

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Covering the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES - for selection for 2020 only

(This Memorandum cancels those issued for previous years)

Background Information

The Rhodes Scholarship programme is the oldest (established 1903) international scholarship programme in the world, and one of the most prestigious. Administered by the Rhodes Trust in Oxford, the programme offers 100 fully-funded Scholarships each year for postgraduate study at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom - one of the world's leading universities. Rhodes Scholarships are for young leaders of outstanding intellect and character who are motivated to engage with global challenges, committed to the service of others and show promise of becoming value-driven, principled leaders for the world's future. The broad selection criteria are:

- Academic excellence – specific academic requirements can be found under 'Eligibility Criteria' below.
- Energy to use your talents to the full (as demonstrated by mastery in areas such as sports, music, debate, dance, theatre, and artistic pursuits, including where teamwork is involved).
- Truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship.
- Moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in your fellow human beings.

Please see the Scholarships area of the Rhodes Trust website for full details: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

The information below assumes that you have read and familiarised yourself with the basic selection criteria for the Rhodes Scholarships on the Rhodes Trust website. You should also pay close attention to the [detailed Conditions of Tenure for the Scholarship](#).

1. Closing Date

Applications must be submitted online **by 23:59 Eastern Time, Wednesday, 02 October 2019**.

2. Place of Application

Thirty-two Scholarships are assigned annually to the United States of America. States and U.S. territories are grouped into sixteen districts for the purpose of making these appointments. Each District Committee selects not more than two candidates who will represent the states and/or territories within each District as Rhodes Scholars at Oxford. The names of Scholarship winners are announced at the close of the District interviews. No alternates are selected.

Applicants apply as a representative of one of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, or one of the U.S. territories: either in the state or territory in which they will have received at least two years of college training and a bachelor's degree before 1 October in the year of admission, or in the state or territory in which they were legally resident on 15 April in the year of application. Applicants should be aware that selection committees are instructed to verify legal residence. Simultaneous application to more than one District Committee in the United States, or to more than one Rhodes constituency, will disqualify an applicant.

3. Eligibility Criteria

- a. Nationality/citizenship: You must be a citizen of the United States OR you must have been admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident, and must have maintained, and be expected to maintain, such legal status. If you have been granted deferred action under the government's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program AND your status is currently active, then you are also eligible to apply if you meet all other criteria below. It should be noted that the Rhodes Trust makes no representations and does not offer any support regarding (a) the DACA applicant's ability to travel to the U.K., and (b) the DACA applicant's ability to return to the U.S. or to travel to another country upon conclusion of the scholarship; DACA applicants must assume this responsibility

themselves. DACA applicants, like all others, must apply for the U.S. Scholarship or the new Global Scholarship, but not to both. Apart from DACA applicants, an applicant who is eligible to apply in an existing Rhodes jurisdiction should apply in that jurisdiction, and not to the Global Scholarship. Where there are risks of legal uncertainty, the applicant must make a determination.

- b. Age: You must be at least 18 and must not have passed your 24th birthday on 1 October in the year in which you are applying (i.e. you must have been born after 30 September 1995 and on or before 1 October 2001).
- c. Academic achievement: You must have completed (or will have completed by June / July 2020) an undergraduate degree from a college or university (normally a Bachelor's degree) with a GPA of 3.70 or higher on a 4.00 scale, with no rounding. You are not eligible to apply with a lower GPA unless a special exception has been granted by the American Secretary*. Please note carefully the requirements for your chosen course at Oxford, where entry requirements may exceed those of the Scholarship. *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 amsec@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.

Multi-jurisdictional Candidates: If you meet the eligibility criteria for more than one Rhodes Constituency, you must only apply to one. You should apply to the Rhodes Constituency with which you have the greatest connection.

Inter-jurisdictional Candidates: If you have strong and demonstrable connections to **two or more Rhodes Constituencies** but do not meet the eligibility criteria for any single Rhodes Constituency, you may be eligible to apply for inter-jurisdictional consideration. Please visit the '[Which Scholarship?](#)' page for further details.

