Enable Navigation Pane for best navigation: TO ACCESS: In the View tab, check the Navigation Pane box (in the Show/Hide group). Click Map headings to jump throughout the document. Read this document while you complete the Pre-Application and refer to it throughout the application process.

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

BE A UCI UNDERGRADUATE

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

UCI UNDERGRADUATE JUNIORS & SENIORS

Submit a Big 10 Pre-Application in the spring before your final year on campus. The full application process lasts approximately six months, so by the time you complete it, you’ll be in your final year of study at UCI. If you win a scholarship, you will travel shortly after graduating. You may also submit a Pre-Application in spring of your final year if you plan to take a “gap year” (i.e., a year off) after graduating.

UCI ALUMNI

If space permits, SOP staff may coach highly motivated recent UCI alumni, within 1 year of graduation, who meet all eligibility requirements and are taking multiple “gap years” before enrolling in a graduate program. If you will be enrolled in a graduate program in Fall, please seek advising from the Rhodes Scholarship Advisor at your new graduate institution, since the final application will be submitted in Fall.

MEET AGE AND CITIZENSHIP GUIDELINES

AGE

Rhodes Scholarship applicants must be between 18-23 years old on October 1 of the year of application. Students outside this age range may consider Big 10 awards without age restrictions, such as the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

CITIZENSHIP

Rhodes applications are considered by country of citizenship (“constituency”). U.S. citizens OR permanent residents attending college in the U.S. or U.S. territories must apply to the United States Rhodes competition and achieve campus endorsement. 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. Campus endorsement is not available for these countries. If time permits, SOP staff will consider advising competitive enrolled UCI undergraduates for international Rhodes Scholarships that do not involve endorsement. Additionally, there are two Global Rhodes Scholarships available to students who do not hold citizenship or permanent residency in a Rhodes constituency with its own competition. Global Rhodes applicants must also achieve campus endorsement.

MEET MINIMUM GPA REQUIREMENTS

The Rhodes Scholarship requires a GPA of at least 3.7 at the time of application. Graduate “courses” (degree programs) at Oxford University are reluctant to admit students with lower GPAs. (In practice, average GPAs for Rhodes winners exceed 3.9.)

SUBMIT A PRE-APPLICATION BY 4/8/19 (NOON)

All U.S. and Global Rhodes applicants must complete and submit a Pre-App to begin the application process.
BE GOAL-FOCUSED

The Rhodes Scholarship funds graduate or second bachelor’s degree study at Oxford University only. Be able to articulate your specific graduate program goals, as well as an ambitious and highly visible career goal.

BE AVAILABLE IN SUMMER 2019

Candidates must participate in draft writing, SOP advising, and correspondence with recommenders as well as attend a 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. 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. Pay strict attention to the deadlines for your Rhodes constituency. Students from other Rhodes constituencies, as well as the Global Rhodes competition, generally have much earlier external deadlines than U.S. citizens and permanent residents in the U.S. competition. SOP staff will work with you to create a personalized deadline table in such cases.

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 THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP RIGHT FOR YOU?

FACTORS TO WEIGH

SELECT A GRADUATE PROGRAM AND INSTITUTION

The Rhodes Scholarship funds two years of postgraduate study in a second bachelor’s degree program, master’s degree program, or doctoral program at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. The scholarship covers tuition as well as a stipend for living expenses. Some students may be covered for a third year when pursuing a doctoral program. You must determine your first-choice graduate program for each year of the Rhodes funding. Undertake thorough research to familiarize yourself with the top programs in your field in the U.K. Based on the results of your research, determine your first-choice Oxford graduate degree courses (or second undergraduate degree) for each year of the Rhodes funding.

