



## THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

[www.rhodesscholar.org](http://www.rhodesscholar.org)

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### OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

#### **Pays for a graduate degree at the University of Oxford, UK**

The Rhodes Scholarships are among the oldest and most prestigious international education awards. The program is managed by The **Rhodes** Trust, a British charity established to honor the will and bequest of Cecil J. Rhodes. *The award provides full financial support for Rhodes Scholars to pursue a degree or degrees at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.* Cecil Rhodes dreamed of improving the world through the diffusion of leaders motivated to serve their contemporaries: those who trained in the contemplative life of the mind, and were broadened by their acquaintance with one another and by their exposure to cultures different from their own. The 32 U.S. winners each year are chosen through academic achievement, character, commitment, and leadership.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Applications open in early July of each year.
- To be eligible, the applicant must be a citizen of the United States, a permanent lawful resident of the United States, or a United States resident with DACA status.
- Applicants must apply from their state of legal residence or from where they have received two years of college training and a bachelor's degree before October 1<sup>st</sup>.

- The applicant must be 18 years of age but no older than 23 on October 1<sup>st</sup> during the year of application.
- An applicant must have achieved academic standing sufficiently advanced to assure completion of a bachelor's degree before October 1 in the year of admission to Oxford.
- Applicants must be able to produce proof of citizenship or of lawful permanent residence, a list of principal activities (where a principal activity is one that the person contributed most of the work), academic transcripts, a clear photograph of the applicant's head and shoulders, the endorsement of the institution from which they are applying, between five and eight letters of recommendations (four of which must be from someone who provided undergraduate instruction; the other(s) must speak to the applicant's character), and, lastly, a personal statement not exceeding 1,000 words describing the applicant's academic and personal interests, the proposed area of study, and reason for study at Oxford.
- The applicant must display truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness, and fellowship.
- The applicant must possess moral force of character, instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings.
- The applicant must be able to attend a reception and interview in the city representing the region of application on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Thanksgiving holiday.

## HOW TO APPLY

Fill out the application form on the Rhodes Scholarship Website

### **Step 1 / 4**

#### **Your Constituency**

I.e. The United States

### **Step 2 / 4**

## **Your Nationality or citizenship**

Are you a citizen of the United States?

OR

Have you been admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident, and have maintained, and be expected to maintain, such legal status?

## **Step 3 / 4**

### **Your Age Criteria**

Do you meet either of the below criteria?

i. On 1 October 2022, you must be at least 18 and have not reached your 24th birthday (i.e. you must have been born after 1 October 1998 and on or before 1 October 2004).

OR (for older candidates who completed their first undergraduate degree later than usual)

ii. On 1 October 2022, you must not have reached your 27th birthday (i.e. have been born after 1 October 1995) AND you have met or will meet the academic requirements for completing your first undergraduate degree on or after 1 October 2021\*.

\* 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.

## **Step 4 / 4**

### **Your Academic Achievement**

Have you 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?

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 (with no rounding)

\*Special GPA exception requests (for candidates with a GPA below 3.70) must be submitted by a university president or another high-ranking administrator designated by the president justifying the exception, and addressing ONLY the questions of scholarly aptitude in the student's chosen area of study and competitiveness for Oxford graduate admissions. A university should initiate an exception request for candidates who are academically extraordinary and sufficiently compelling to Oxford admissions officers. All such requests must include a copy of the candidate's transcript and resume and must be directed to American Secretary Elliot Gerson at [admin@rhodesscholar.org](mailto:admin@rhodesscholar.org). Requests should be received no later than 15 September in the year of application to allow a decision to be made in time for the application to be submitted by the October deadline date.

## FOR RECOMMENDERS

- Applicants should confirm deadlines with their institution, as institutional deadlines override official deadlines.
- A list of Frequently Asked Questions about the application process and life at Oxford University are available on the Rhodes website.

- For the required university endorsement, applicants should seek out their Institutional Representative or scholarship advising office. The endorsement should be supplied by the president, a dean, or a designated officer.
- Applicants must have referees who can testify to their character and/or their involvement in extracurricular/service or leadership activities. These referees should be persons who can comment critically on whether the applicant fulfils the extra-curricular, non-academic requirements of the Scholarship and who can speak in detail to an applicant's character.
- In most years, even after a century of competition, a Rhodes Scholar is selected from an institution which has not formerly supplied a successful applicant.