

Information Session

The Rhodes Scholarship for University of Calgary students

Dr. Jared Secord, Coordinator of Scholars Programming

Zoom Session

- We are recording this session. A link to the video will be made available to you after. I also sent by email a PDF copy of the slides shortly before the session started. If you didn't receive the message, please send an email to sap@ucalgary.ca.
- We will make sure to leave time for questions at the end of the session.
- As questions come up, please feel free to send them to us in the Chat.
- You can send questions publicly to everyone in the Chat. Or, if you'd prefer, you can send your questions privately to me. I won't reveal who has asked the question.

General Information

- The Rhodes Scholarships are funded by the estate of Cecil J. Rhodes and are considered one of the oldest and most prestigious international scholarships for outstanding scholars from any academic field of study.
- Rhodes Scholarships are tenable for postgraduate studies or a second bachelor's degree at Oxford University, for two years with the possible extension for a third year. The Scholarships cover all approved fees (such as matriculation, tuition, laboratory fees, and certain other set charges), in addition to living expenses.
- **Three scholarships are available in the Prairie Provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba).**



Since 2010, 10 UCalgary students have been named Rhodes Scholars.

Selection Criteria

Cecil Rhodes's will specifies four selection standards:

- Literary and scholastic attainments;
- Energy to use one's talents to the full, as exemplified by fondness for and success in sports, athletics, community, art, etc.;
- Truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness, and fellowship; and
- Moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings.

In short, Rhodes Scholarship selection committees will be seeking young people of outstanding **intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service**. The Rhodes Scholarships support students who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as “leaders for the world’s future.”

Eligibility – 2026, 1 of 2

- **a. Nationality/citizenship:** You must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada. Applications from refugees/asylum seekers currently residing in Canada will also be considered in this constituency.
- **b. Education/residency:** You must be domiciled in Canada.
- **c. Age:** i. You must be aged 18-23 on 1st October 2025 (i.e. you must have been born after 1 October 2001 and before 2 October 2007).
- OR (for older candidates who completed their first undergraduate degree later than usual)
- ii. You must be under the age of 27 on 1st October 2025 (i.e. have been born after 1 October 1998) AND you must also have completed your first undergraduate degree on or after 1 October 2024. A university's policy determines the date of completion of academic requirement for a degree and this may be different from when a degree is considered awarded by the university or the date of a graduation ceremony. The National Secretary will make the final determination of completion where required.

Eligibility – 2026, 2 of 2

- **d. Academic achievement:** You must have completed an undergraduate degree (usually a Bachelor's) by July 2026, and you must have an academic background and grade that - at a minimum - meets or exceeds the specific entry requirements of your chosen course at the University of Oxford (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/courses-a-z-listing>).
- Candidates will have a higher chance of successful admission to Oxford if they have:
 - ○ A First-Class Honours Degree or equivalent, or,
 - ○ A GPA of 3.70/4.0 or higher
- Please contact the National Secretary if you require further advice about academic requirements of the Scholarship.

University endorsement is required to compete for the Rhodes Scholarships in Canada. To receive endorsement, you must first submit your application to the UCalgary Rhodes Committee for review.

The deadline is 11:59 p.m. August 5, 2025. The application should be submitted as a single PDF file through the [application form](#) on our website.



University of Calgary students are encouraged to meet with me (Dr. Jared Secord, sap@ucalgary.ca) to discuss the application.

Application Material, 1 of 2

All University of Calgary applicants:

Due August 5, 2025 (11:59 p.m.) (single PDF file through the [application form](#))

- Academic CV (2 pages; minimum 12-point font)
- Personal Statement (no more than 1,000 words)
- Academic Statement of Study (no more than 350 words)
- Unofficial transcript
- List of 6 names of references
 - 3 or 4 of the references need to be faculty members who have taught and graded you in your studies.
 - The other 2 or 3 references will write about your character and involvement in extra-curricular, service, or leadership activities.

Application Material, 2 of 2

All UCalgary applicants will be notified of their application status by the end of August or very early in September.

Applicants who receive university endorsement will revise and prepare their applications to be submitted to the Rhodes selection committee.

Endorsed candidates: application deadline is September 23, through the Rhodes Application system.

