

# THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP 2016

## CHINA

### INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

FOR ELECTION FOR 2016 ONLY



June 2015

#### Background information:

The [Rhodes Scholarship](#) is administered by the Rhodes Trust, Oxford, United Kingdom. Scholarships are awarded in 32 different countries around the world. Applications are invited for the first Rhodes Scholarships for China, for entry to Oxford in October 2016. Selection Committees for the Rhodes Scholarship are looking for outstanding leaders who are motivated to 'fight the world's fight' and to 'esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim', and to promote international understanding and peace. In short, Selection Committees seek young women and men of outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service, who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as 'leaders for the world's future'.

Candidates for the Rhodes Scholarship will be assessed against four criteria:

- literary and scholastic attainments
- energy to use one's talents to the full (as demonstrated by extracurricular strengths, such as in sport, debate, music, dance, etc.)
- 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 one's fellow beings.

*The information below assumes that you have read and familiarised yourself with the basic admission criteria for the Rhodes Scholarships available on the [Rhodes Trust](#) website. You should also pay close attention to the detailed Conditions of Tenure for the Scholarship, available here (and on page 5 of this document) :*

[www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/Application/Conditions-of-Tenure.pdf](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/Application/Conditions-of-Tenure.pdf)

#### 1. Closing date

- a. Your application must be submitted online by midnight CST (China Standard Time) on Friday 25 September.

#### 2. Eligibility criteria

- a. You must be a citizen of the People's Republic of China. If you have the right to apply for the Rhodes Scholarship in Hong Kong, you must select either the Hong Kong or China application. Application in more than one constituency is not permitted.
- b. You must have reached your 19th and not have passed your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday on 1 October 2016. This means applicants must have been born after 30 September 1991 and on or before 1 October, 1997.
- c. You must have completed (or be due to complete by August 2016) your undergraduate degree in China or overseas. If studying overseas, candidates must provide evidence that they have received at least five full years, out of the last 10 years, in full-time education in China.
- d. Candidates must have a GPA in the top 5% of his/her class, and achieve a high standard in standardized testing (see 2f below).

- e. Candidates must have a sufficiently high standard of English to meet the English language proficiency requirements (at the Higher Level listed) of the University of Oxford : <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/applying-to-oxford/application-guide>
- f. Candidates must submit GRE or GMAT certificate.

### 3. Application process

- a. Applicants should apply online from early June: <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/china>.
- b. In preparation for making their application, all candidates should read carefully the general information for candidates 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](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate).
- c. All applications must be submitted online by the closing date and time at (1) above. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered. Candidates applying from overseas should pay careful attention to submit by the deadline, using China Standard Time.
- d. Longlisted candidates will be invited to attend a skype or in-person preliminary interview in October.
- e. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a final interview, which they must attend in person. No candidate will be selected without interview in person on the scheduled dates.
- f. The cost of travel to the interview will not be reimbursed by the Selection Committee.

### 4. Information to be submitted with application

The application will require you to submit the following documents. All documents must be submitted in English, or English translations provided. Third party document verification will be conducted. In the case of the CV/resume and the personal statement, you may submit a Chinese version as well. Please note that, if you are invited to interview, you will be asked to bring the originals of all documents with you:

- a copy of your Resident Identity Card as evidence of date of birth;
- an official academic transcript from the university at which you are studying, or have studied, showing grades achieved to date; if your official transcript is not in English, you must submit **both** (i) the original official document issued by your institution **and** (ii) a translation into English certified by a professional translator, the issuing body of the original transcript or an authorised notary;
- if studying overseas, you must provide evidence that you have received at least five out of last 10 years in full-time education in China. (*For example, if you have studied abroad for the past four years for your undergraduate degree, you should provide an academic transcript and an official letter from your secondary school to confirm residency in China prior to your overseas study*)
- evidence of English language proficiency, see 2e above. An IELTS or TOEFL certificate is required.
- a GRE or GMAT certificate;
- a full *curriculum vitae* / resumé which should include awards received, records of achievements and extra-curricular activities, work experience (if any) as well as educational history; if you wish to submit any supporting documents as evidence of achievements listed, please limit to no more than 5 pages;
- a head and shoulders photograph (jpg); please note that selectors will not see your photo until after candidates have been shortlisted for final interviews;

- a statement of no more than 1000 words, written in English, in as simple and direct a manner as possible. This is your opportunity to tell the Selection Committee who you are.

General advice on preparing your personal statement can be found in a short video entitled Rhodes Scholars speak about preparing the personal statement and the application process <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply>.

The content should include:

- Your general interests and activities and what you plan to do with your life once you have completed your studies.
- Your aims and priorities as well as the contribution you have made and would like to make to society.
- If you left the University before applying for a Rhodes Scholarship, you should also state your occupation and other activities since leaving.
- Indicate the course of study and degree you wish to follow at Oxford.
- Also demonstrate that you are able to meet the requirements of the specific course you have chosen.
- Applicants wishing to undertake a DPhil must provide a brief outline of their proposed research and list one or more researchers under whom you would like to work in Oxford.

