



THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP 2013

KENYA

MEMORANDUM

FOR ELECTION FOR 2013 ONLY

(This Memorandum cancels those issued for previous years)

Updated May 2012

This document assumes that you have read and are familiar with the basic admission criteria for the Rhodes Scholarships, available on the main [Rhodes website](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/Application/Conditions-of-Tenure.pdf). For detailed conditions of tenure, view the document at www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/Application/Conditions-of-Tenure.pdf

1. Closing date

- a. Your application may be submitted online or hand delivered, couriered, or posted. Complete applications must be received by 31 August 2012.

2. Eligibility criteria

- a. You must have achieved academic training in a degree-awarding body in Kenya or overseas, and have completed, or will have completed by the end of December 2012, a Bachelor's degree with First or Upper Second class standard (i.e. an average score of 68% / GPA 3.7 or higher).
- b. You must be a citizen of Kenya and have been resident in Kenya for at least five of the last ten years. Candidates with dual citizenship may not apply in more than one of the countries in which they are citizens.
- c. You must be available for interview at the time of selection in Nairobi. It is expected that the interviews will be held in early November 2012.
- d. You must be at least 19 years and younger than 26 years by 1 October 2012. This means applicants must have been born after 30 September 1986 and on or before 1 October, 1993.

- e. The Rhodes Trust and Oxford University require that selection for a Scholarship and for admission to the University will be without regard to marital status, race, ethnic origin, colour, sex and gender, religion, sexual orientation, social background, disability, caste or other irrelevant distinction.
- f. A selection committee will make no nomination if it is of the opinion that there is no sufficiently qualified candidate.

3. Application procedure

- a. Applicants may apply online at - <https://apply.embark.com/scholarship/RhodesTrust> (from 1st June).
- b. Alternatively, applicants may complete the Preliminary Application form attached to this Memorandum, furnishing the material there specified.
- c. All applications – whether submitted online or in hard copy - must be received no later than 5pm, local time, 31 August 2012.
- d. Candidates who do not receive further communication by 31 October 2012 should assume that their application has been unsuccessful.

4. Information to be submitted with application

- a. You must submit a completed application form on-line at <https://apply.embark.com/scholarship/RhodesTrust> or in hard copy (available from the National Secretary in Kenya) with the documents and information detailed below:
 - i. A certified copy of your birth certificate, to show that you are in the correct age group. For those candidates not born in Kenya, please also supply additional materials necessary to validate Kenyan citizenship.
 - ii. Certified copies of your academic record/ transcripts from all universities or institutes of higher education, formally certified by the Registrar of the University or College concerned.
 - iii. Details of any employment or enterprise you have undertaken during your studies or thereafter.
 - iv. Curriculum vitae, showing details of what you have achieved: your high school career; your college or university career; your involvement in student or community affairs, cultural, sporting or political activities; your leadership roles; and any other significant achievements or involvements. This should not exceed two pages of 12-point Times font and should not include supporting documents.
 - v. A statement of no more than 1500 words which includes:
 - a. Your general interests and activities and what you plan to do with your life once you have completed your studies.
 - b. Your aims and priorities and the contribution you have made and would like to make to society.

- c. Indicate the course of study and degree you wish to follow at Oxford.
- d. Also demonstrate that you are able to meet the requirements of the specific course you have chosen. Candidates are advised that it is a requirement of admission to all post-graduate, and some other courses, to submit samples of written work. The regulations concerning this can be found in the Oxford *Graduate Studies Prospectus* (www.ox.ac.uk). Some courses also require successful completion of the GRE or GMAT.
- e. Applicants wishing to undertake a DPhil must provide a brief outline of their proposed research and show evidence you have been in contact with a researcher in Oxford.

Your personal statement is a very important part of your application. **It is also very important for you to have considered what course and degree you wish to follow at Oxford before you submit your application.** It is a good idea to discuss your proposed course of study with your professors or lecturers in that field, and, if possible, with someone who has knowledge of United Kingdom universities. Additional sources of information are the current issues of the *University of Oxford Graduate Prospectus* and the *University of Oxford Undergraduate Prospectus* available online at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions>, as well as departmental websites.

