

Instructions for the University of Calgary
Applications for the Rhodes Scholarship Competition 2025-6
(This set of instructions cancels those issued for previous years)

About the Rhodes

The Rhodes Scholarships are funded by the estate of Cecil J. Rhodes (The Rhodes Trusts) 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 a 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.

Eleven Canadian Rhodes Scholars are chosen each year from among those nominated by Canadian universities across the country. Three of these scholarships are allotted to The Prairie Region (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta).

Please familiarize yourself with the [2025-6 Rhodes Scholars Package](#). The Rhodes Canada document is the official information for candidates. **The current document outlines the internal endorsement process for UCalgary students only.**

As noted on the Rhodes website, Cecil Rhodes's vision in founding the Scholarship was to develop outstanding leaders who would be 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. His will outlines four criteria to be used in the election of Scholars:

- literary and scholastic attainments
- energy to use one's talents to the full
- truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindliness, unselfishness, and fellowship
- 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

For the 2026 Scholarship, all candidates must be:

- a. Nationality/citizenship: You must be a citizen or 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: You must meet either of the below criteria:
 - 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.

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](#). Candidates will have a greater 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.

Before Applying

Before applying, potential candidates should research the academic programs offered at Oxford. The strongest applicants are able to articulate their suitability for a program at Oxford that corresponds with their academic profile and aspirations. For further information, please visit the [Oxford website](#).

You may also reach out to the Scholars Academy Office, Dr. Jared Secord, jared.secord1@ucalgary.ca for questions on the UCalgary Rhodes Process, including personal statements, CVs, courses of study, etc.

Application

Overall, the application (including your interview if you are a finalist) must provide a *coherent narrative* of your life, your accomplishments, and how a Rhodes Scholarship will help you achieve your academic and professional aspirations.

All candidates enrolled at the University of Calgary must submit a **pre-application** and **internal screening** process and earn the institutional endorsement of University President, Dr. Ed McCauley. The pre-application requires:

- (1) A full curriculum vitae (CV) which should include specific details about academic qualifications, publications, prizes, scholarships, positions of leadership, employment positions, involvement in student, voluntary, community or political activities and any cultural, musical or sporting accomplishments. If you have an ORCID ID, you may wish to include this.

Please do not include a photograph in your CV. Your CV should be wholly accurate and a fair representation of your achievements. You should anticipate that details will be checked for embellishments and inaccuracies. Material misrepresentation will result in disqualification of an application or, where appropriate, the rescinding of a scholarship. Examples of misrepresentation include exaggeration of roles/accomplishments/participation/biography; embellished publication lists; inflation of GPA/grades. **Your CV should not exceed two letter-size pages in length with a minimum 12 pt font.**

- (2) A **Personal Statement** of no more than 1000 words. The personal statement is your chance to tell your story in your own voice: *Who are you?* Your academic transcript and academic statement of study, your CV, and your reference letters will provide the substantive detail of your commitments and accomplishments, whereas the personal statement gives you the opportunity to make an authentic statement of who you are.

Prompts:

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?

Support with your application and generative AI: important guidance

You should carefully read the [guidance on the types of assistance you may receive](#) when putting together your personal and academic statements for the scholarship, before completing your application.

- (3) An **academic statement of study of no more than 350 words.**

The reason we ask for an academic statement is that entry to the University of Oxford is becoming ever more competitive and, should you win a Rhodes Scholarship, you will have to submit your application to Oxford within a very short timeframe. Researching and writing this statement will help you prepare for that. Rhodes selectors will use the statement to assess whether you will thrive academically in one of the most competitive graduate environments in the world.

The academic statement of study should, in a factual and concise manner:

- i. 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 in your academic trajectory. Further, 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.
- ii. 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. It is very important that you have a firm idea of which courses are viable for you to study at the University of Oxford (if you are listing a one-year course, please give an indication of your intentions for the second year).
- iii. 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.

(4) A photocopy of **Transcripts** (official copies are required for the official application, but not for the internal review).

(5) The names and contacts of your **six possible referees**. Letters are not required for the Pre-application package but will be required should you be endorsed for the regional competition. Please include name, affiliation, and how you know the referee (e.g. Dr. Isabella Ng, Associate Professor, Schulich School of Engineering. Dr. Ng was my research supervisor and taught me in two courses during my undergraduate degree.).

The application should be submitted as **ONE document in the order outlined above (CV, Personal Statement, Academic Statement of Study, Transcript, Names of Referees)**. Please do not include a title page.

The application should be submitted via the [UCalgary Internal Rhodes Submission Form](#). The deadline is the end of the day (11:59 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time) on Tuesday, August 5, 2025. Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

Steps for successful internal applicants

The Internal Rhodes Review Committee will shortlist students. If you are selected, in addition to the items above, you will also be required to include a head shot, birth certificate / passport (evidence of age) and an Institutional Endorsement from the University President. You will then also be ready to contact your referees. Information on submitting a reference letter for the Rhodes Scholarship can be found [here](#).

Have questions?

We can help you! Please reach out to the Scholars Academy Office, Dr. Jared Secord, jared.secord1@ucalgary.ca, for questions on the UCalgary Rhodes Process, including personal statements, CVs, courses of study, etc.