

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

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All Big 10 candidates work with Scholarship Opportunities Program (SOP) staff, who run the campus advising, application evaluation and endorsement processes. Read this document while you complete the [Pre-Application](#) and refer to it throughout the application process.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

BE A UCI UNDERGRADUATE

The SOP is funded to advise current UCI undergraduates only. Students at other universities must work with representatives on their campuses.

UCI ALUMNI EXCEPTIONS

In some cases, SOP staff may coach highly motivated recent UCI alumni IF they meet all eligibility requirements and intend to take/are taking a gap year (i.e. year off) before enrolling in a graduate program.

SUBMIT A PRE-APPLICATION BY 4/3/17 (NOON)

You must complete and submit a Pre-App to begin the [application process](#).

BE A U.S. CITIZEN, PERMANENT RESIDENT OR FROM A RHODES-ELIGIBLE COUNTRY

U.S. citizens OR permanent residents attending college in the U.S. or U.S. territories may apply for the American Rhodes. Citizens of Australia, Bermuda, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica & the Commonwealth Caribbean, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan, Southern Africa, United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Zimbabwe are [eligible to apply in their own constituencies](#). *If time permits, SOP staff will consider advising enrolled UCI undergraduates for international Rhodes Scholarships.*

BE A JUNIOR

Submit a [Pre-Application](#) the spring before your final year on campus. **The full application process can last up to six months**, so by the time you complete it you'll be in your final year of study at UCI. If you win the Rhodes, you will travel to the United Kingdom shortly after graduating.

You may also submit a Pre-Application the spring of your final year if you plan to take a gap year after graduating.

BE GOAL-FOCUSED

The Rhodes Scholarship funds graduate study at Oxford University only.

BE AVAILABLE IN SUMMER 2017

Candidates must participate in draft writing, SOP advising, and correspondence with recommenders and attend a June campus interview for their application(s) to earn UCI endorsement consideration.

BE WILLING TO WORK HARD

You will submit a series of application drafts to SOP staff and receive advising and editing suggestions. You will also share [drafts of application essays](#) with the faculty who will write your [letters of recommendation](#).

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Be ready to devote a minimum of 10 hours/week to the process; the commitment is equivalent to that of a part-time job.

BE DEADLINE-ORIENTED

You are responsible for ensuring SOP staff receives all application components -- including [letters of recommendation](#) written on behalf of your application(s) -- by SOP deadlines.

Late materials will jeopardize [UCI endorsement](#) consideration, which is necessary to continue the process.

Students from other countries generally have earlier Rhodes deadlines than U.S. citizens. Follow the International Student Deadline table and pay strict attention to deadlines.

COMMUNICATE WITH SOP STAFF

Candidates must maintain regular communication with SOP staff and with recommendation letter writers.

[Email ALL staff](#) to submit drafts or ask questions.

APPLYING FOR MULTIPLE AWARDS

Candidates may apply for multiple scholarships simultaneously. However, consider the work required to apply for each, the variances in application components, letters of recommendation and interview scheduling and the time constraints you'll face this summer.

IS RHODES RIGHT FOR YOU?

SELECTING A PROGRAM AND INSTITUTION

Ask your faculty which institutions/programs are considered competitive.

FACTORS TO WEIGH

Consider location preference, strength of particular overseas programs and institutions, field of study, long-term academic focus, and eligibility requirements relating to GPA and age.

UNITED KINGDOM

Research strong programs and universities specializing in your field.

Check the most recent (2014) edition of the [Research Assessment Exercise \(RAE\)](#), which rates the quality and competitiveness of specific programs at U.K. universities.

Read The Guardian newspaper's [guide to interpreting results](#).

U. OF OXFORD ONLY = RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

World's most prestigious award. Funds 2 years of study in any field. 32 annual winners.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens OR permanent residents (and demonstrate this residency for the 5 years prior to and including the deadline of application), aged 18 to 23.

Candidates should have a high GPA (3.9+) and evidence of significant leadership, service and athletic participation.