- vi. Five letters of reference from persons who can be contacted by the selection committee for further detailed information about you. Three of your referees should be academics who have taught you at University and who can comment on your academic ability and how well they think you would fare at Oxford. Two referees should be non-academic and may include teachers and other persons who are able to comment critically on whether you fulfil the requirements Rhodes set out in his Will. In addition:
 1. Provide a separate list of your referees together with their business and home (or mobile) telephone and fax numbers as well as their postal and email addresses.
 2. Choose reliable people who are likely to respond to requests for written reports as their reports will be crucial to your application. Ask their permission before listing them as referees. A good referee is one who knows you well, rather than a well-known person who only knows you superficially. It is not advisable to get close contemporaries or personal friends to be referees.
 3. Letters of reference should be sent by the referees directly to the National Secretary in Kenya. See *Guidance to Referees* attached.

It is neither necessary nor desirable to include certificates or testimonials other than those required.

- vii. Include your home address, mobile phone number and email address.
- viii. All documents must be in English or English translations must be provided.

- ix. CD-Rom and emailed applications will not be accepted.
- x. If submitting a paper application, please remember that all documents you submit have to be photocopied, so do not bind, staple or clip them in a folder.

Interviews: Selection Committees will invite candidates they wish to see to a personal interview. No candidate will be selected without a personal interview. The final selection is confirmed by the Rhodes Trustees, who rely on selection procedures undertaken by selection committees in each constituency. Applicants who cannot be at the relevant selection committee interviews will not be considered. For your guidance the selection committees usually meet in early November. Candidates who are invited to interview will need to bring two photographs to the interview. These must be head and shoulder colour photographs of good quality, unmounted and 15cm x 10cm (6" x 4").

J. Kabiru
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The Rhodes Scholarships in Kenya
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For further information about the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Scholarships,
see www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM FOR KENYA

NOTES:

- A. Read the accompanying Memorandum and these notes carefully before filling in the form.
- B. This form and the attached summary form must be completed and returned together with a certified photocopy of your academic record, four letters of reference (see paragraph 10 overleaf) and the Personal Statement (see paragraph 9 overleaf) not later than 31st August to:
The Secretary, The Rhodes Scholarships Selection Committee for Kenya, P0 Box 2588 Nairobi, 00202. **(Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope.)**
- C. Do not send any certificates or other papers (except the certified photocopy of your academic record, letters of reference and the Personal Statement) with this form.
- E. If you do not receive any further communication by 31st October, this means that your application has been unsuccessful.
- F. If the Selection Committee decides to consider your application further, you will then be notified and will be required to produce certified copies of your birth certificate and educational qualifications, two passport sized photographs of yourself, and any other information which the Selection Committee may require.

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM

1. Surname: First name:
(as on your passport)

2. Date of Birth: My age on 1 October this year will be years and months.

3. I hold the following University Degree/s, or equivalent qualification/s:
University / Institution Degree Class Date of award.....

having obtained the following grades in the following subjects:
(attach a separate sheet with details if necessary)

Subject	Grade
.....
.....

I attach a certified photocopy of my academic record showing these results.....

4. I attended the following schools for the following periods (start with the most recent):

School	Period
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5. I obtained the following grades in the following subjects in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination (or equivalent):

Subjects	Grades
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6. I obtained the following grades in the following subjects in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (or equivalent):

Subjects	Grades
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7. My present occupation is:.....

8. If elected to a Rhodes Scholarship, the precise course of study I intend to follow at Oxford is:

.....

If I am offered a suitable undergraduate course (rather than a graduate course) I would be willing to accept it.

Yes / No (please circle)

9. I attach a signed Personal Statement of myself giving full details of my general interests and activities (including sporting activities, social work and hobbies and positions of leadership which I have held) and of the character of the work or career which I intend to pursue. This must be in English and typed. **(Note: The Selection Committee gives considerable weight to this statement, so candidates should ensure that it is reasonably detailed.)**

10. I also attach five sealed letters of reference. Three of the referees are persons under whom I have studied, and the other two have no connection with the academic world. None of the five referees are members of my own family. **(Note: Please provide each of your referees with a copy of the Notes to Referees attached to this form. Ideally, academic references will be from persons under whom you have studied at University level. Non-academic references from close personal friends who are peers of the applicant are discouraged)**

11. My postal address is:

I can be contacted through these telephone/fax numbers: Telephone:..... Fax:.....

My e-mail contact address is:.....

12. I certify that:

- (1) The information given on this form and in the attached Personal Statement is true and complete.
- (2) I am a citizen of Kenya.
- (3) I have been physically present in Kenya for a period or periods totalling not less than 5 years in the 10 years preceding the date of this application.

DATE:..... **SIGNED:**.....

APPLICATION FOR THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

SUMMARY

Please fill in using capital letters and return together with the preliminary application form.