Global Scholarship Candidates: If you are not eligible to apply to any existing Rhodes Constituency ([see list here](#)) and you are not eligible to apply for inter-jurisdictional consideration, then you can apply for a Global Scholarship, subject to meeting all other Global Scholarship eligibility criteria and subject to institutional nomination. Please visit the '[Which Scholarship?](#)' page for further details.

4. Application Procedure

- a. You can apply online from **01 July 2019** at <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/apply> via the scholarships tab.
- b. You must submit your application online, with all supporting documents, **by 23:59 Eastern Time, 02 October 2019**.
- c. In preparation for making your application, you should read carefully the general information, particularly that held on the Scholarships tab, on the [Rhodes website](#), the [Conditions of Tenure](#) for the Rhodes Scholarship, the information in this document and the graduate admissions pages of the University of Oxford: www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate.
- d. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a social engagement (a welcoming reception on the day of the first interviews or the day before) and a final interview. You must be available to attend both, **in person**, as no accommodations can be made on date and time, or mode, of these events. Interviews will be held simultaneously in the 16 respective U.S. District Meeting City locations on the Friday and Saturday preceding the annual Thanksgiving holiday, i.e. 22 and 23 November 2019. No candidate will be selected without an interview. PLEASE NOTE: All candidates invited to interview are expected to cover their own expenses.
- e. All applicants will be notified with a decision regarding whether or not they will be offered an interview. Winners for the U.S. Rhodes Scholarships are immediately announced in each district, after the conclusion of their respective interviews.

5. Documents and details to be submitted with application

You must submit a completed application form on-line with copies of the documents and information detailed below. All documents must be submitted in English, or with English translations included. Please note that, if you are invited to interview, you may be asked to bring the originals of all documents with you:

- a. Your passport or birth certificate or other government issued identification for proof of age and nationality.
- b. For lawful permanent residents who are not yet citizens, you must upload evidence to prove that you are a lawful permanent resident. A lawful permanent resident should submit his or her current and unexpired Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card, also known as a “green card,” with an initial date of lawful permanent residence (indicated by the notation Resident Since:_____).
- c. For candidates who meet the DACA eligibility criteria above, you must upload documentation to prove your active DACA status. DACA residents should include a current I-797 letter confirming his or her DACA status along with a valid Employment Authorization Card.
- d. An official transcript from the college or university at which you are studying, or have studied, showing grades achieved (to date).
- e. An endorsement of your application from your college / university - note that this is distinct from the required references, which are explained in further detail below.
- f. If English is not your first language, please also see the University's English language requirements: <http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/englishproficiency>.
- g. A full curriculum vitae which should include details about academic qualifications, prizes, scholarships, positions of leadership, employment positions, involvement in student, voluntary, community or political activities and any cultural, musical or sporting accomplishments. This should not exceed two letter size pages in length with a minimum 10 pt font. **Please do not include a photograph in your CV.**
- h. A head-and-shoulders colour photograph (jpg format). Please note your photo will not be available to the selection committee until after final shortlisting decisions have been made. If you are selected, this photograph will be used on the [Rhodes webpage](#) unless or until you provide another version.
- i. A **personal statement** of no more than 1,000 words. The personal statement is your chance to tell your story in your own voice: Who are you? What matters to you? What are you hoping to do in the world? Your academic transcript, your curriculum vitae and your reference letters will provide the substantive detail of your commitments and accomplishments, but this essay gives you the opportunity to cast the overarching narrative for the selection committee. You can find further guidance on the personal statement on the [‘Application Overview’](#) page.

Please ensure that your personal statement:

- i. Addresses your general interests and activities. What inspires you? What are your passions?
- ii. Discusses your aims and priorities and the contributions you have made and hope to make to the world and/or your local community.
- iii. Tells us your reasons for wishing to study at the University of Oxford, which course / courses you would wish to pursue and why. It is important that you have a firm idea of which course / courses are viable for you to study at the University of Oxford - not all University of Oxford courses are covered by the Rhodes Scholarship - you should refer to the [Conditions of Tenure](#) for further information. For applicants interested in pursuing a second BA degree please see guidance under ‘Procedure after Selection’ below. It is a good idea to discuss your proposed course of study with your current professors or lecturers in that field, and, if possible, with someone who has knowledge of United Kingdom universities. Additional sources of information are available online at www.ox.ac.uk/admissions, as well as on individual faculty/departmental websites. If you are selected for the Scholarship you will have the opportunity to revisit your course choice.

