

University of Ottawa Rhodes Scholarships Information Session

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Presented by: Dr. Angel Foster, Dr. Jacob Krich, Dr. Ron Stevenson,
Rayene Bouzitoun & Christyne Auger

The Presentation

1. The Rhodes Scholarships
 - Overview
 - The key qualities of a Rhodes Scholar
 - What does the Rhodes Scholarship cover?
2. Eligibility and selection process
3. What help can we (or others) provide you?
4. Tips for writing a strong application

Rhodes Scholarships Program

- **Oldest** and the **most prestigious** graduate scholarship program in the world.
- **Fully funded postgraduate scholarship** which enables outstanding young people from around the world to study at the University of Oxford.
- The Scholarship is **not just a financial bursary**: it is a life-changing opportunity for exceptional young people with the potential to make a difference for good in the world.
- Rhodes Scholars are individuals who have a **vision of how the world could be better and the energy to make a difference** – whatever their sphere of interest.
- **Nearly 8,000 Rhodes Scholars** have gone on to serve at the forefront of government, education, the arts, NGO's, commerce, research, journalism and other sectors. Rhodes Alumni include Nobel, PEN/Faulker and Pulitzer Prize winners, heads of state, university president and vice chancellors, high court judges, leaders of major organisations such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International and Oxfam, and much more.

The Key Qualities of a Rhodes Scholar

Rhodes Selection Committees are looking for young people of **outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service.**

Criteria specified in the founding document (Cecil Rhodes' will):

- Exceptional academic achievement and excellence.
- 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).
- Truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship.
- Moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings.

What Does the Rhodes Scholarship Cover?

A Rhodes Scholarship covers:

- All University and College fees;
- The University application fee;
- A living stipend (£18,180 per annum 2022-23); and,
- One economy class airfare to UK at the start of the scholarship and one economy flight back to the student's home country at the conclusion of the scholarship.

Are You Eligible?

1. You must be a **Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada** (students who are attending a Canadian university on a student visa are not eligible to apply).
2. Education/residency: You must be **domiciled in Canada**
3. Age: Upon 1 October 2023, you must meet either of the criteria below:
 - i. You must be **at least 18 and have not reached your 24th birthday** (i.e., you must have been born after 1 October 1999 and on or before 1 October 2005).
 - OR**, for older candidates who completed their first undergraduate degree later than usual,
 - ii. You must have **not reached your 27th birthday** (i.e., have been born after 1 October 1996) **AND** your first undergraduate degree must have been (or will be) awarded on or after 1 October 2022.
4. Academic achievement: You must have completed (or will have completed by June / July 2024) an undergraduate degree from a college or university to a sufficiently **high standard** to be admitted to postgraduate study at the University of Oxford.

Application Region

- British Columbia – 1 Scholarship
- The Prairies – 3 Scholarships
- Ontario – 2 Scholarships
- Quebec – 2 Scholarships
- The Maritimes – 2 Scholarships
- Newfoundland & Labrador – 1 Scholarships

You may apply in **either**:

