


Fellowship Information Session series



Gates– Cambridge & Rhodes Scholarships

2026

OVERVIEW

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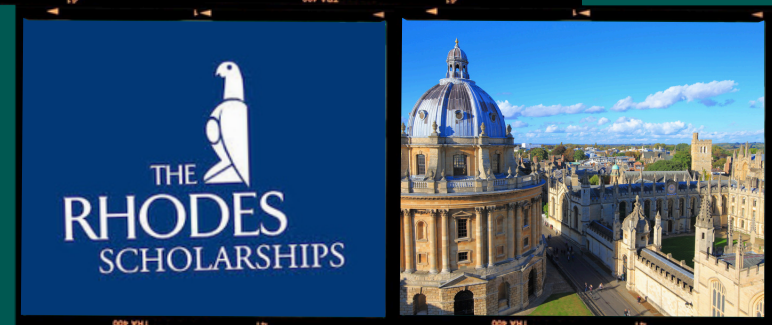
Questions

INTRODUCTION

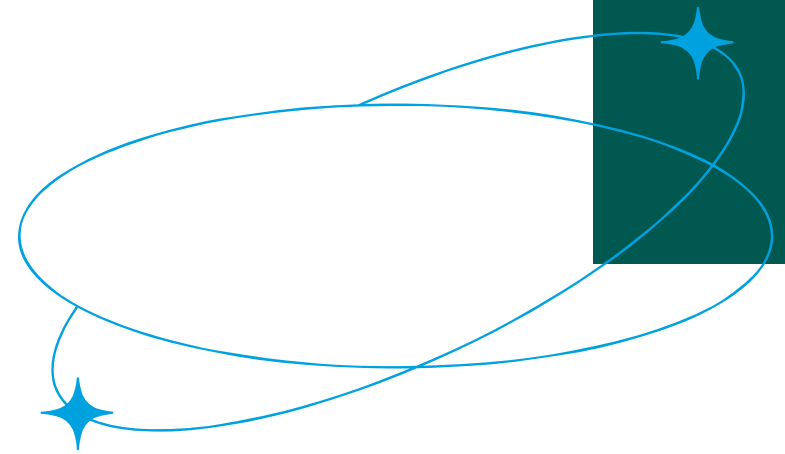


Both are fully funded awards that support exceptional students in pursuing postgraduate study at two overseas universities.

Both scholarships are more than financial awards — they are opportunities to join a global community of leaders committed to making a lasting difference in the world.



GATES CAMBRIDGE OVERVIEW



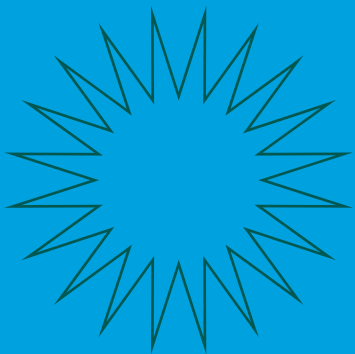
History

Established in 2000 through a historic \$210 million donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the University of Cambridge, the Gates Cambridge Scholarship builds a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others.

Info

Awards per year ~80
Countries eligible All non-UK
Alumni network 1,700+
Alumni countries 112

Approximately two-thirds of awards go to PhD students. About 25 are available in the US round, with 55 available in the international round.



GATES CAMBRIDGE FUNDING

Funding covers...

CORE COMPONENTS

- Full University Composition Fee
- Maintenance allowance: £22,050/year (2025-26 rate)
- Return economy airfare
- Visa costs & Immigration Health Surcharge

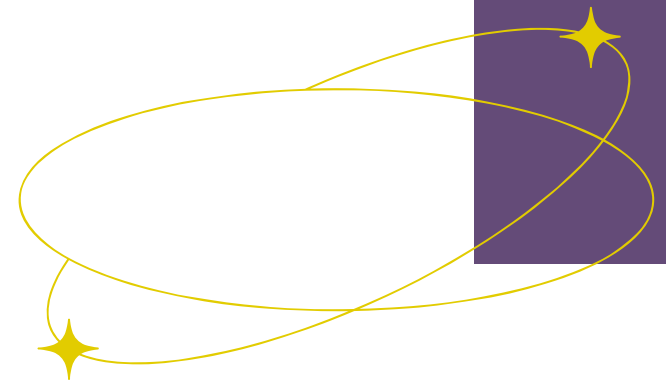
DISCRETIONARY ADD-ONS

- Academic development: up to £2,000
- Dependent children allowance
- Fieldwork support (PhD)
- Maternity/paternity funding
- Hardship grants

The scholarship covers the full cost of studying at Cambridge, plus discretionary funding.

PhD scholars receive funding for up to 4 years. The maintenance allowance may be reduced if you hold a salary or another scholarship.

