

Everything you need to know about the Rhodes scholarship!

History:

Cecil Rhodes projected his ideas to his Trustees that his plans would be put into actions and would be modified according to the global situation. In 1929, scholarships were also awarded to U.S. residents. Then in 1976, all scholarships were made available to both men and women except four which were reserved only to women in South Africa. In the first century, Rhodes Trust has introduced nearly 40 scholarship. Although not all have continued.

To mark the completion of the century, Rhodes Trust inaugurated a joined program, The Mandela Rhodes Foundation in South Africa. The purpose of the program is to inculcate leadership in Africa. Nelson Mandela said at the launch of that Foundation in 2003, there is “a chance to close the circle of history.” The Rhodes Trust believes in acknowledging the history of the nation and work to change the future.

17 years into the second century, the Rhodes Trust has initiated partnerships with various organizations and remarkable individuals to build the Atlantic Institute, the Schmidt Science Fellows Program, and Rise.

If you are interested in finding more about the Rhodes Trust, you can check out the books and articles mentioned in this link:

<https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/about/history-of-the-rhodes-trust/>

The Rhodes scholarship was established in 1902, after the death of Cecil Rhodes, to provide outstanding students to acquire further education at the University of Oxford. The program has been under the supervision of the Board of Trustees at The Rhodes Trust.

The scholarship aims to select outstanding students who have the potential to lead the nation and make a positive impact in the world. This scholarship is not just financial help but a chance to shift one's perspective at life. By being in a place that has people from all walks of life, one recognizes and acknowledges the diversities. Rhodes Scholars are known to have a distinctive vision of changing the world for the better and making a difference despite their sphere of interest.

Being exceptionally good in education is not the only trait that the Selection Committees look for. They are looking for leaders who are determined to bring a change in the world and have a strong character. These skills are further developed

through the Scholars Programme in Oxford with retreats in first and second-years. Plus workshops, conferences, social and discussion events are hosted at Rhodes House.

Benefits:

The Rhodes Scholarship covers tuition fees for two years at Oxford University. Moreover, you are provided with an annual stipend that is used by the Scholars to pay for all the living expenses, such as accommodation and food. One thing should be noted that the stipend is not enough to cover the expenses of partners or dependents.

Once selected for the scholarship, the Rhodes Trust will finance the fees required to apply at the University of Oxford. The scholarship is inclusive of the Tier 4 study visa and the International Health Surcharge (IHS) which allows international students to have access to the UK's National Health Service. Furthermore, two economy class flights, to and from the UK, for the beginning and the end of studies in Oxford, will also be covered by the Rhodes Trust.

Settling in allowance is provided to Scholars on arrival in Oxford. The Scholars who transition to the second course of study receive financial assistance for visa renewal and further application for IHS.

Rhodes Scholars are allowed to apply for research grants on the application which further aids Scholars to attend international conferences or conduct additional fieldwork.

You can read the detailed document that holds the outline for the permitted combination of degrees and more at

<https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/media/42584/final-conditions-of-tenure2019-20.pdf>

With the number of benefits, the Rhodes Scholarship entails, saying that the competition is tough is an understatement. Among the 100 Rhodes Scholars, only 32 applicants are selected from the United States of America. To make sure you get selected, you need all the ammunition you can gather.

Eligibility Criteria:

The Rhodes Selection Committees want academically exceptional students, have character, leadership, and determination to serve the world. The Rhodes

Scholarship is based on four criteria that have been set since 1902 and are still the benchmark during the selection process.

1. Have a literary and academic prowess
2. Be actively involved in extracurricular activities, such as sports, music debate among others.
3. The applicant should be determined, kind, brave, honest and ready to stand up for the rights of the weak
4. Applicants must be able to take charge when needed but also be mindful of one's fellow beings.

If you are still confused if you are eligible for the program, watch the video and listen to the students explain the process: <https://youtu.be/O5zFZlZXW4o>

Process:

Once you make sure you fulfill the eligibility criteria, begin the application process.

Step 1: Selecting an Oxford Course

It is essential that before you go through the hassle of filling out an application that you go through the courses offered at the University of Oxford and see if there are the course available according to your field of study. You can browse through the courses here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/courses-a-z-listing?wssl=1>

Step 2: Prepare the Personal Statement

When you have found your desired course, start to work on your statement. Students are required to submit a 1,000-word essay that encapsulates their story and personality.

Step 3: Prepare the List of Referees

A list of 6 referees has to be provided with the application who can submit a reference letter on their behalf for the applicant. It will be efficient to prepare and contact the referees beforehand to avoid last-minute stress.

Step 4: Gather all the relevant documents

Compile and scan the documents that are to be included with the application. You can view the list of documents that are required here:

<https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/media/44850/information-for-candidates-usa.pdf>

Step 5: Start the Application

With everything in order, start yours at the official website of the Rhodes Trust. Select your country and submit your application here:

<https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/apply/>

Step 6: Social Engagement

The shortlisted candidates then are invited for social engagement on the first day of interviews begin or the day before. You are required to attend the event in person as no accommodations would be provided.

Step 7: Prepare for the Final Interview

Along with Social Engagement, the final interview will also be taken in person for which attendance is mandatory.

After the conclusion of the interviews, winners of the Rhodes Scholarship from the respective districts are notified right away.

If you still feel you have a query that hasn't been answered in this article, head over to the FAQ section here: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/faqs/>

Best of Luck!