First, understand that graduate study is highly specialized and admissions is handled at the departmental level. The university’s overall ranking or reputation as a “world-class university” has surprisingly little bearing on the ranking of specific graduate programs and academic departments. Although you may have heard of specific
U.K. universities before, such as Oxford and Cambridge, or have interest in studying in London because it is a large cosmopolitan city, the top programs in your field and the faculty experts in your subfield of interest may be at other universities with which you are not yet familiar, including other institutions in the Russell Group. In the U.K., graduate degree programs are referred to as “courses”. Consider the reputation of particular courses and the fit of their faculty expertise and curricular offerings with your long-term academic focus, more than the institutions where they are situated. Ask your faculty for discipline-specific guidance as you narrow your options, as they are best positioned to discuss where you can find top faculty experts in your subfield to mentor you on graduate thesis projects. Consult the most recent (2014 edition) of the Research Excellence Framework (REF), which rates the quality and competitiveness of specific courses at U.K. universities. Read The Guardian newspaper's guide to interpreting results. Take copious notes as you browse the course websites and lists of faculty, because in your essays you must provide evidence that your selection of particular courses is intentional and the best path forward for your particular professional goals, including the importance of study in the U.K. to your specific plans.

Please consult the current rules for candidates for the Rhodes Scholarships to ensure that your intended courses are eligible. If pursuing a two-year Rhodes Scholarship and selecting two one-year master’s programs, you will need to explain the sequence of courses. Analyze how skills you intend to learn in the first course will prepare you for greater success in the second course. Finally, any reference to the geographic location of your course(s) should not be shallow or arbitrary; emphasize specific professional development opportunities and involvements in that city that would increase your long-term engagement with the U.K. community, outside of the classroom.

CONSIDER FUNDING ODDS

With just 100 Rhodes Scholars selected annually (32 from the United States), the Rhodes Scholarship is among the most competitive in the world, as well as the oldest and most prestigious international fellowship program. Consider alternatives or back-ups for funding an Oxford education, including Ertegun, Skoll Scholars, and other Oxford graduate scholarships.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Named for the Rhodes Scholarship founder and first donor, Cecil John Rhodes, the Rhodes Trust administers the Scholar selection process according to selection criteria outlined in his will.

- **Academic Excellence** - Literary and scholastic attainments
  - As of 2018, Rhodes applicants must attain a minimum GPA of 3.7, since most Oxford graduate programs require 3.7+ for admission.
  - “Extraordinary intellectual distinction is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for election to a Rhodes Scholarship. Selection committees are charged to seek excellence in qualities of mind and in qualities of person which, in combination, offer the promise of effective service to the world in the decades ahead. The Rhodes Scholarships, in short, are investments in individuals rather than in project proposals. Accordingly, applications are sought from talented students without restriction as to their field of academic specialization or career plans, although the proposed course of study must be available at Oxford, and the applicant’s undergraduate program must provide a sufficient basis for study in the proposed field. Through the years, Rhodes Scholars have pursued studies in virtually all of the varied fields available at the University of Oxford.”

- **Activity** - energy to use one’s talents to the full, as demonstrated by mastery in areas such as sports, music, debate, dance, theatre, and artistic pursuits, particularly where teamwork is involved.
In recent years, the Rhodes Trust has interpreted the Activity criterion more flexibly than did Cecil Rhodes, de-emphasizing athleticism and sports.

- **Service** - truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindliness, unselfishness, and fellowship
  - “Mr. Rhodes sought Scholars who were more than ‘mere bookworms;’ he wanted their intellectual talents to be combined with concern for others.”

- **Leadership** - moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one’s fellow beings.
  - “Mr. Rhodes hoped that his plan of bringing able students from throughout the English-speaking world to study at the University where he took his degree in 1881 would aid in the promotion of international understanding and peace. Underlying these standards is the aim that Scholars be intellectually and morally capable of leadership, that is, persons who, in Mr. Rhodes’ phrase, will ‘esteem the performance of public duties as [their] highest aim.’ From this statement one may infer that he expected his Scholars to play an influential part in the betterment of society, wherever their careers might lead them.”

**WINNER CHARACTERISTICS**

Rhodes Scholars have been described by the Trust as 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."