- iv. Demonstrates that you are able to meet the entry and application requirements of the specific course you have chosen. Please read the Oxford graduate studies course pages carefully: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate>.
- v. If you wish to undertake a DPhil, you should provide a brief outline of your proposed research area, how it contributes to your future career plans, and list one or more researchers with whom you would like to work in Oxford.

Your personal statement should be entirely your own work, with no assistance received. Through the online application form you will be asked to confirm that the entered / uploaded personal statement is your own work and that no external help was given in its creation or editing.

- j. You will need to provide a list of at least five, but not more than eight, people (your referees) who are willing to submit references on your behalf:
 - i. At least four of your referees should be academics who have formally taught and graded you in your undergraduate (or, if relevant, postgraduate) studies and who can comment in detail on your academic ability and how well they think you would fare at Oxford. Note – for successful Rhodes Scholarship applicants, these references can, in many cases, later be used to form part of the application to study at the University of Oxford, so it is important that you and your referees bear this in mind. In addition to uploading a reference, your academic referees will be asked a small number of additional questions, including to provide an estimated class ranking. See referee guidance on the final page of this document.
 - ii. At least one referee should testify to your character and/or your involvement in extra-curricular/service or leadership activities. These referees should be persons who are able to comment critically on whether you fulfil the extra-curricular, non-academic requirements of the Scholarship and who can speak in detail to your character.
 - iii. A good referee is one who knows you well, rather than a well-known person who only knows you superficially. Please note that Rhodes Scholarship referees are not typically personal friends, contemporaries or relatives. If a referee fits into one of these categories, they should make the connection clear within the reference.
 - iv. Choose reliable people who are likely to respond to your request for a detailed reference, as their letters will be crucial to your application. **Insufficient references will disqualify your application from being considered by the Selection Committee.**
 - v. You will need to provide email addresses for all of your referees.
 - vi. Ask their permission before listing them as referees.
 - vii. Forward to them the Guidance for Referees available on the final pages of this document. They will receive an automatically-generated email request for a reference once you have completed the referee registration section of the online form. They will also be asked to provide their business and home (or mobile) telephone, as well as their postal address for verification purposes.
 - viii. Ensure that you register your referees within the application form early, to allow them sufficient time to provide a detailed reference letter. **It is your responsibility to ensure that referees submit their references online by 23:59 Eastern Time 2 October 2019.** Please note that if your college / university endorsement plus at least five references is not uploaded by the submission deadline date, then your application will be considered incomplete. Any surplus references arriving after the deadline may or may not be considered alongside your application. Applicants can track the progress of their references within the application form.
- k. Please do not upload documents, certificates, testimonials or links / URL's other than those required.
- l. All applications must be submitted online. No alternate method of application is accepted. There is no application fee for submission of the Rhodes Scholarship application form.

6. Selection Procedure

- a. Selection for the Rhodes Scholarship is made without regard to financial means.
- b. Selection for the Rhodes Scholarship is made without regard to marital status, race, ethnic origin, colour, gender, religion, sexual orientation, social background, disability, caste or other irrelevant distinction. The provision of such information in the 'Outreach' section of the application form is optional, but helps us to ensure that our selection processes are fair and that our outreach efforts are effective; those involved in selection will only see summary statistics of these responses in an anonymised format that cannot be tracked back to the individual.
- c. You are applying for a Rhodes Scholarship for entry to the University of Oxford in October 2020; the scholarship cannot be deferred.
- d. The Rhodes Scholarship is confirmed only upon successful admission to the University of Oxford.
- e. No selection will be made if a sufficiently qualified candidate cannot be found.
- f. The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

