



THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS FACT SHEET

About the Rhodes Scholarships

The Rhodes Scholarships are postgraduate awards that provide transformative opportunities for exceptional young leaders to study at the University of Oxford. The Rhodes Scholarships were established in 1903 in the will of Cecil Rhodes, a successful British businessman and politician based in South Africa.

Based on the criteria outlined in the will, each Rhodes Scholarship selection committee seeks young women and men of outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service. Each year, Rhodes attracts more than 12,000 applications at the final stage in the applications process. With a 0.7% acceptance rate, it is one of the most competitive scholarships in the world.

The Scholarship covers all University and College fees, a personal stipend for room and board, health insurance and travel, as well as the costs of Rhodes House including the Rhodes Service & Leadership programme.

The Rhodes Trust

Established in 1903 under the terms and conditions of the will of Cecil Rhodes, and by subsequent Acts of Parliament, the Rhodes Trust is an educational charity whose principal activity is to support Scholars selected from 14 constituencies in order to study at the University of Oxford. The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees.

Facts and Figures

- Every year, **83** Scholars are selected from over **30** countries, including USA, Germany, Australia, Canada, and India
- **4,500** living Rhodes Scholars around the world comprise the Rhodes network
- The total value of the award is more than **£50,000** per annum (depending on the course of study)
- The average tenure for a Rhodes Scholar is currently **3 years** (depending on the course of study)

Rhodes Alumni

Nearly 8,000 Rhodes Scholars have gone on to serve at the forefront of government, business, the arts, education, research and other sectors.

- **Lord Howard Florey**, Nobel Prize winner, honoured for his discovery of the therapeutic properties of penicillin
- **Bill Clinton**, 42nd President of the United States
- **Tony Abbott**, Prime Minister of Australia
- **John Templeton**, stock investor, businessman and philanthropist, named one of Time magazines' 100 Most Influential People in 2007
- **Edwin Hubble**, American astronomer, the most important observational cosmologists of the 20th Century



The Rhodes Scholarships for China

The Rhodes Scholarships are now entering their second century of international expansion. China forms the first part of this expansion. The creation and funding of the Rhodes Scholarships for China is a landmark event for the Rhodes Trust, Oxford University and the people of China. For the first time, mainland Chinese citizens will have the opportunity to be awarded Rhodes Scholarships in China to study at Oxford University.

- The Rhodes Scholarships for China was launched on **30 March 2015** in Beijing
- The first cohort of Chinese Rhodes Scholars will be selected in 2015 and will start their studies at Oxford University in **October 2016**, and it is expected that the number of Scholars will increase over time
- While the Rhodes China programme will focus its initial outreach efforts on five universities; **Peking University, Tsinghua University, Fudan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Zhejiang University**, the Committee will accept applications from any Chinese students studying within China or overseas who meet the selection criteria.

The Rhodes Scholarships for China will be funded by a number of donors from China and Hong Kong. The University of Oxford will also contribute. This funding is entirely separate from the current endowment and has been set up in a newly created fund. A £5 million donation will fund one Scholarship for China in perpetuity. Donor commitments can be funded annually over a period of 5 years. The donor will be recognised in the naming of each Scholarship, in partnership with the Rhodes Trust.

Rhodes will establish an infrastructure in China, including a National Secretary, Program Director, a Selection Committee and an Advisory Committee. Both committees will be comprised of Rhodes Scholars and other prominent Chinese citizens. The selection process in China will follow the same procedures and criteria employed in other Rhodes countries.

A brief history of the University of Oxford and China

- Currently, there are 907 Chinese students studying in Oxford, the second-largest group of overseas students. The US holds first place.
- **September 2014**, Prince William opened the China Centre in Oxford
- **June 2014**, Professor Cheng Hong, wife of Premier Li Keqiang, visited the University of Oxford
- **2013**, inaugural Oxford China Lecture held in Shanghai, attended by more than 400 government and business leaders, students and alumni, to discuss “The Future City” and the implications of the global shift to urban living
- **1994**, founding of the Institute of Chinese Studies at the University of Oxford
- **1939**, start of Oxford’s BA honours degree course in Chinese Studies
- **1910s**, opening of the first Oxford University Press office in China
- **1687**, first Chinese visitor, Shen Fuzong, came to Oxford. He catalogued the Bodleian’s Chinese holdings
- **1604**, first Chinese book made available in the newly opened Bodleian Library.