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**Rhodes Scholarships**

**in Southern Africa**

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**Information for Applicants for 2015 for**

**study at Oxford 2016**

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**What are the Rhodes Scholarships?**

The Rhodes Scholarships to Oxford were founded by the Will of Cecil John Rhodes and have been operating since 1903. Rhodes had himself been to Oxford, and had such a high regard for the University that he wanted people from what was then the British Empire, and from the United States and Germany, to benefit from the intellectual, cultural, social and sporting opportunities Oxford offers. He therefore expected Rhodes Scholars to be sufficiently intellectually and academically able to achieve a good degree while enjoying the additional benefits of Oxford life.

The [McCall MacBain Foundation](http://email.newmediacampaigns.com/t/r-l-buhykx-trjtirtrb-y/), a grant-making organisation established by John and Marcy McCall MacBain, has donated £75 million to the Rhodes Trust.

The Scholarship is for full-time study and pays your entire tuition fee. It also provides you with a comfortable living allowance of not less than £13,390 per year, and pays the cost of transport for you and your necessary belongings to and from Oxford. There is no additional stipend for Scholars who are married or who have dependants.

The Scholarships are managed by the Rhodes Trust, which has its head office at Rhodes House in Oxford. The Warden of Rhodes House is the chief executive officer of the Rhodes Trust and is responsible for the Rhodes Scholarships and Rhodes Scholars at Oxford. The current Warden is Mr Charles Conn (Massachusetts & Balliol 1983).

Although the Scholarships are tenable at Oxford, selection as a Rhodes Scholar does not guarantee that you will get a place either at the University of Oxford or in one of its colleges. Your selection will be confirmed only once you have been accepted by the University and by a college. For more information on Oxford University, the courses it offers, its admission procedures and its college system, go to [www.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ox.ac.uk)

**How many Scholarships are available?**

There are nine Scholarships available in South Africa each year.

Four of these are available to all South African residents and are known as the South Africa-at-Large Scholarships.

Cecil Rhodes made specific provision in his Will for one Scholar from KwaZulu-Natal and one each from four schools, namely Diocesan College, Cape Town; Paul Roos Gymnasium, Stellenbosch; St Andrew’s College, Grahamstown; and South African College School, Cape Town. Applications from past pupils of identified partner schools are also invited. These are: Bishops: LEAP 1, St Cyprians, Herschel and St George’s; Paul Roos: Rhenish and Bloemhof; St Andrew’s: Diocesan; SACS: Sans Souci and Rustenburg.

There is a further Scholarship for applicants from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland (the BLMNS Scholarship).

**What qualities do you need to be selected?**

More than a century after they were started, the Scholarships are still highly regarded for the achievements of the women and men who have been Rhodes Scholars. The Rhodes Scholarships are exceptional in that they are not meant for students who are outstanding academics without more to offer. In his Will, Cecil Rhodes emphasised that those elected should not be “merely bookworms”. Rhodes Scholars are consequently all-rounders who combine intellectual excellence with leadership, commitment, involvement, character and other attributes.

Cecil Rhodes directed selectors to have regard to each candidate’s literary and scholastic attainments; fondness of and success in outdoor sports; qualities of truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindliness, unselfishness and fellowship; exhibition of moral force of character and of instincts to lead and to take an interest in their contemporaries. He considered that these latter attributes “will be likely in afterlife to guide [Rhodes Scholars] to esteem the performance of public duties as [their] highest aim”.

Selection committees are thus looking for intellectually gifted and motivated young people with the talent and the desire to lead and with a genuine commitment to serve their societies. Committees are not prescriptive as to the form such service may take. However, proven intellectual ability and academic motivation are preconditions for selection. Oxford is a highly regarded university, with many thousands of students from all over the world seeking places. The departments and colleges of Oxford will not admit applicants if this intellectual and academic criterion is not met.

**Generally this will mean that 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.**

Once a selection committee is satisfied with an applicant’s academic credentials, it weighs the criteria relating to the applicant’s character, leadership, commitment and activities. Success at sports is not essential provided that applicants demonstrate in other ways the physical vigour, commitment and sense of community that will enable them to make an effective contribution to their societies.

Financial need gives no special claim to a Rhodes Scholarship.

**Rules governing applications for Rhodes Scholarships in Southern Africa:**

1. **Closing date**

Your application must be submitted online or hand delivered, couriered, or posted on or before 15 August 2015.