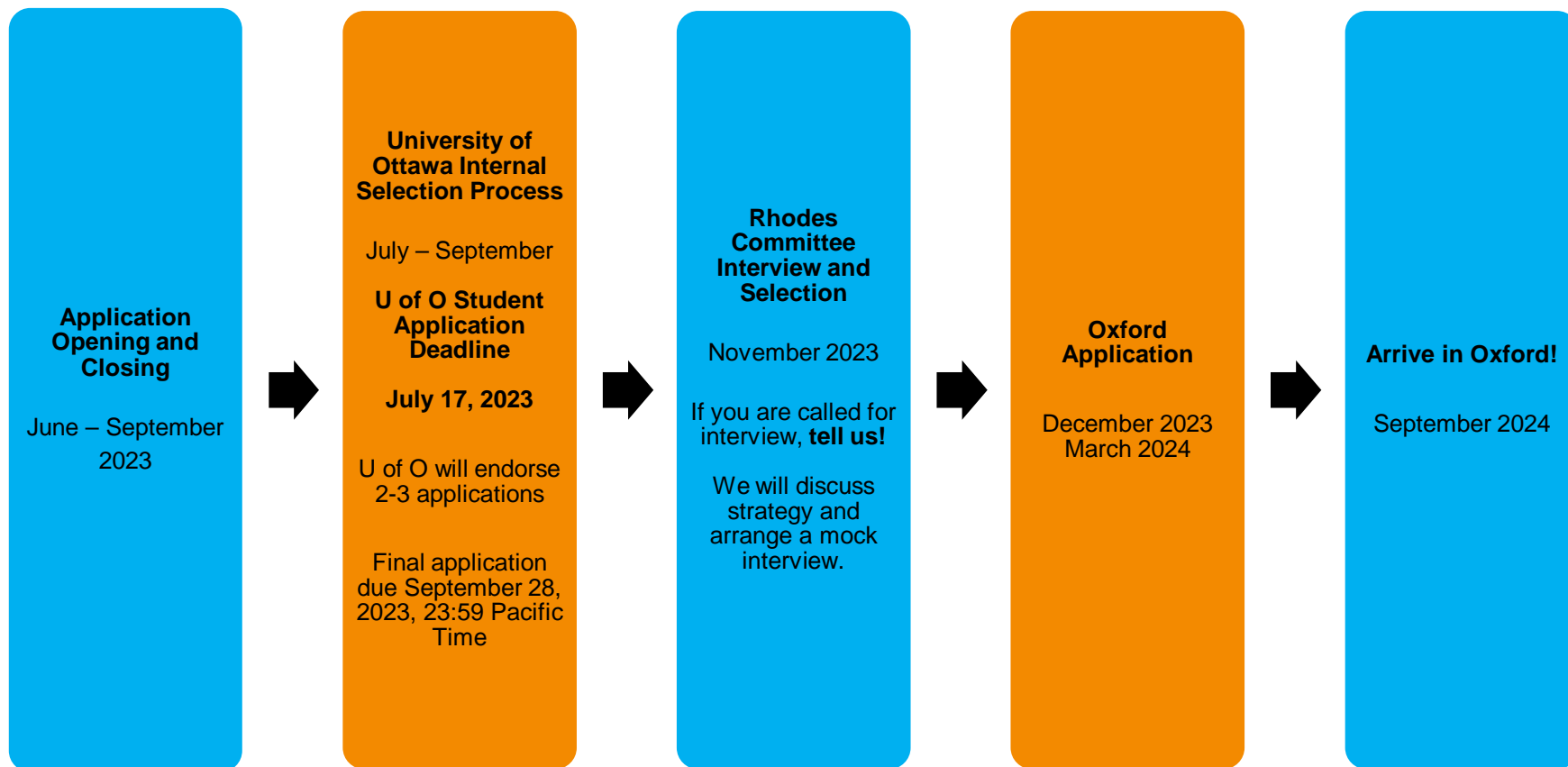
- The region in which you attended a university that has granted or will be granting you a degree (Ontario)

or

- The region in which you are ordinarily resident.
If you are ordinarily resident in the Yukon, Northwest Territories or Nunavut, you may apply in the Prairies Region

You must apply in **only one** region and only one country.

The Application Process



Application

The key parts (read instructions for the rest)

- Reference Letters (6)
 - At least 3 academic references for the uOttawa internal process (from those who have taught/supervised and graded you)
 - At least 2 to “testify to your character and/or your involvement in extracurricular/service or leadership activities.”
 - A good referee is one who knows you well, rather than a well-known person who only knows you superficially. Referees are not typically personal friends, contemporaries or relatives.
 - If you are applying this year, **ask your references immediately**, so they have enough time before July 17.
- CV (2 pages)
 - Can (should!) include sentences or paragraphs to describe important activities, especially those you don't have space to mention in your statement.
- Personal statement (750 words)
 - Which Rhodes Scholar quality do you display most strongly, and how are different contexts and people helping you to develop the other qualities?
 - What would you like to learn from and contribute to the Rhodes community in Oxford?
 - From your place in the world, how will you use your energies and talents to address humanity's pressing challenges?
 - Cannot receive editing help.
 - Many examples online of Rhodes essays.
- Academic statement of study (350 words)
 - Reasons for studying at Oxford
 - Qualifications for chosen program. Demonstrate preparedness for Oxford courses.

Key Pieces of Advice

- Read all instructions carefully.
- Your application should tell a story about you and why you want and deserve a Rhodes Scholarship.
- Use all the pieces together. Each one lets you reveal a different part of you.
- Ideally, prose should be perfectly grammatical, crisp, and lively. Proofread.
- Do not be arrogant, but your application must show your belief that you deserve the scholarship.
- Look at the [bios](#) of past winners. You don't need to be just like them, but look at their stories and make your own.
- If you do not want to spend 2 years in Oxford, don't apply!

Help We Can Give

- We **can** help improve your CV and academic statement of study.
- We **cannot** edit your personal statement.

THANK YOU!

- **Where to send the application documents?**
 - For endorsement by the University of Ottawa, a copy of all documents needs to be sent to the Financial Aid and Awards Service by e-mail at loansandawards@uOttawa.ca.
- **University of Ottawa Internal Application Deadline:**
July 17, 2023
- Information for Candidates (PDF) and Guidance for Referees (PDF) are available on the Rhodes Scholarship Website at www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/apply/canada