7. Procedure after Selection

- a. Please note that successful applicants will need to apply to the University of Oxford very soon after selection. Full details will be given upon selection.
- b. The full application of successful candidates will be accessible to Rhodes House, Oxford, where the Scholarship references can be re-used, if appropriate, in support of the successful candidate's subsequent application to the University of Oxford.
- c. Applicants invited to the final interview or newly-selected Scholars who are intending to do a second BA at Oxford can obtain an application form from the Registrar at Rhodes House (registrar@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk). The completed form must reach the Registrar by **no later than noon GMT Friday 29 November 2019**. Depending on the timing of the final Rhodes Scholarship interviews, candidates must either make a quick submission immediately following selection or they will need to submit the completed form ahead of the final interview. Candidates who are firm in their choice of a second BA may wish to maximise their chances of admittance onto the course by applying via [UCAS](#) ahead of the UCAS mid-October deadline. If you miss both the UCAS and the Rhodes deadline for the second BA application, the chances of successful admittance to the University of Oxford to study a second BA with senior status are slim.
- d. Successful candidates will be encouraged to disclose, in confidence, any medical condition or special needs which may require academic or personal support in Oxford. This disclosure is entirely voluntary and is requested only to enable Rhodes House to provide suitable support in Oxford and to make the transition to Oxford as smooth as possible.

The Rhodes Trust may contact you some time after the submission deadline to ask for feedback on the application process and any interactions you have had with the Rhodes Trust staff and volunteers.

Please note – before starting an online Rhodes Scholarship application you should be aware of the Rhodes Trust data protection policy for applications: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/pages/personal-data-cookies/>.

Glossary of terms:

Jurisdiction: See Rhodes Constituency below.

District / Regional / State Secretary: Some constituencies conduct selection by region / district / state / territory. In those cases, the regional selection process is managed by a district / regional secretary, who will oversee outreach, queries, shortlisting and final interviews. Selection across the constituency is still overseen by the National Secretary (see below).

National Secretary: There is one National Secretary for each Rhodes constituency. The National Secretaries oversee the selection process, from outreach, to applicant queries, to shortlisting and final selection. Most National Secretaries will also sit on the Selection Committee, although where a National Secretary oversees multiple regions this may not always be possible. For National Secretary contact details please see the '[Apply](#)' webpage and select the appropriate constituency.

Rhodes constituency: A Rhodes constituency is the country / group of countries to which you are applying e.g. Australia or East Africa (covering Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda).

Second BA (with Senior Status): All Rhodes Scholarship candidates will have already completed, or will be about to complete, an undergraduate degree. Successful candidates can apply to do a second undergraduate degree at Oxford University over two years (i.e. with Senior Status). Senior Status is the only basis on which a Rhodes Scholar may pursue an undergraduate degree. Further details can be found [here](#). Please note you can apply for your Oxford BA to be converted to an MA after a few years (see the 'When do graduates become eligible for the MA' question [here](#)). Second BA applications have an early deadline – see the 'Procedure after Selection' instructions above.

Selection Committee: The selection committees conduct the final interviews and make the decisions that lead to the selection of the Rhodes Scholars. The committee will include Senior Rhodes Scholars and distinguished members of the community representing a diverse range of interests and experience.

Useful Links:

An explanation of the types of graduate degrees at Oxford University can be found here:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/introducing-our-courses?wssl=1>

Rhodes House Website: <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk>

Which Rhodes Scholarship? guidance: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/which-scholarship/>

Guidance on completing your application: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/application-overview/>

Conditions of Tenure: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/conditions-of-tenure>

Data protection statement: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/pages/personal-data-cookies/>

Rhodes constituencies list: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/list-of-rhodes-scholarship-countries/>

(Please note, that if your country is not listed in the above link, you may be eligible to apply for a [Global Rhodes Scholarship](#))

University of Oxford English language proficiency: <http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/englishproficiency>

University of Oxford Graduate Admissions: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate>

For further information about the Rhodes Scholarship, see www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

The Rhodes Trust reserves the right to vary these conditions at any time without notice – please visit <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/apply/> for updates.