Rhodes Scholars have typically pursued careers in higher education (such as Professors and Deans), law and government, business, or medicine and science. At least eight Rhodes Scholars have become heads of state, including Bill Clinton (U.S.), John Turner (Canada), and Malcolm Turnbull (Australia). The U.S. Senate has included many Rhodes Scholars, including Cory Booker, Russ Feingold, Richard Lugar, and David Vitter. We note that the international exchange experience gained from Rhodes may have given rise to Senator J. William Fulbright’s ambition to found the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

In just over 50 years, UCI has produced only one Rhodes Scholar, Megan Braun ’10, whose many accomplishments included two terms as President of the Associated Students of UCI. SOP staff encourage browsing the biographies of recent Rhodes Scholars to see examples of the type of leadership and achievement that Rhodes expects from students with different majors and career paths.

**APPLICATION COMPONENTS**

- **Electronic Application**
- **Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)** (two pages maximum), which must 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.
  - Within this limited page space, be strategic and selective about the activities you choose to highlight with bullet points, emphasizing how your roles demonstrate sustained commitment to serving others, leadership, and initiative.
  - Include evidence of your measurable impact on positive change.
- **Personal Statement essay** (1,000 words), 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. Consult your region’s instructions for candidates to ensure you have this year’s prompt.
  - Please note that Rhodes forbids others from editing or providing suggestions to improve your personal statement.
• Letters of affiliation with potential Oxford mentors in your desired program are strongly encouraged, both to substantiate your likelihood of admission to Oxford and to enhance your competitiveness for UCI endorsement.

• Five to eight letters of recommendation: Each should know you well and offer information about your candidacy that is unavailable from other recommenders.
  o At least four must be academics who have taught you or supervised your research.
  o At least one must attest to your extracurricular leadership and service accomplishments, good character, and promise of future achievements.

• Letter of institutional endorsement (U.S. and Global Rhodes applicants only)

• Official transcripts for all college coursework completed

• A valid passport as proof of citizenship, and potentially other documentation of lawful permanent residency/D.A.C.A. status (Consult your region’s instructions for candidates for details)

• Passport-sized photograph, to be used after selection for promotional purposes

APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE

SUBMIT A PRE-APPLICATION BY 4/8/19(NOON)
You must complete and submit a Pre-App to begin the campus application process.

COMPLETE ONLINE BIG 10 INFORMATION SESSION
All students who have submitted pre-applications are required to watch a video overview of crucial information about the scholarship application process and pass a quiz. Follow the instructions in Canvas.

PERSONALIZED ADVISING: REVIEW PRE-APPLICATION FEEDBACK
You will select a personalized advising appointment time to meet with SOP advisors and 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.

At this meeting or shortly thereafter, you will be assigned to an SOP Primary Advisor to oversee your entire application and serve as your advocate and strategist throughout the process. You will also be matched with a Writing Specialist, with whom you will meet regularly to develop effective essay and short answer responses.

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 essays and resumes. They also showcase successful formatting for each application’s unique space constraints. Applications are in binders and available for you to view during business hours (Monday – Friday 9:00-4:00 pm) on a drop-in basis.

SUBMIT APPLICANT CONSENT FORM
Following instructions in Canvas, complete the SOP Applicant Consent Form to confirm which specific scholarship(s) you will pursue and agree to your rights and duties as a scholarship applicant. The Applicant Consent form represents the official start of your scholarship application process.
## WAIVER OF RIGHT OF ACCESS TO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

SOP staff encourage you to waive the right of access to letters of recommendation. Your faculty will be more comfortable writing a confidential letter, and admissions officers and scholarship reviewers will likely perceive your letters as more honest in the assessment of your abilities, strengthening their credibility as part of your overall application file. If you do not waive your right, SOP staff will notify your faculty of your decision.

## VIDEO CHECK-INS

Research the details of your scholarship and graduate program in greater depth, and meet with faculty and other mentors who you would like to write your letters of recommendation. You will keep your SOP Primary Advisor updated about your progress using video check-ins.

## MEET WITH POTENTIAL RECOMMENDERS

Meet (in person) with potential recommendation letter writers (usually faculty) and discuss whether they will write a letter of recommendation for you. Let them know whether you want them to focus on research or academic performance, or both.

**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. Ask for advice on applying to specific graduate programs that have research faculty in your area of interest, tailoring the Graduate Research Statement to your research interests and disciplinary conventions, and describing your career ambitions in the Personal Statement.

## REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

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. Endorsement interviews for Rhodes candidates will be convened between August 12-16, 2019. Ask your faculty for their availability during this period. You will use this information to schedule your interview. 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. If your letter writers cannot attend or decline to participate in the endorsement interview, we may ask you to identify potential alternate committee members, such as other faculty or teaching assistants in your field of study.

## RECORD VIDEO CHECK-INS

Follow instructions in Canvas to record and submit brief video check-ins. After watching your videos, your SOP Primary Advisor will provide feedback and guidance.

## DRAFT APPLICATION MATERIALS

Review application components and essay prompts. Begin brainstorming and drafting your essays independently. Please note that Rhodes forbids any other person, including your SOP Advisor, Writing Specialists, faculty, friends, or family, from editing or providing suggestions to improve your personal statement.

If you would like to discuss your overall application strategy, you may also book an appointment with your SOP Primary Advisor. Bring your materials (such as outlines or notes) to the appointment.
# Rhodes Scholarship
## Application Process Overview

### Submit Faculty Contact Info

Following the detailed instructions in Canvas, submit your recommenders’ names and contact information. SOP staff will email a packet to your faculty about the program(s) to which you are applying including deadlines & formatting requirements for letter submission, and offer access to examples of letters written for past scholarship winners as well as optional SOP staff review of their letter drafts.

### Submit 1st Application Draft(s)

Following the instructions in Canvas, save and submit your C.V. and Personal Statement to SOP. Email your drafts to your faculty to inform their letters. Recommended: Forward to SOP staff email to potential Letter of Affiliation writer at Oxford.

### What Happens Next

You’ll receive feedback from SOP staff on your C.V., as Rhodes forbids feedback on your essay. Incorporate this feedback into your second draft.

### Contact 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.* To achieve campus endorsement, you must make contact with at least one appropriate affiliate to request a letter of affiliation for your first-choice courses. For more information, please see our handout on letters of affiliation.

### Record Video Check-ins

Follow instructions in Canvas to record and submit brief video check-ins. After watching your videos, your SOP Primary Advisor will provide feedback and guidance to ensure you make progress on affiliation.

### U.S. & Global Rhodes Only: Schedule Campus Endorsement Interview

The U.S. and Global Rhodes Scholarships will not accept applications directly from current undergraduate students. They will only review applications that university officials have endorsed (nominated). In August, each candidate is interviewed in-person, on the UCI campus, by a personalized campus committee for approximately 60 (for one award) to 90 minutes (if applying for multiple scholarships).

### Select Your Campus Endorsement Interview Time

Using the Appointments system and the availability of yourself and your faculty, you will select your campus endorsement interview time. Choose a time during the period **August 12-16, 2019**. In the “Reason” box, include the names of your faculty who can attend your selected interview time. *Special circumstances*

If you will be abroad during the interview period, alert SOP staff immediately to discuss alternatives, such as accommodating an earlier interview time. We do not convene interviews later than August. If you or your faculty will be off-campus and need accommodations to attend your interview via videoconference, please email SOP staff for assistance.

Candidates applying for multiple awards requiring endorsement will have only ONE interview. SOP staff will extend your interview time from 60 to 90 minutes to ensure the committee will have time to fully discuss your separate applications. You will also need to submit all interview drafts on the earliest deadline (For example, Fulbright or Churchill interview drafts must be submitted on the Rhodes deadline.)

### What Happens Next
# Rhodes Scholarship

## Application Process Overview

SOP staff will confirm participation of faculty and Deans in campus endorsement interviews. We reserve the right to reschedule your interview if availability of staff, faculty Deans, or interview rooms changes. SOP staff will notify you promptly of any changes in your interview time.

### 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.

### U.S. & GLOBAL RHODES: REGISTER INSTITUTIONAL ENDORSER

Identify Dr. Michael Dennin; University of California, Irvine; Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning; 193 Science Library, Irvine, CA 92697-5695; (949) 824-7765; rjones@uci.edu. This item was located in Section H (p. 6) of a previous application. Email SOP staff for assistance if needed.