1. **Eligibility criteria**
   1. 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.
   2. 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.
   3. Unless you are a medical student or medical doctor, you must be at least 19 years and younger than 25 years on 1 October in the year *after* selection.  This means that 2015 applicants must have been born after 30 September 1990 and on or before 1 October, 1997.
   4. For medical students and medical doctors the age limit is extended by three years. The intention is to:
      1. Avoid successful medical school applicants having to postpone taking up the Scholarship;
      2. Enable applicants to complete their medical internships before going to Oxford and to take up the Scholarship before completing their post-internship medical residency.
   5. If you are registered for an MBBCh or an MBChB degree you may apply during your internship, provided that you are younger than 28 on 1 October in the year *after* selection, i.e. the year you would start at Oxford.
   6. The Rhodes Trust and Oxford University require that selection for a Scholarship and for admission to the University will be without regard to marital status, race, ethnic origin, colour, sex and gender, religion, sexual orientation, social background, disability, caste or other irrelevant distinction.
   7. A selection committee will make no nomination if it is of the opinion that there is no sufficiently qualified candidate.
2. **Study at Oxford University**

**3.1 CONDITIONS OF TENURE**

The basic tenure of the Scholarship is two years, subject 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 in the circumstances listed below. Scholars may enter for:

* A BA with Senior Status (two years). Scholars who do a BA with Senior Status are not eligible for a third year of funding.
* A one-year taught Master’s degree, followed by another in their second year subject to a satisfactory outcome to the first year; Scholars who take two one-year Masters degrees are not eligible for a third year of funding;
* A two-year MPhil (or BPhil); subject to Department/Faculty agreement on the basis of performance in the MPhil, a third year of funding may be given to convert the MPhil into a DPhil (for those in the Humanities and Social Sciences only – see Note below);
* A two-year MSc by research; Scholars who take a two-year MSc by research are not eligible for a third year of funding;
* A DPhil either by the route of the preliminary MSt (Legal Research only) or as a Probationary Research Student (PRS); the third year of funding at the discretion of the Trustees will be dependent upon satisfactory reports from supervisors.
* Many one-year MSc’s are in fact routes into doctoral work, and moreover Scholars sometimes discover the desire to do a DPhil in that field when working on the MSc. Scholars within the Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions and normally within the Medical Sciences Division (see Note below) may take such a route and receive a third year of funding (under the usual conditions) if they agree this with the Warden before the end of their first year. In the case of both MPhil and MSc conversions to DPhil, it is necessary for the doctoral thesis to be clearly an outgrowth of work done in the Master’s course, since beginning a wholly new topic inescapably leads to unfunded overruns.

The MFE and the MBA can be undertaken only in the second year of the Scholarship.

*Notes for any Scholar proceeding to the DPhil via a Master’s degree*

The three terms of the one-year MSc cannot be counted towards the nine-term fee liability for the DPhil; similarly, only three terms of the two-year MPhil may be counted towards the nine-term fee liability for the DPhil. Therefore any Scholar proceeding to DPhil via a Master’s course is liable for up to three terms of fees beyond the tenure of the Rhodes Scholarship.

*Humanities & Social Sciences Divisions* Most departments within the Humanities and Social Sciences now insist on the Master’s route to DPhil.  In view of this insistence the Trust will underwrite the fourth year of fees for Scholars within these **two** Divisions.  The word “underwrite” is used quite deliberately. This presents quite an additional financial burden on the Trust, although the Trustees believe that it is necessary in order to give all Scholars the freedom to do the degrees they want to do.  Therefore, if a Scholar is able to arrange for another sponsor for that fee, the Trust would hope that such a sponsor will assume the cost of the fee, leaving the Trust to underwrite those who cannot.

*Medical Sciences Division* Scholars may take the Master’s route to DPhil within most departments of the Medical Sciences Division. However, early advice should be sought from the Registrar of the Rhodes Trust in Oxford – [mary.eaton@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mary.eaton@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)

*Maths, Physical & Life Sciences Division* The Master’s route to DPhil is not open to candidates in the Maths, Physical & Life Sciences Division. Candidates within these disciplines should apply direct to DPhil.

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

* 1. Selection is for entry in the October following selection, and if a Scholar-elect fails to find a place in Oxford, or cannot for some other reason take up the Scholarship, then the Trustees will not normally confirm the Scholarship. Deferrals to another year are not allowed.
  2. All selected candidates must go into residence at Oxford no later than October of the next year, save in exceptional circumstances disclosed in the candidate’s application and subject to the approval of the Warden after election. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the Scholarship.
  3. It is not permitted for Scholars to go “off stipend” to resume the Scholarship at a later date.
  4. There are regulations governing the holding of other awards in conjunction with a Rhodes Scholarship. Prior permission must be obtained from the Warden of Rhodes House.
  5. In addition, you should carefully check the graduate prospectus as well as the departmental website of the field of study for which you are applying. This will enable you to establish for yourself the requirements for the degree you propose to read. The prospectus and the departmental website will give you pointers on how to prepare your application – which may include a statement of your study plans as well as samples of written work.

1. **Application procedure**

Please go to [www.Rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/section/Rhodes-Countries](http://www.Rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/section/Rhodes-Countries) for the latest updates on the application process and apply online at (from 1 June).

* 1. You may **apply to one country only** and, in South Africa, in **one region only**. If you are from one of the four schools Rhodes nominated, or one of their identified partner schools, however, you may in addition apply to South Africa-at-Large (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.
  2. The final selection is made by the Rhodes Trustees, who rely on selection procedures undertaken by selection committees in each constituency.
  3. ***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 feelare most suitable are referred to the South Africa-at-Large Selection Committee, which makes the final recommendations to the Rhodes Trust.)