ELLIOT F. GERSON

AMERICAN SECRETARY

THE RHODES TRUST, 8229 BOONE BOULEVARD, SUITE 240, VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22182, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON BEHALF OF

THE RHODES TRUST

RHODES HOUSE, OXFORD OX1 3RG, ENGLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

District 1 (Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont): JULIE LEVISON, Massachusetts General Hospital, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1600, Boston, MA 02114

District 2 (Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey): GERALD J. CARDINALE, RedBird Capital Partners, LLC, 667 Madison Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10065

District 3 (New York-South [including the counties of Sullivan, Ulster, and Dutchess and those counties to the South, including Long Island]): TALI FARHADIAN WEINSTEIN, 907 Fifth Avenue, Apt. 12W, New York, NY 10021

District 4 (New York-North [including the counties of Delaware, Greene, and Columbia and those counties to the North], Pennsylvania): LAURA E. MCGRANE, Department of English, Haverford College, 370 Lancaster Avenue, Haverford, PA 19041

District 5 (Delaware, Maryland/DC): LISSA MUSCATINE, Politics & Prose Bookstore, 5015 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008

District 6 (Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina): LYNN ENTERLINE, Department of English, Vanderbilt University, 331 Benson Hall, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37235-1654

District 7 (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands): SETH LANDEFELD, Department of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1808 7th Avenue South, Suite 420, Birmingham, AL 35294

District 8 (Oklahoma, Texas): KEITH P. ELLISON, United States Courthouse, 515 Rusk Street, Suite 3716, Houston, TX 77002-2600

District 9 (Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia): MEGAN WHEELER, 8229 Boone Boulevard, Suite 240, Vienna, Virginia 22182

District 10 (Illinois, Ohio): GARY T. JOHNSON, Chicago History Museum, 1601 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614-6038

District 11 (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, West Virginia): ROBERT M. DOW, U.S. Courthouse, 219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1978, Chicago, IL 60604

District 12 (Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee): GEORGIE BOGE GERAGHTY, 661 Blackthorn Road, Winnetka, IL 60093-2005

District 13 (Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming): JANICE R. UGAKI, Firmseek, Inc. 1667 K Street, NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20006

District 14 (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington): ROBERT B. MITCHELL, K&L Gates LLP, 925 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2900, Seattle, WA 98104-1158

District 15 (Arizona, California-North [including the counties of Monterey, Kings, Tulare, and Inyo and those counties to the North], Hawaii, Nevada): ELIZABETH J. MURPHY, Division of Endocrinology, San Francisco General Hospital, 1001 Potrero Avenue, Building 30, Room 3501K, San Francisco, CA 94110

District 16 (American Samoa, California-South [including the counties of San Luis Obispo, Kern, and San Bernadino and those counties to the South], Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands): BETHANY L. EHLMANN, Geological and Planetary Sciences, California Institute of Technology and Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 1200 East California Boulevard, MC150-21, Pasadena, CA 91125

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP 2020: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Covering the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories

GUIDANCE FOR REFEREES

References must be written in English and **must be uploaded by 23:59 Eastern Time 2 October 2019**.

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a referee for one of the applicants for the Rhodes Scholarship. References form a crucial part of the selection process, and therefore your reference could make the difference to an applicant's success. The following notes are intended to serve as a guide as you write your reference.

Background Information

The Rhodes Scholarship programme is the oldest (established 1903), and perhaps the most prestigious, international scholarship programme in the world. Administered by the Rhodes Trust in Oxford, the programme offers 100 fully-funded Scholarships each year for postgraduate study at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom - one of the world's leading universities. Rhodes Scholarships are for young leaders of outstanding intellect and character who are motivated to engage with global challenges, committed to the service of others and show promise of becoming value-driven, principled leaders for the world's future. The broad selection criteria are:

- Academic excellence (First Class Honours or GPA of minimum 3.70 out of 4.00, or equivalent).
- Energy to use their talents to the full (as demonstrated by mastery in areas such as sports, music, debate, dance, theatre, and artistic pursuits, including where teamwork is involved).
- Truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship.
- Moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in their fellow human beings.