RHODES OVERVIEW



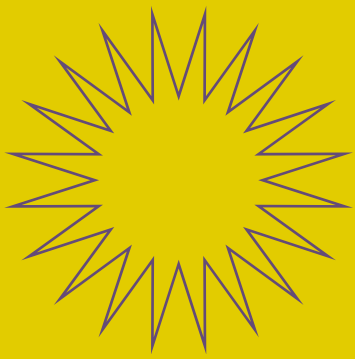
History

Established in 1903, the Rhodes Scholarship is one of the world's oldest and most prestigious international graduate award programs. It brings together exceptional young people from around the world to study at the University of Oxford.

The scholarship is merit-based, with the purpose of developing public-spirited leaders and promoting international understanding. Rhodes Scholars come to Oxford for a minimum of two years, with possible extension to a third year for doctoral study.

Info

US Scholars per year 32
Living scholars 4,500+
Countries represented 100+
Minimum study period 2 years



RHODES FUNDING

Funding covers...

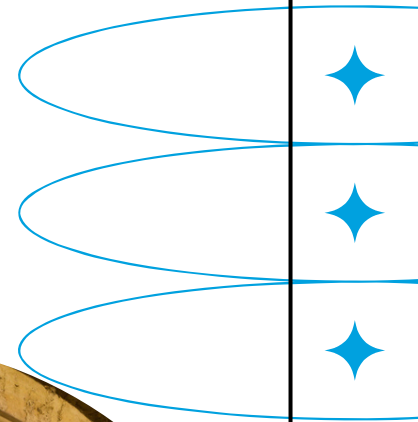
- Full Oxford University course fees
- Annual stipend: ~£20,400/year (2025-26 rate) for living expenses
- Return economy class airfare to and from the UK
- Oxford application fee (upon selection)
- Student visa fees and International Health Surcharge
- Settling-in allowance upon arrival

The stipend covers personal living costs but is not designed to support partners or dependents. PhD scholars may receive up to 3 years of funding. The Rhodes Trust also offers emergency financial assistance and grants for research and travel.

The Rhodes Scholarship is fully funded and covers all primary costs of graduate study at Oxford.

ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION

Both scholarships seek students who have excelled academically and are genuinely committed to using their education to benefit the world — not just advance their own careers.



GATES CAMBRIDGE

- Any nationality except British citizens
- Applying for a PhD, MLitt, or one-year postgraduate course at Cambridge
- No age restriction

Eligibility
Check here.

RHODES

The Rhodes Scholarship also has international constituency competitions for students from many other countries, each with their own deadlines and eligibility rules.

Eligibility
Check here.

- US citizens, permanent residents; **requires institutional endorsement**

-non-US citizens/residents; apply through their home country's Rhodes constituency; **does NOT require institutional endorsement**

- Under age 27 by October 1, 2026

- Completed first undergrad degree by Oct 1, 2025 or later

GATES CAMBRIDGE

Four core criteria



- **Outstanding intellectual ability**
- **Well-reasoned choice of course**
- **Commitment to improving the lives of others**
- **Leadership potential**

SELECTION
CRITERIA

RHODES

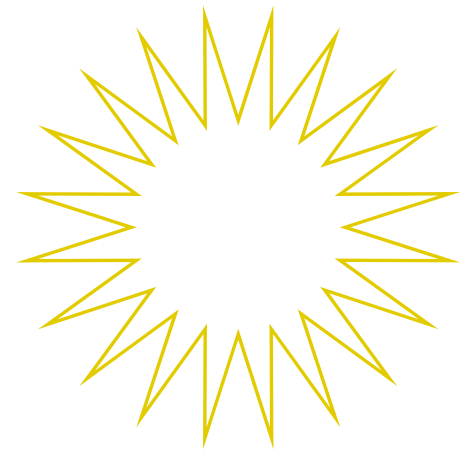


Four qualities

- **Academic excellence (typically 3.7+ GPA for US)**
 - **Moral leadership and social purpose**
 - **Energy and passion to make an impact**
 - **Commitment to service and others**
- 
- 

**SELECTION
CRITERIA**

APPLICATION TIMELINES



2026 - 27

NEXT CYCLE: KEY DATES

**Gates
Cambridge**

**Gates Cambridge
internal deadline:
Aug 14**

- **Sept 2026**
Applications open (US and International rounds)
- **Oct 2026**
US round deadline — US citizens resident in the USA must apply by late October 2026
- **Dec 2026 - Jan 2027**
International round deadline — all other eligible applicants; exact date depends on your Cambridge course
- **Apr 2027**
Scholarships offered (international round); US round scholarships offered late winter/early spring

NEXT CYCLE: KEY DATES

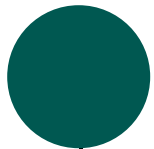
Rhodes

**Rhodes internal
deadline: Aug 14**

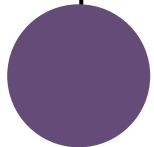
- **Jun-Jul 2026**
Application cycle opens;
campus/institutional deadlines
begin
- **Oct 2026**
National deadline – 11:59 PM
Eastern Time (exact date to be
confirmed)
- **mid-Nov 2026**
District receptions and
interviews (second weekend)
- **mid-Nov 2026**
Election announcements
(scholarship offers) at
conclusion of Saturday finalist
interviews

NEXT STEPS:

HOW TO GET STARTED



Gates Cambridge
[Gatescambridge.org](https://gatescambridge.org)



Rhodes Scholarship
rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

Both scholarships require significant preparation – start early, ideally in your junior year or the year before you plan to apply.