### SUBMIT 2ND APPLICATION DRAFT(S)

This draft must include the components (forms & essays) of a complete application.

Following the instructions in Canvas, revise and save your drafts of the C.V. and Personal Statement. Complete all sections of the application form EXCEPT faculty contact information. Save your application drafts in the Rhodes system. Download a PDF copy of your materials.

Submit your C.V., Personal Statement, and copy of application in Canvas. Recommended: Forward to your primary SOP staff advisor any email response you have received from a potential Letter of Affiliation writer, or the formal letter of affiliation if you have already received it.

Email 2nd essay drafts to faculty letter writers.

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You’ll receive feedback from SOP staff and your faculty on your application forms and C.V. Incorporate this feedback into your second draft.

### FACULTY SUBMIT LETTER DRAFTS

Please confirm that your faculty have provided letter of recommendation drafts to SOP staff.

### U.S. & GLOBAL RHODES ONLY: SUBMIT INTERVIEW DRAFT

This draft must include the required components (forms, essays, letters of recommendation) of a complete application, as well at least one letter of affiliation from your 1st choice course(s), required for endorsement.

SOP staff reserve the right to cancel your endorsement interview if you are missing any required items. Candidates for endorsement for multiple scholarships must submit all interview drafts by the earliest interview draft deadline. (For example, Fulbright or Churchill interview drafts must be submitted on the Rhodes deadline.)

Following the instructions in Canvas, revise and save your drafts of the C.V. and Personal Statement.

Save your application drafts in the Rhodes system. Download a PDF copy of your materials. Submit your C.V., Personal Statement, copy of application, and signed letter(s) of affiliation in Canvas.

### 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.
**RHODES SCHOLARSHIP**  
**APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW**

**U.S. & GLOBAL RHODES ONLY: SUBMIT PRE-INTERVIEW REFLECTION**

Follow instructions in Canvas to respond to SOP questions about your future academic & career plans; familiarity with the United Kingdom, history and current affairs; senior thesis title, topic, findings & relation to your graduate studies; and plans for engaging in extracurricular activities or community service while abroad. Using information you provide, SOP staff will complete your campus endorsement letter. If you are applying for multiple awards, please complete this form only ONCE.

**U.S. & GLOBAL RHODES ONLY: CAMPUS INTERVIEW: EARN CAMPUS ENDORSEMENT**

The committee members will read your complete interview draft in advance. At your interview, they will ask you questions for approximately 30-40 minutes. You will then be asked to wait outside of the interview room while the committee deliberates. Using the selection criteria, the committee evaluates the strength(s) of your application and determines whether it merits endorsement. You will be informed of the endorsement decision shortly after your interview.

The endorsement interview is a supportive component of the process. At the conclusion, most candidates are also given tips for improvement of the application materials and/or interviewing performance.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

For endorsed candidates, your Primary SOP Advisor will unlock your application forms and email you feedback from SOP staff and the endorsement committee for your final revision. They will also direct you to enter contact information for your faculty to upload their letters in the application system.

SOP will also contact your faculty with instructions for finalizing letters of recommendation, and prepare a unique, comprehensive letter detailing the committee’s rationale for endorsement, to be signed by the Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education.

**ORDER OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS**

Purchase official transcripts from the UCI Registrar’s Office and from other colleges or universities (including community/junior colleges) at which you’ve completed undergraduate work. A fee is typically required for each official transcript.

If mailing transcripts directly to SOP, please send to: Scholarship Opportunities Program, 193 Science Library, University of California, Irvine, CA 92697-5695.

If ordering transcripts for pick-up in-person at the Registrar’s Office, do not open the sealed envelope. Please bring it to SOP intact. SOP staff must certify that we opened your transcript.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

SOP staff will confirm receipt of your official transcript(s) and provide you a scan for uploading in the electronic application system.

**SUBMIT FINAL DRAFT(S)**

Following the instructions in Canvas, incorporate interview feedback in your revision. 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.

Turn in to Canvas your full, revised application, including forms, C.V.; and Personal Statement.

**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. Rhodes interviews are held at the same time as Mitchell Scholarship interviews (you may not interview for both awards). 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.