

The Rhodes Scholarship

www.rhodesscholar.org

The Rhodes Scholarships are the oldest and most celebrated international fellowship awards in the world. Each year 32 young Americans are selected as Rhodes Scholars, through a decentralized process representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Applicants from more than 300 American colleges and universities have been selected as Rhodes Scholars.

Rhodes Scholars are chosen not only for their outstanding scholarly achievements, but for their character, commitment to others and to the common good, and for their potential for leadership in whatever domains their careers may lead.

The scholarship provides covers tuition, travel expenses, and a living stipend for 2-3 years at Oxford University while students pursue a second undergraduate degree, a master's degree or a doctorate.

CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: (dates are for 2014 applicants who would attend Oxford in 2015 – please note that dates change each year and should be verified at the official Rhodes website listed above.)

Applicants apply as a representative of one of the fifty states: either in the state in which they will have received at least two years of college training and a bachelor's degree before October 1, 2015, or in the state where they were legally resident on April 15, 2014. (Applicants are warned that selection committees are instructed to verify legal residence.) Simultaneous application to more than one District Committee will disqualify an applicant. At the time of application:

1. An applicant must be a citizen of the United States or must have been admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident and must have maintained, and be expected to maintain, legal status as a lawful permanent resident continuously for the entirety of the five-year period prior to and including the date of the application deadline. (In 2014, applicants must have an initial date of lawful permanent residence on or before October 1, 2009.)
2. An applicant, by October 1, 2014, must be at least 18 but not yet 24 years of age. (Applicants will be eligible who were born after October 1, 1990 and on or before October 1, 1996.)
3. An applicant must have achieved academic standing sufficiently advanced to assure completion of a bachelor's degree before October 1, 2015.

BASIS OF SELECTION: In considering applications, Committees of Selection will have regard to those qualities which Cecil Rhodes expressly listed in order to define the type of Scholar he desired. Proven intellectual and academic achievement of a high standard is the first quality required of applicants, but applicants will also be required to show integrity of character, interest in and respect for their fellow beings, the ability to lead, and the energy to use their talents to the full. Mr. Rhodes believed that the last of these qualities was best tested through participation and success in sports. Participation in organized sports is not essential if applicants are able to demonstrate in other ways the physical vigor which will enable Rhodes Scholars to make an effective contribution to the world around them. Mr. Rhodes clearly expected such a

contribution when he expressed the hope that Rhodes Scholars would come to “esteem the performance of public duties as [their] highest aim.” From this statement one may infer that he expected his Scholars to play an influential part in the betterment of society, wherever their careers might take them. It does not necessarily presuppose a career in the public sector. Mr. Rhodes desired that his Scholars be intellectually, morally, and physically capable of leadership in any field. Much of the distinctiveness of the Rhodes Scholarship arises from this comprehensive set of criteria. Intellectual excellence is obviously required, but not in isolation from other qualities. Mr. Rhodes sought Scholars who were more than “mere bookworms;” he wanted their intellectual talents to be combined with concern for others. Thus, the Committees of Selection assign the highest importance to this blend of character with intellect. Financial need gives no special claim to a Rhodes Scholarship. Moreover, the Will lays down that “no student shall be qualified or disqualified for election to a Scholarship on account of race or religious opinions.” The Rhodes Trust and Oxford University require that selection for a Scholarship and admission to the University will be without regard to gender, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, colour, religion, social background, caste, or disability.

Colorado College Timeline:

If you hope to attend Oxford in the fall following graduation from CC:

Block 5 and 6 of your junior year: Begin application process, submit short essay, resume and name of one faculty member who has agreed to write a letter of recommendation for you to the CC committee. This material will be used to select some candidates for an on-campus interview with the CC selection committee.

Block 7: On campus interviews. Up to two candidates will be selected each year to proceed to the district level.

Summer between junior and senior year: Prepare written materials for district application, including long essay, resume, transcript, and letters of recommendation from eight recommenders.

Block 1 or 2 of your senior year: submit written material to the district committee.

Block 3 of your senior year: candidates chosen to be interviewed by the district committee are notified of their selection and are interviewed at the district on the Friday and Saturday before Thanksgiving. Candidates must be physically present at those interviews. (For our district, these usually happen in Colorado Springs, but not always. You are responsible for your own travel expenses if they do not.) The two district winners will be announced at the end of the day on Saturday – they are the Rhodes Scholars and will go to Oxford in the fall after they graduate.

If you hope to go to Oxford after a gap year following graduation:

Same time line, but starting in your senior year. Note that you must be physically present at the District interview site in the fall after you graduate. If you cannot guarantee that you will be there (usually Colorado Springs), you cannot apply.

Note that there is an upper age limit for candidates – you may not be 24 years old or older on October 1st of the year in which you are applying. Because the takes such a long time, you must calculate backwards to make sure that you will not be too old.