



RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS - 2012

THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Rhodes Scholarships are funded from the will of Cecil John Rhodes and have been awarded to applicants annually since 1902 by the Oxford-based Rhodes Trust on the basis of academic qualities, as well as those of character, sympathy for and protection of the weak, and leadership. The Rhodes Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship for postgraduate study, providing full funding (including tuition fees, living expenses and travel expenses) for two years of study at Oxford, with the possible extension for a third year. Eleven of these scholarships are awarded in Canada through a series of provincial selection processes. **Two scholarships** are awarded to Ontario applicants. See <http://www.canadianrhodes.org/welcome> for more information.

ELIGIBILITY

A candidate must:

- a) be a Canadian citizen or person domiciled in Canada
- b) have been born between October 2, 1987 and October 1, 1993 (i.e. passed their 18th but not their 24th birthday)
- c) have received an undergraduate degree before taking up the scholarship in Fall 2012

BASIS OF SELECTION

Proven intellectual and academic attainment of a high standard is the first quality required for applicants, but they will also be required to show integrity of character, sympathy for and protection of the weak, the ability to lead and the energy to use their talents to the full.

More specifically:

- a cumulative grade point average of at least 4.00 (A).
- a record of extracurricular accomplishments which demonstrate achievement and ability at the leadership level.
- a record of involvement in organizations and activities which demonstrate a strong interest in caring for the disadvantaged.
- evidence of a well-rounded person, in terms of physical activity, community involvement and anything that demonstrates the whole person.
- a good academic reason for wanting to study at Oxford University, and specific knowledge of what program would best fit the candidate's career goals and academic qualifications.

DECIDING TO APPLY

Before applying for a Rhodes Scholarship, you should research the academic programs at Oxford University to determine which program best fits your goals and interests. For further information check the Oxford website at: www.ox.ac.uk. The more information you obtain about the program you wish to study, the better your personal statement will be. Note that many Rhodes scholars take a second undergraduate degree at Oxford, rather than pursuing a graduate degree.

RYERSON INTERNAL PROCESS

There is an internal Ryerson application process that must be followed to apply for a Rhodes Scholarship.

- **By May 13, 2011:** If you are either your third or fourth year (graduating in 2011 or 2012) and qualified for a Rhodes Scholarship you should first discuss your intention with Dr. Diane Schulman, Director, Academic Initiatives and Secretary of Senate. Call for an appointment at 416-979-5011 or email at dschulma@ryerson.ca.
- **May 14 – September 3, 2011** - If you receive initial approval to proceed:
 - Identify the program at Oxford that interests you
 - Write a personal statement and list of activities and honours, and meet with mentor to refine them. Several drafts may be required.
 - Work with mentor to identify 6 referees and have 3 of these send their letter to your mentor.
- **By September 2, 2011:** You must complete all of the items in Part 1 of the checklist below and submit them to the Convocation and Awards Office (KHS47, phone 416-979-5234). You must make arrangements for the items in Part 2 so they can be sent quickly if you are approved.
- **By September 12, 2011:** The Student Prestigious Awards Committee will review all submissions and decide which applications are to go forward.
- **By September 23, 2011:** Submit all of the items in Part 2 below to the Convocation and Awards Office.
- **By October 14, 2011:**

- Once approved, you are responsible for having those items specified in Part 3 submitted directly to the address on page 6 of the application form.
- The Convocation and Awards Office will submit the applications of those students who are approved along with a letter of endorsement from the President. Students may not submit applications on their own.

THE APPLICATION – the application process will be online at the end of May, 2011. You should check there for final details. Based on current information, you should plan to do the following:

Part 1: Complete these items and submit to the Convocation and Awards Office by September 2, 2011. KHS47.

- the Rhodes Scholarship application form <https://apply.embark.com/scholarship/RhodesTrust/14/>
- a factual list of principal activities and honours while at university (including scholarships, prizes, awards, offices held, athletic record, extracurricular interests and activities) with dates.
- a personal statement (should not exceed 900 words in length) which indicates your general interests and activities, your proposed course of study at Oxford, and your present intentions as to future career. See below for more information.

Part 2: Complete these items and submit to the Convocation and Awards Office by September 12, 2011, KHS47

- a photocopy of your official birth certificate.
- a medical certificate (form provided in the application package, Page 5), signed by a physician.
- four copies of a formal unmounted head and shoulders photograph (glossy print of postcard size).

Part 3: You should arrange for all of these to be ready so that they can be sent quickly if you are approved by the Student Prestigious Awards Committee. These items are to be sent directly to the address on page 6 of the application form.

- one certified transcript from each postsecondary institution you have attended
- six letters of reference, at least three of which should be written by people who have taught you at university using the form on page 4 of the application form. (You should complete the information on the form and give one to each referee.) See below for more information.

In addition, the Convocation and Awards Office will arrange for a written statement from the President of Ryerson University indicating that you are approved as a suitable candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship to be included in your package.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

The personal statement should demonstrate a picture of you as a well-rounded person, whose character, accomplishments, and future plans reflect a maturity and sense of purpose, and a concern for others. A good statement will give the committee a clear indication of who you are and how your interests have developed, and furthermore, how studying at Oxford fits into your future plans. It should be about you and why you are special. It must be very well written.

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

The Rhodes Scholarship application requires six letters of reference, to be sent directly to the Selection Committee. At least three of the six letters must come from people with whom you have studied at university. Also note that four of the six reference letters must comment on your academic preparation and scholastic achievement (Page 1 of the application). This fourth letter could come from someone who knows your academic record at university but has not necessarily taught you, (e.g., Chair, Director, or Administrative Assistant).

It is strongly recommended that you prepare your application materials before your referees write their letters and give your referees a copy (in particular they should have an unofficial copy of your transcript, personal statement and list of activities) as background information for drafting their letters of reference. The more information they know about you as a well-rounded person, the better they will be able to support your application with a detailed letter of reference. Make an appointment with each of your referees to discuss your application, your plans for studying at Oxford, and your long term career objectives. Give them as much information as possible in order for them to write the best reference letter.

RHODES SELECTION COMMITTEE PROCESS

Applications will be forwarded by Ryerson to the Rhodes Selection Committee by October 14, 2011. The Selection Committee will conduct a preliminary elimination made on the basis of credentials. The selected candidates will be invited to interviews at the end of November and successful Rhodes Scholars will be notified in December.