- Academic CV (2 pages; minimum 12-point font)
- Personal Statement (no more than 1,000 words)
- Academic Statement of Study (no more than 350 words)
- 6 Reference letters (references will receive an email from the Rhodes application system)
- Official transcript
- Copy of passport
- Copy of birth certificate
- Letter of endorsement from the University President
- Head-and-shoulders colour photograph

What makes a competitive application?

The Academic Curriculum Vitae

“A full curriculum vitae (CV) which should include specific 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. This should not exceed two letter size pages in length with a minimum 12 pt font.”

- Other items to include: research and publications; certificates; memberships and affiliations

The Personal Statement

In your personal statement of up to 1000 words, we ask you to address each of the following prompts by weaving them into the narrative of your statement (the word allocation across the three is up to you):

- 1. Which Rhodes Scholar quality do you display most strongly, and how are different contexts and people helping you to develop the other qualities?*
- 2. What would you like to learn from and contribute to the Rhodes community in Oxford?*
- 3. From your place in the world, how will you use your energy and talents to address humanity's pressing challenges?*

Academic Statement of Study

You will need to write an academic statement of no more than 350 words.

- 1. Tell us your reasons for wishing to study at the University of Oxford, what your chosen course(s) of study is (are), and how this fits into your academic trajectory. Furthermore, you may wish to explain how you hope to be stretched academically at the University of Oxford, and any academic support you imagine might be helpful.*
- 2. Demonstrate that you are able to, at a minimum meet or exceed the specific entry and other academic requirements of the course(s) you have chosen. Tell us how you are prepared for the course(s) academically and otherwise.*
- 3. If you wish to undertake a DPhil, provide a brief outline of your proposed research area, how it contributes to your future career plans, and list both the Department in which you propose to undertake your research and one or more researchers with whom you would like to work in Oxford.*

References

- For all candidates: list references and include professional or institutional affiliation
 - 3 or 4 of the references need to be faculty members who have taught and graded you in your studies.
 - If you have a research supervisor who has not taught and graded you in a course, they can still provide an academic reference.
 - The other 2 or 3 references will write about your character and involvement in extra-curricular, service, or leadership activities.
- Never include people to whom you are related

Info about programs at Oxford

Types of programs:

- Bachelors
 - Masters: MSc, MPhil, MSt,
Master Taught/Master Research [no third-year funding]
Master of Philosophy [possible third-year funding]
 - DPhil
 - MFE (Financial Economics) and MBA
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- Full details on eligible programs: Detailed Conditions of Tenure of the Rhodes Scholarship

Advising Resources

For **academic advice** on courses of study, consult:

- Oxford Graduate Admissions
- Faculty and advisors in appropriate UCalgary departments, schools, and research centers
- Potential advisors and instructors in appropriate Oxford departments, programs, and research centers.
- Rhodes Canada website

Final Thoughts

- Start your application early
 - Reach out to referees
 - Have courage to submit your application!
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- Rhodes Application is (likely) due before any other applications you will be submitting for graduate/professional school.
 - Completing Rhodes Application is a good way to get a start on all of your applications for the year.

Resources to help with your application

- I will be offering a workshop on CVs and Personal Statements for Scholarship Applications.
 - Two offerings of the same workshop:
 - Tuesday, July 22: 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
 - Thursday, July 24: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
- To book a spot, go to Elevate.
 - After you have logged in, click “Student Success Centre,” then “SSC Events / Workshops.”
- A recorded version of the workshop is posted to our website.

Other scholarship and funding possibilities

- Canada Graduate Scholarships, Master's
- McCall MacBain Scholarships at McGill University
- Sir James Lougheed Award of Distinction
- Cambridge Gates Scholarship at Cambridge University
- Knight Hennessey Scholars at Stanford University
- Schwarzman Scholars at Tsinghua University in Beijing
- Rotary Global Grant Scholarship
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Scholarship
- The likeliest source of funding for graduate school is from the department or university that you attend. Most often, you will also be applying for funding and scholarships when you submit an application for graduate school.

Need more assistance?
Book an appointment at the Student Success Centre
through [Elevate](#)

Or email sap@ucalgary.ca with questions