NEXT STEPS

- **Visit your campus fellowships office.** Both scholarships require or strongly recommend an institutional endorsement or advisor.
- **Research programs of study.** Know which Cambridge or Oxford course you want — and why. Your "reasons for choice" matter enormously.
- **Build your recommender network early.** Rhodes requires 5-8 letters; at least 4 must be from faculty.
- **Articulate your interest to others.** Both scholarships prioritize service and leadership with purpose — not just achievement.
- **Mark your calendar.** Campus deadlines are typically weeks before the national deadline. Missing them means missing the scholarship.

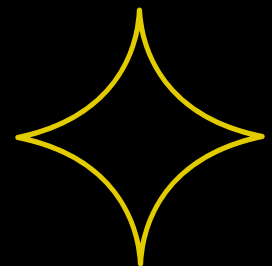
IN SHORT

Build relationships with recommenders.

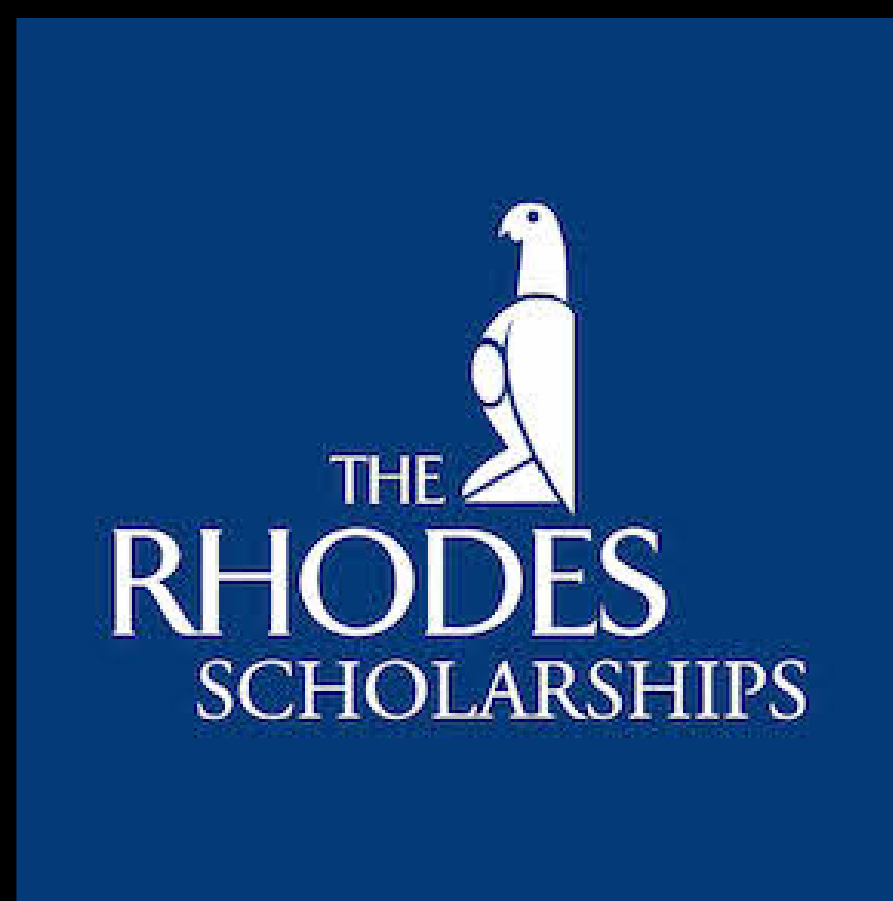
Reflect on "service + leadership" story.

Be intentional.

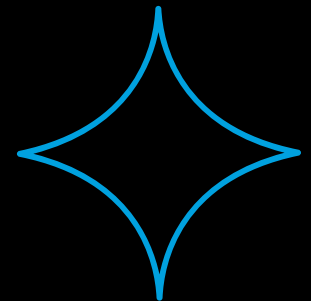
Explore if interested!



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US**

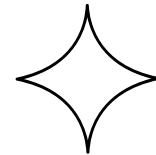
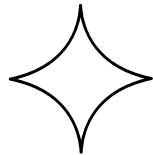




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THANK
YOU



Please take the survey!