The Committees are looking for outstanding young people who are motivated to engage with the global challenges facing humankind, who are committed to the service of others, and to the promotion of international understanding and peace. In short, candidates will be young people of **outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service**, who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as 'leaders for the world's future', wherever their careers might take them, and in any field. For further details, see: <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/>.

The Rhodes Selection Committee will be grateful, therefore, if you would supply a frank and confidential statement regarding the applicant's qualifications. Your prompt response to the auto-generated email reference request will be of great assistance to the applicant and to the selection process.

The Selection Committee will have available for consideration a copy of the applicant's university academic transcript, curriculum vitae, and personal statement of academic interests, other pursuits, extracurricular activities and reasons for wishing to study at Oxford. Observations which would enhance the Committee's understanding of these records will be especially welcomed. **Your comments should not exceed two A4 pages (minimum 10 point type).**

A brief introduction of yourself would be helpful, including any connections that you have with the Rhodes Trust, Rhodes Scholars and also the University of Oxford (such connections are certainly not essential).

Proven intellectual and academic quality of a very high standard is the first quality required of applicants. However, and just as important, applicants will also be required to demonstrate integrity of character, interest in and respect for their fellow human beings, the ability to lead, the energy to use their talents to the full and the desire to make an effective contribution to the world around them as described above.

A Rhodes Scholar will undertake postgraduate study at Oxford, a taught or research degree, or a second undergraduate degree with senior status (over two years). In all cases, entry to Oxford is very competitive indeed.

The reference form will clarify which type of reference you have been asked to submit. Whether you have been asked to provide an academic reference, or a character/extra-curricular reference, it is not expected that you will be able to speak from first-hand knowledge of *all* the applicant's qualifications.

Academic referees: If you are primarily acquainted with the candidate through a teacher/student relationship, it is expected that your appraisal will concentrate first and primarily on academic quality and potential, although your assessment of other qualities will be welcomed by the Committee. **Academic referees should note that, in the case of a successful applicant, your letter will be used by Oxford departments and colleges for determining the Rhodes Scholar-elect's academic case for admission to postgraduate study.** Consequently, a detailed assessment of the candidate's academic qualifications and suitability to undertake Master's / doctoral level study at Oxford will be very important. Since the University of Oxford requires the following information from referees writing in support of graduate applicants, you are also asked to comment on:

- a. The applicant's relative academic standing in comparison with other students on the same course at the same institution – e.g. top 5%, 10%, 25%?
- b. How many students in the applicant's year group on their programme of study, i.e. with how many students are you comparing the applicant?
- c. On what basis are you making the assessment - personal assessment/official class rank?

Character referees: If, on the other hand, you are better acquainted with the applicant through non-academic interests, it is expected that you will concentrate on assessment of character and non-academic qualities, in the knowledge that the Committee is looking for scholars who show promise of outstanding achievement in later life.

Please do not hesitate to speak of the applicant's limitations as well as strong points. Committees tend naturally to be dubious of appraisals that imply a given individual has no limitations. **Your reply will, of course, be treated as strictly confidential by the Selection Committee.**

All letters of recommendation for applicants should be addressed to the *Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee*. The Selection Committee (and subsequently the University of Oxford) asks **that your letter of recommendation be on headed paper, signed, and uploaded in pdf format.** You will receive an auto-generated email requesting the reference, which will contain instructions for completing and submitting your letter. As well as uploading your reference letter, you will be asked to complete some basic information about yourself and your relationship to the applicant. All letters of reference should be received via the online application system. **Please ensure that you press submit once you have completed the form.** Once you submit the reference both you and the applicant will receive an automated email to confirm receipt; the applicant will not be able to see the submitted reference, which will remain confidential.

Please note that Rhodes Scholarship referees are not typically personal friends, contemporaries or relatives. If a referee fits into one of these categories, they should make the connection clear within the reference.

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