4.4 ***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 each year, and also acts as a regional short-listing committee for the South Africa-at-Large Scholarships. You can find out more about this from the KZN Secretary, Mr Andreas Coutsoudis [coutsoudis@kznlaw.com](mailto:coutsoudis@kznlaw.com)

4.5 ***Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland Scholarship***

You may apply to the BLMNS selection committee if you fulfil the citizenship or permanent legal residence requirements in one of the mentioned countries. The procedure is the same as that for the South Africa-at-Large Scholarships.

1. **Expenses**
   1. Reasonable travel expenses to the nearest selection committee for the purpose of interviews will be paid. The Trust will not be responsible for the cost of overseas travel.
   2. Accommodation within South Africa will be supplied and paid for by the Trust.
   3. 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 covered.
2. **Information to be submitted with application**
   1. You must submit a completed application form on-line from mid-May or in hard copy (available from your regional secretary or online at [www.Rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/section/Rhodes-countries](http://www.Rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/section/Rhodes-countries) with the documents and information detailed below:
      1. A certified copy of your birth certificate, to show that you are in the correct age group.
      2. A certified copy of your school leaving certificate.
      3. Certified copies of your degree certificates.
      4. A certified official record of your academic results.
      5. Details of any employment or enterprise you have undertaken during your studies or thereafter.

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.

* + 1. A statement divided into parts A and B limited to a combined 1000 words:

♦ Part A

* 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.

♦ Part B

* Indicate the course of study and degree you wish to follow at Oxford.
* Also 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 and Part B in particular, is a very important part of your application**. It is 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. Additional sources of information are the current issues of the  *University of Oxford Graduate Prospectus* and the *University of Oxford Undergraduate Prospectus* available online at http://www.ox.ac.uk, as well as departmental websites.

6.1.8 A list of **six** people (your referees) **who will be contacted by the selection committee** for 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 the committee’s 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.
  + 1. Include your home address, mobile phone number and email address.
    2. All documents must be in English or English translations must be provided.
    3. CD-Rom and emailed applications will not be accepted. You are encouraged to apply on-line.
    4. If submitting a paper application, please remember that all documents you submit have to be photocopied, so do not bind, staple or clip them in a folder.

If you are short-listed for an interview you will be required to provide two 15cm × 10cm

(6”× 4”) head-and-shoulder colour photographs - i.e. not passport photograph size.

1. **Interviews**

Applicants who cannot be at the relevant selection committee interviews will not be considered. For your guidance:

* 1. The regional and school selection committees usually meet in October/November.
  2. The BLMNS selection committee will hold its interviews towards the end of November and the South Africa-at-Large selections are usually held on the last weekend of November or the first weekend of December.

1. **Disclosure of medical conditions**
   1. Successful candidates will be encouraged to confidentially disclose to the Secretariat and/or Rhodes House any medical condition they may have. The disclosure is entirely on a voluntary basis and is intended to enable Rhodes House to plan and provide any necessary support that may be required, including during the transition to Oxford.

**The deadline for all applications is 15 August 2015.**

**General Secretary for the Rhodes Scholarships in Southern Africa**

Mr Ndumiso Luthuli

**Assistant General Secretaries**

Adv Nick Ferreira and Ms Trudi Makhaya

**Secretary**

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**The addresses of the Southern African regional selection committee secretaries:**

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| ***Western Cape and Northern Cape***  Dr Salih Solomon  39 Fairway Avenue  Fairways  Cape Town 7800  **Email:** [salihsolomon@gmail.com](mailto:salihsolomon@gmail.com) | ***Gauteng, North-West, Limpopo and Mpumalanga***  Dr Chris Maske  P.O. Box 41468  Craighall 2024  Email: [Rhotrust@pixie.co.za](mailto:Rhotrust@pixie.co.za) |
| ***KwaZulu-Natal***  Mr Andreas Coutsoudis  Advocates Group 21  21st Floor, The Marine  22 Dorothy Nyembe Street  Durban 4001  Email: [coutsoudis@kznlaw.com](mailto:coutsoudis@kznlaw.com) | ***Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland***  Mr Omphemetse Mooki  P.O. Box 41468  Craighall 2024  Email: [Rhotrust@pixie.co.za](mailto:Rhotrust@pixie.co.za) |
| ***Free State and Eastern Cape***  Dr Merridy Wilson-Strydom  Senior Research Fellow  Centre for Higher Education and  Capabilities Research  Room 110, Benito Khotseng Building  University of the Free State  Nelson Mandela Drive  Park West, Bloemfontein, 9300  [wilsonstrydommg@ufs.ac.za](mailto:wilsonstrydommg@ufs.ac.za) | ***The four named schools and their identified partner schools***  Enquire from the Headmaster or Headmistress about special procedures and conditions. |

**For further information about the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Scholarships, visit** [**www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk**](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)