



Rhodes Scholarship

Overview

Introduction

Award Overview

Award Funding

Eligibility

Application Components

Selection Criteria

Application Timelines

Next Steps

Questions

Introduction

The Rhodes Scholarship is an opportunity to join a global community of leaders committed to making a lasting impact on the world.

This is a fully funded award that supports exceptional students in pursuing postgraduate study at Oxford.

OVERVIEW

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.

US Scholars per year ~32

Awards per year ~100

Countries represented 100+

Study period 2-3 years

Funding

Funding covers...

- Full Oxford University course fees
- Annual stipend: ~£20,400/year (2025–26 rate) for living expenses
- Return economy class airfare to & 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

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

Application Components

- **Choose your Oxford Course**
- **Personal statement**
- **Academic statement**
- **Reference letters**
 - **Institutional endorsement (US applicants)**
- **Attend a Social event**
- **Final interview**

Application Components

Visit the Rhodes “Application Overview” site for more details.
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/application-overview/

Review the Rhodes FAQ page for additional information. Of note, they address the use of AI in your application material.

“Some acceptable uses of GenAI in helping you to write your personal or academic statement might include:

- Providing suggestions for how you could reduce your original narrative from e.g. 2,000 to 1,000 words
- Checking the spelling or grammar
- Writing a summary of your narrative, to help you synthesise your thoughts
- Help with structuring your statement”

Selection Criteria

Four qualities:

- Commitment to service and others
- Moral leadership and social purpose
- Energy and passion to make an impact
- Academic excellence

Consider how your application reflects these (including letters of recommendation).

Selection Criteria, cont'd

- **“Truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship”**
 - You seek to live out your values in all that you do. Serving others is a duty you take seriously, whether your community is large or small, local or international.
- **“Moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings”**
 - You have the courage to act on your initiative and inspire others to follow. You demonstrate leadership in both thought and action.
- **“Energy to use one's talents to the full”**
 - Your passion for developing yourself extends outside the classroom. You can demonstrate sustained and outstanding achievement in your chosen pursuit.
- **“Literary and scholastic attainments”** (academic excellence)
 - You are intellectually curious, with a deep love of learning and can think critically about a range of subjects.

Application Timelines

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

**US applicants only -
require institutional
endorsement.**

Internal
deadline:

Aug 14

Next Steps

- **Visit your campus fellowships office.** This scholarship does not require institutional endorsement.
- **Research programs of study.** Know which Oxford course you want — and why. Your "reasons for choice" matter enormously.
- **Build your recommender network early.**

Rhodes Scholarship
rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

Articulate your interest to others. This scholarship prioritizes service and leadership with purpose — not just achievement.

- **Mark your calendar.** Campus deadlines for nomination/endorsement are typically weeks before the national deadline.



Take this
survey to
give
feedback!

Questions?

We're here to help you navigate the process.

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fasa.caltech.edu/fellowships

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