Research [Oxford's program\(s\) in your discipline](#) and confirm fit with your future academic plans.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Scholarship - Literary and scholastic attainments

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- Activity - energy to use one's talents to the full, as exemplified by fondness for and success in sports
- Service - truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness, and fellowship
- Leadership - moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Two-page list of principal activities and honors showing sustained commitment to serving others, leadership and initiative, and athletic activity (intramural or independent activity is acceptable).
- 1 essay: 1,000-word personal statement demonstrating who you are, how your interests have developed, and how and why study at Oxford via the Rhodes Scholarship fits into your future plans. You should be able to identify a particular degree program, describe specific courses, faculty, and facilities available at Oxford and be able to explain how your chosen degree will advance your career path. The personal statement serves as your admission essay to Oxford if you are chosen as a Rhodes Scholar. **Please note that Rhodes forbids others from editing or providing suggestions to improve your personal statement.**
- Five to eight [letters of recommendation](#): Each should offer information about your candidacy that is unavailable from other recommenders.
- Letter of institutional endorsement from UC Irvine if the applicant is a full-time student
- Official undergraduate transcripts.
- Proof of citizenship & passport-size photograph
- [Letters of affiliation](#) are strongly encouraged.

WINNER CHARACTERISTICS

Having the potential "to make things happen, to become public leaders 20 years from now . . . a little scrappy with some evidence of selflessness." Exceptional academic record suggesting you "could do the work at Oxford without needing to slave over it . . . with time left over for the playing field, where valuable connections are made at Oxford."

APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE

SUBMIT A PRE-APPLICATION BY 4/3/17 (NOON)

You must complete and submit a [Pre-App](#) to begin the campus application process.

ATTEND BIG 10 INFORMATION SESSION

All students who have submitted pre-applications are required to attend one of three information sessions regarding the application process. (Students who are abroad or have unavoidable scheduling conflicts will watch a video of the presentation and pass a quiz.)

At this meeting, you will receive your Student Deadline Table and crucial information about the scholarship process.

REVIEW PRE-APPLICATION FEEDBACK

You will select a personalized advising appointment time to discuss your plan for crafting a strong application. If you will be abroad, [email SOP staff](#) in advance to make arrangements for a virtual meeting.

SUBMIT SIGNED LETTER OF INTENT AND CONSENT FORM TO SOP

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You will be provided a letter of intent and consent form to return with signature and must also register for an appointment to view past winning scholarship applications in EEE.

READ PAST WINNING APPLICATIONS

On file in the SOP office, past winning applications demonstrate successful methods used by past UCI winners to produce compelling and concise research/study proposal and personal statement essays. They also showcase successful formatting amid each application's unique space constraints. **You must request an appointment in advance to view these files**, as we will select the most closely related applications from our extensive archive and have them ready for you.

MEET WITH YOUR FACULTY

After submitting your Pre-Application, meet in person with at least four faculty members.

DISCUSS YOUR PLANS/PROJECT IDEAS

Explain that you'll [furnish him/her with drafts of your application essays](#) as they evolve, and let him/her know when to expect these. Detail your ideas for potential study/research proposals. Ask for advice in narrowing your topic.

REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Faculty will [send SOP staff](#) two drafts of unique letters for each relevant scholarship. This enables the SOP to complete the process of application evaluation and [campus endorsement](#). **Candidates are responsible for ensuring faculty have submitted their letter drafts to SOP staff by the deadlines.** Ask if s/he is willing to write a comprehensive letter of recommendation on your behalf and participate in the letter draft process. State that SOP staff will follow up with award-specific content and formatting information.

For more information, please see our handout on [letters of recommendation](#).

SOLICIT INTERVIEW PARTICIPATION

Faculty letter writers are enthusiastically encouraged to serve on your campus endorsement interview committee, which is led by Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education. Faculty participation complements the expertise of SOP staff and the Dean; your professors are uniquely able to support you by providing discipline-specific commentary and offering feedback on the feasibility of your study or project.

Please also identify potential alternate committee members, such as other faculty or teaching assistants in your field of study. If your letter writers cannot attend or decline to participate in the endorsement interview, we may solicit participation from your suggested alternates.

You will be provided with a form to collect contact information (names, titles, department, email, phone) and availability for June dates on which we will schedule your endorsement interview.

SUBMIT FACULTY SUMMER CONTACT INFO & INTERVIEW AVAILABILITY TO SOP

After you submit this information, SOP staff will email a packet to your faculty about the program(s) to which you are applying, deadlines & formatting requirements for letter drafts, and examples of letters written for past scholarship winners. We will also confirm the time and location of your [campus endorsement interview](#).

RECOMMENDED: PROVIDE COPY OF EMAIL TO POTENTIAL LETTER OF AFFILIATION WRITERS

Letters of Affiliation (LOAs) are brief, informal invitations from a faculty member or official at your overseas institution of choice to study in a particular department, lab, etc. *should you receive the scholarship.*

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Provide a copy of your initial email to at least one potential letter of affiliation writer. For more information, please see our handout on [letters of affiliation](#).