Your personal statement is a very important part of your application. **It is very important for you to have considered what course and degree you wish to follow at Oxford before you submit your application.** It is a good idea to discuss your proposed course of study with your professors or lecturers in that field, and, if possible, with someone who has knowledge of United Kingdom universities.

The personal statement must be entirely your own work. When submitting your application you will be asked to attest that it is *“my own work and is wholly truthful. Neither it nor any earlier draft has been edited by anyone other than me, nor has anyone else reviewed it to provide me with suggestions to improve it. I understand that any such editing or review would disqualify my application.”*

Please consult the University of Oxford website: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate>. The admissions pages will give clear guidance on the admissions requirements for your chosen course. Many courses require written work or the GRE or GMAT.

- the names and contact details of four referees. Three of these referees should be academics under whom you have studied at undergraduate level. One referee should be people well acquainted with you, who can speak to your character and/or extra-curricular activities. Choose who know you well, rather than who are well known. Members of your family may not provide references. All recommendation **letters must be submitted in English**. Academic references must be submitted from the referee’s official University email account, on official University letterhead. Where the original reference has been written in Chinese, the original should be submitted as well as the translation.
- It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that referees submit their references by 25 September 2015. (Although your referees will be contacted direct by the online application, it remains your responsibility to ensure that your referees submit their references by the deadline above. You will find Guidance for your referees on page 7 below). The Secretary reserves full rights to contact referees with a view to confirming the meaning or veracity of any information provided.

## 5. Selection Procedure

- a. Financial need does not give a special claim to a Rhodes Scholarship.
- b. The Rhodes Trust and Oxford University require that selection for a Scholarship and for admission to the University will be without regard to marital status, race, ethnic origin, colour, sex and

gender, religion, sexual orientation, social background, disability, caste or other irrelevant distinction.

- c. A selection committee will make no nomination if it is of the opinion that there is no sufficiently qualified candidate.
- d. The Rhodes Scholarship for which you are applying is for entry to Oxford in October 2016 and may not be deferred.
- e. The decision of the Selection Committee is final.
- f. The Rhodes Scholarship is confirmed only upon successful admission to the University of Oxford.

**6. 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. Applicants for a second undergraduate degree with senior status will need to submit a paper application, provided on selection, which must reach Oxford by Friday, 27 November 2015. Candidates must therefore make a quick submission immediately following election.

For further information about the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Scholarships, see [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)

## Detailed Conditions of Tenure of the Rhodes Scholarship

Studying at Oxford is a wonderful experience! Rhodes Scholars may read for any full-time postgraduate degree at the University of Oxford, subject to the few Rhodes requirements outlined below.

The basic tenure of the Scholarship is **two years**, subject always to satisfactory academic performance and personal conduct. In certain cases, at the discretion of the Academic Committee of the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Trustees, Scholars may apply for a third year of Scholarship to complete the DPhil, see *Notes* below.

*Permitted degrees/degree combinations :*

- **A BA with Senior Status** (two years) : Scholars who read for a 2<sup>nd</sup> BA may not apply for a third year of Scholarship
- **A one-year taught Master's course** (MSc, MSt, BCL), followed in the second year by another one-year taught Master's course (subject to successful completion of the first course) : Scholars who read two consecutive one-year Master's courses may not apply for a third year of Scholarship
- **A one-year taught Master's course** (MSc, MSt, BCL) : Scholars who read for a one-year taught Master's course may progress to DPhil, and subsequently apply for a third year of Scholarship, subject to the *Notes* below. This progression is **not** open to Scholars in the Maths, Physical & Life Sciences Division (see below)
- **A two-year MPhil or BPhil** (or BCL/MPhil) : Scholars taking the MPhil/BPhil (or the two-year BCL/MPhil route) may apply for a third year of Scholarship to read for DPhil, subject to the *Notes* below.
- **A two-year MSc by research** (or MLitt) : Scholars who read a two-year MSc by research may not apply for a third year of Scholarship
- **A three-year DPhil** : Scholars entering Oxford direct to DPhil follow the same application process for a third year, as described in the *Notes* below. Please note candidates for a DPhil within the Maths, Physical & Life Sciences Division may not take the Master's route to DPhil, and **must** apply to start the DPhil in their first year in Oxford

*Exceptions:*

- The **MFE** (Masters in Financial Economics) and the **MBA** (Masters in Business Administration) : Scholars may only read these degrees **in the second year** of the Scholarship
- **The four-year Accelerated Graduate-Entry course in Medicine** is not tenable on the Rhodes Scholarship
- **Four-year DPhil programmes**, eg the Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) and the Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) programmes. Scholars may pursue these programmes only if alternative funding is obtained for the final (4th) year of the programme. Interested Scholars should contact : [mary.eaton@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mary.eaton@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk) before applying.

