretion of the Trustees, the Scholarship may be extended for a third year for those who take a recognized route to the DPhil.

2. Applying for the Scholarship

Online applications for the Rhodes Scholarships open the 1st of June and close on the 31st of August for admission in 2018. All candidates for the Scholarship should read the information about the Scholarships applicable globally, and then proceed to the Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine page.

The Following documents will be required:

- Certified English copy of a birth certificate
- Copy of a passport, refugee document or national identity card.
- An official transcript from the university at which you are studying or have studied showing grades achieved
- A certified English copy of your high school marks/high school graduation certificate
- English Language proficiency test results (IELTS Academic or TOEFL iBT)
- Curriculum vitae/resumé or list of principal activities
- Personal statement or essay (including, crucially, a clear statement of what the applicant wishes to study at Oxford and why)
- Photograph (not visible to selectors until after short-listing)
- List of minimum four referees (three of which academic) who can attest in confidential references to the character and intellect of the applicant, including academic, personal, extra-curricular and leadership achievements. These referees will be contacted and asked to provide their references securely online.

Note to applicants

Successful candidates will be asked to provide original copies of academic transcripts (and other supporting documents as required).

References may be checked during application review, and any applications deemed fraudulent will be rejected. Authors of fraudulent applications will be pursued to the full extent possible under the law. Candidates must clearly sign their personal statement and state that it is their own work and that no external help was given in its creation or editing.

A Rhodes Scholarship is confirmed once a successful candidate has been offered a place in a Department or Faculty of the University of Oxford.





1) WHAT COSTS DOES A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP COVER?

A Rhodes Scholarship covers:

- All University and College fees for the University of Oxford ;
- The University application fee;
- A personal stipend which is fixed by the Trustees (£13,681 per annum 2015-16);
- One economy class airfare to Oxford at the start of the scholarship and one economy flight back to the student's home country at the conclusion of the scholarship;
- International Health Charge.

2) HOW CAN I APPLY FOR THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP?

Please read the information here: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/rhodes scholarship

There is an online application process followed by in person interviews for the shortlisted candidates.

3) WHAT COURSE OF STUDY CAN A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP BE USED FOR?

It can be used for the vast majority of courses of study offered by the University of Oxford. Exceptions include the MBA, MFE and the Graduate-Entry course in Medicine. Further details can be found under the FAQs on our website.

However, the Rhodes Scholarship is more than just support for a degree, it is an investment in an individual's potential. Rhodes House offers a comprehensive Service and Leadership programme which includes workshops, speaker series and retreats.

4) I HAVE YET TO COMPLETE MY UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, CAN I APPLY?

You can apply only if you are in the final year of your undergraduate degree. You must attach, to your application, transcripts of your studies so far. If you are selected, you will be accepted conditionally to completing your degree at the required standards.

5) WHEN DOES A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP COMMENCE?

Scholars come into residence in Oxford in October of the year following their selection.

6) HOW IMPORTANT IS THE PERSONAL ESSAY/STATEMENT?

It is crucial. Keep in mind that the personal statement is your chance to tell your story: who you are, what matters to you, and what you hope to do in the world. Your academic transcript, your list of activities/CV and your reference letters will provide the substantive detail of your commitments and accomplishments, but this essay gives you the opportunity to cast the overarching narrative for the selection committee. You would also need to give a clear statement of what you wish to study at Oxford and why. The personal statement must be entirely your own work.

7) WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AT THE INTERVIEW?

Selection committees are made up of Rhodes Scholars and community leaders from diverse backgrounds. The interview is of core importance as it is here that selection committees have the opportunity to weigh up a candidate's depth of engagement, accomplishments, and aspirations. In posing their questions, committee members initiate discussion that will help them ascertain who best represents the selection criteria. Proven intellectual and academic attainment of a high standard is the first quality required of Scholars, but they are also required to show exceptional character, leadership in extra-curricular activities, and a commitment to service in the public good. The interview will therefore be wide-ranging in nature, designed to test candidates' intellectual skills and reasoning ability, but also to reveal their character, core commitments, and potential to make a positive contribution to society.

8) WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS?

Please check the citizenship and age requirements. Married students are very welcome to apply but should bear in mind that the Scholarship stipend is sufficient only for one person, and that the Trust takes no financial responsibility for the support of a Scholar's spouse/partner. Rhodes House warmly welcomes the partners of Rhodes Scholars, who are invited to Rhodes events.

9) WHEN WILL I HEAR OF THE OUTCOME OF MY APPLICATION?

If you are not shortlisted you will receive an email at the end of October. Unfortunately due to volume of applications we are unable to provide individual feedback on unsuccessful applications.



*“It was the moment
my life changed.”*