CONFIRM SCHOLARSHIPS & PROVIDE ROUGH DRAFTS

Confirm scholarships to which applying; list proposed program(s) & institution(s) for each.

Email rough drafts of your essays and updated CV to [SOP staff](#) and your faculty.

REGISTER & BEGIN APPLICATION(S)

[Access this year's application](#).

REGISTER UCI INFORMATION

This step allows SOP staff to view your application and provide you with edits. You will not be considered for campus endorsement if you do not complete this step.

- ★ **Register Institutional Endorser:** Identify Dr. Michael Dennin; University of California, Irvine; Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning; UC Irvine, 193 Ayala Science Library, Irvine, CA 92697-5695; (949) 824-7765; mctsai@uci.edu. This was in Section H (p. 6) of a previous application.

SUBMIT 1ST APPLICATION DRAFT(S)

ALL APPLICATION DRAFTS

All drafts must be submitted to SOP, not to scholarship funding agencies. All drafts must include the components (forms & essays) of a complete application.

[Email application](#), two-page Activities List & Personal Statement to SOP. **DO NOT HIT SUBMIT** when saving draft in electronic system. Email essay to your faculty to inform their letter drafts.

Forward to SOP staff email to potential Letter of Affiliation writer at Oxford.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You'll receive feedback from SOP staff and your faculty on everything but the Personal Statement, as Rhodes forbids feedback on this essay. Incorporate this feedback into your second draft.

SUBMIT 2ND APPLICATION DRAFT(S)

[Email full, revised application](#), two-page Activities List & Personal Statement to SOP. **DO NOT HIT SUBMIT** when saving draft in electronic system.

Submit evidence of affiliation, such as an email reply from affiliate. Recommended: Bring hard copy of [letter of affiliation](#) to SOP office (or email a PDF if signed and on official letterhead).

Email 2nd essay drafts to faculty letter writers.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You'll receive feedback from SOP staff and your faculty on everything but the Personal Statement, as Rhodes forbids feedback on this essay. Incorporate this feedback into your second draft.

SUBMIT APPLICATION(S) FOR INTERVIEW

[Email full, revised application](#), Activities List; and Personal Statement to SOP.

Scan or bring official transcript(s) to SOP.

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Submit copy of [letter of affiliation](#) to SOP office.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

We will distribute your materials to the members of your interview committee for their review.

After your interview, if the committee decides to endorse your application, you'll receive feedback to incorporate into your final draft.

CAMPUS INTERVIEW: EARN CAMPUS ENDORSEMENT

The Rhodes Trust will not accept applications directly from current undergraduate students. They will only review applications that university officials have endorsed (nominated). The SOP evaluates candidate applications and, for endorsed candidates, provides a unique, personalized, comprehensive letter of institutional endorsement, signed by the Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education.

Each candidate is interviewed by a personalized campus committee in June for approximately 60 (for one award) to 90 minutes (if applying for multiple scholarships). The committee evaluates application strength(s) and determines whether it merits endorsement.

Candidates **MUST** attend in person. If you plan to study abroad or otherwise be outside the U.S. during Summer or Fall 2017, alert SOP staff immediately to discuss alternatives.

SUBMIT AUXILIARY INFORMATION

[Email to SOP](#) details of your future academic & career plans; familiarity with the United Kingdom; senior thesis title, topic, findings & relation to your graduate studies; and plans for engaging in community service while abroad. Using information you provide, SOP staff will complete your campus evaluation.

SUBMIT FINAL DRAFT(S)

Incorporate interview feedback. Upload all items, including proof of citizenship and photograph, to electronic application system. **DO NOT HIT SUBMIT** when saving draft in electronic system. Ensure faculty have submitted all finalized letters via electronic system **AND** have emailed to SOP.

[Email full, finalized application](#) including forms, Activities List; and Personal Statement to SOP.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

SOP staff will confirm receipt of a copy of your complete application and supplementary materials (letters of recommendation, etc.) and will upload your campus endorsement letter.

AFTER you receive confirmation from SOP, submit the complete application via the electronic system. You will have submitted your application to the funding agency.

RHODES TRUST REVIEWS YOUR APPLICATION

In late November, on the Friday and Saturday preceding Thanksgiving week, U.S. Rhodes finalists participate in a two-day selection process at the regional level. Finalists attend a cocktail reception in the evening and a daytime panel interview for 30-40 minutes. Rhodes announces winners at the conclusion of the second day when all regional finalists have completed interviews.

International student interview processes may vary – check the Rhodes website for your country for details.