### Notes on the discretionary third year of Scholarship

Scholars may apply to progress to DPhil via a one or two year Master's degree. Interested Scholars will be required to make a competitive application, in their first or second year, demonstrating a sound academic rationale and a clear academic plan. The proposed doctoral thesis must be clearly an outgrowth of work done in the Master's course, since beginning a wholly new topic inescapably leads to unfunded overruns. Decisions on progression to DPhil are made at the discretion of the Academic Committee of the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Trustees. The Academic Committee will look for outstanding academic performance, combined with a strong rationale for DPhil, in the context of intended career path. Progression to DPhil is therefore a competitive process, and should not be taken for granted. Admission to the DPhil is also based on meeting the conditions placed on a DPhil offer by your Department/Faculty.

Scholars who take the Master's route to DPhil should expect to spend at least four years in Oxford. The total University fee liability for any Scholar progressing to DPhil from a Master's course (one-year or two-

year) is four years (12 terms) in total, whereas the *maximum* duration of full funding (fees & stipend) on the Rhodes Scholarship is three years (nine terms). Please note, therefore, the differing arrangements for Scholars pursuing doctoral work in the four academic divisions at Oxford.

- i) *Humanities Division & Social Sciences Division* - Most departments within the Humanities and Social Sciences insist on the Master's route to DPhil. In view of this insistence, **if** a Scholar is awarded a third year of Scholarship, the Trust *may* underwrite the fourth (final) year of fees for Scholars within these **two** Divisions only. The word "underwrite" is used deliberately. Fourth year fees present a substantial additional financial burden on the Trust. Scholars are expected to make all reasonable efforts to secure alternative funding<sup>1</sup> and any access to Rhodes underwriting will be means tested and competitive.
- ii) *Medical Sciences Division* – From time to time, Scholars opt to take the Master's route to DPhil within the Medical Sciences Division (subject to approval of the Academic Committee of the Rhodes Trust, as above). If such a route is approved, fourth (final) year of fees is borne by the Medical Sciences Division, under an arrangement the Trust has with the Division.
- iii) *Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences Division* - The Master's route to DPhil is **not** open to candidates in the Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences Division (unless funding for the fourth year comes from other sources<sup>1</sup>). Candidates within these disciplines should apply direct to DPhil.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Under no circumstances does the Rhodes Trust pay stipend (living expenses) beyond the third year of Scholarship.

<sup>1</sup> Alternative sources of funding could include self-financing, grants, other external scholarship support, loans or family support. The Rhodes Trust will require appropriate evidence of alternative funding.

*The Rhodes Trust reserves the right to vary these conditions at any time without notice. For the latest, definitive, conditions please see <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply>.*

## THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FOR CHINA : *Guidance for Referees*

The [Rhodes Scholarship](#) is administered by the Rhodes Trust. As with the Rhodes Scholarship, the Selection Committee is looking for outstanding leaders who are motivated to fight 'the world's fight' and to 'esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim', and to promote international understanding and peace. In short, the Committee seeks young women and men of **outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service**, who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as 'leaders for the world's future'.

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

The Selection Committee will have available for consideration a copy of the candidate's university academic transcript, GRE or GMAT certificates, 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 must not exceed two A4 pages.**

Academic referees should note that their letters of reference will be used by Oxford departments and colleges for determining the Rhodes Scholar-elect's suitability for admission. In the case of proposed postgraduate study, these letters will also be evaluated to ascertain the Rhodes Scholar-elect's qualifications for such advanced work. Consequently, a detailed assessment of the candidate's academic qualifications will be particularly helpful.

Proven intellectual and academic quality of a high standard is the first quality required of applicants. However, and just as important, they 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 and the desire to make an effective contribution to the world around them as described above.

It is not expected that you will be able to speak from first-hand knowledge of all the candidate's qualifications. A Rhodes Scholar may seek to undertake advanced courses at Oxford, or undergraduate courses (with senior status) in a field other than that previously studied. Entry to courses is becoming increasingly difficult. If you are primarily acquainted with the candidate through a teacher/student relationship, you are requested to concentrate particularly on academic quality and potential (bearing in mind that your reference will be used for admission procedures at Oxford University) although your assessment of other qualities will be welcomed by the Committee. If on the other hand, you are better acquainted with the candidate through non-academic interests, you are requested to concentrate on assessment of character 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 candidate'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 to the Selection Committee (and to the necessary Oxford authorities in the case of the successful candidate).

The Selection Committee would prefer your letter of recommendation to be on headed paper, signed, uploaded in pdf format and (for academic references) delivered from your institutional address. You will receive an auto-generated email requesting the reference, which will contain instructions for completing and submitting your reference.

*Please note that candidates are asked **not** to list personal friends, contemporaries or relatives as referees.*

References **must be received by 25 September 2015.**

For further information: <http://www.rhodesscholarshiptrust.com/rhodesscholarship/about-the-rhodes-scholarships>