Family Name/Surname:

Other Names:

Date of birth: day:..... month: year: **Citizenship:**

Gender: Male / Female (*Delete as appropriate*) **Marital Status:** Single / Married (*Delete as appropriate*)

Number of years resident in Kenya during last ten years:

University/ies attended:

Qualification/s completed and grade/class attained:

Sports:

Hobbies:

Public / Community Service:

.....
.....

Leadership positions (High School & University):

.....
.....

Exact proposed course of study (*as described in current Oxford University Prospectus*):

.....

I have enclosed my Personal Statement, my academic record and five letters of reference

Signed:

Date:



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Guidance for Referees

The following notes are intended to serve as a guide to referees who are requested to write a letter of recommendation in support of any person applying to be considered for the award of a Rhodes Scholarship (“the Applicant”).

In considering applications, the Selection Committee will have regard to those qualities which Mr. Cecil Rhodes expressly listed to define the type of Scholar he desired. All letters of recommendation in support of the Applicant’s application should therefore aim to inform the Selection Committee, of the extent to which the Applicant exhibits the qualities outlined below.

(a) **Academic excellence** is the first and indispensable quality required of all applicants, but the Founder expressly desired that his Scholars should not be mere ‘bookworms’. It is important however, that Rhodes Scholars should have the high academic competence necessary for them to be able to cope with the demands of academic life at Oxford University, while still being able to take advantage of the opportunity to experience all that Oxford has to offer.

Academic references should demonstrate personal knowledge of the applicant and of his or her work. Specifically, academic referees should comment on the applicant’s academic abilities in respect of their proposed course of graduate study. Applicants are required to produce copies of their academic transcripts and certificates so academic references are expected to enlarge on the information provided by the grades and class of degree obtained by the applicant. The extent to which the applicant has demonstrated aptitude and keenness for research and independent study and their participation in and contribution to academic discussion and debate in and out of class are particularly important. Where possible, examples should be provided in support of the statements made. It should be kept in mind that if successful in obtaining the Rhodes Scholarship, the applicant will be competing against top students from all over the world for limited places on their chosen course at Oxford. The academic references provided will form part of their application to the relevant graduate programme and will be given considerable weight by Oxford dons who must make a determination as to whether a student and his or her likely academic contribution in the field will be an asset to their departments.

(b) A Rhodes Scholar must: be a **contributor to the community**, whether the contribution is made in intellectual, cultural activities, sporting activities or public life; show **integrity of character** and exhibit a **desire to serve**, as well as the **instinct and ability to lead**; demonstrate a **genuine concern for, and commitment to their fellow human beings** and be possessed of the **mental, moral and physical stamina** to fulfill ambitions in whatever area of life they may eventually make their careers. Both academic and non-academic referees may attest to these qualities and should have personal knowledge of the applicant’s engagement or involvement in the various activities, initiatives or forums relied on to demonstrate these aspects of character.

Format of your reference:

If the applicant has applied online:

- You will receive an email from Embark Online Recommendations on behalf of the Rhodes Trust, which will give full instructions on completing your reference.
- Reference letters may be uploaded in either PDF or MS Word format or typed directly as text. Please follow the instructions under Step 1: Reference Form.
- For academic references, university headed paper is preferred. However, when this is not feasible, an institutional email address is acceptable. For non-academic references, a headed paper is preferred.
- Where referees find it difficult to upload references as PDF or MS Word documents, they may type their reference in plain text (see instructions under Step 1: Reference Form). If that is the case please ensure that you include full contact details and your institutional title or position (if applicable) so that the Selection Committee may contact you if there is need of any clarification.

Alternatively, if the applicant has applied in hard copy:

- Please write your reference in hard copy. Please indicate clearly, the name of the Applicant to whom the letter relates, and provide a reliable postal, telephone and e-mail contact on which you may be reached in the event that the Applicant's application is to receive further consideration from the Selection Committee. Unsigned letters of recommendation will receive no consideration whatsoever.
- Your letter should be addressed to The National Secretary of the Rhodes Trust in Kenya, should be sealed and signed by you over the seal and should be hand delivered, couriered or posted directly to the National Secretary.

All references must be submitted to the National Secretary **by 31 August 2012, at the latest.**

*National Secretary
Rhodes Trust in Kenya*

The Secretary
The Rhodes Scholarships Selection Committee for Kenya
PO Box 2588
Nairobi 00202
Rhodes.Selection.Kenya@gmail.com

For further information about the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Scholarships, see
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk