

MOUNT HOLYOKE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Phone 413-538-2080 / Fax 413-538-2081

RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

(Rhodes Scholarship web site: <http://www.rhodesscholar.org>) (Oxford University web site: <http://www.ox.ac.uk>)
We encourage all applicants to visit this website for more detailed information about the program

Application forms for the Rhodes Scholarships are available online at the above web site or from the Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School. If you wish to apply, please contact Kimberly Parent, the Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School in the Career Development Center to discuss your plans.

TYPE: Nomination by Mount Holyoke College required. Mount Holyoke may nominate an unlimited number of candidates for this award. Apply as Senior or Alum.

PURPOSE: In establishing the Rhodes Scholarship Program in 1902, Cecil J. Rhodes sought to provide the opportunity to study at Oxford to scholars who demonstrate excellence in qualities of mind and of person that, in combination, offer the promise of effective service to the world in the decades ahead. Rhodes Scholars may study for a first or higher (i.e., undergraduate or graduate) degree in any discipline at the University of Oxford for a period of at least two (maximum of three) years. For the University of Oxford *Undergraduate Prospectus* and *Graduate Prospectus* see www.ox.ac.uk.

ELIGIBILITY: Basic eligibility requirements for U.S. awards are:

- U.S. citizenship
- Must have passed the 18th but not the 24th birthday by October 1, 2008
- Must have completed a bachelor's degree by October, 2009

Citizens of Australia, Bangladesh, Bermuda, Canada, the Commonwealth Caribbean, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe who are studying in the U.S. may apply in their own countries. Further information is available from the Rhodes Scholarship Trust in those countries. Deadlines are likely to be early. See Rhodes web site for details.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Qualities sought include intellectual and academic achievement of a high standard; integrity of character; interest in and respect for one's fellow beings; the ability to lead; and the energy to use one's talents to the full (the latter quality, Cecil Rhodes believed, was best tested through participation and success in sports). Candidates do not need to have played varsity sports to be competitive, but successful candidates generally have some experience in team sports and/or evidence of a commitment to physical activity. Please note that although no minimum grade point average is required, experience indicates that students with a grade point average below 3.7 will be at a disadvantage in the competition.

AWARDS: There will be 32 awards to U.S. citizens this year. Stipend includes payment to the Scholar's college of approved fees, including tuition, lab fees, etc., and a maintenance allowance of not less than £11,500 (approximately \$22,900) per year, paid directly to the Scholar, in installments.

SPECIAL NOTES: Candidates apply to one of 16 districts, depending on the state in which they have received at least two years of college training and a B.A. degree before October 1, 2009, or the state in which they were legally resident on April 15, 2007. States are grouped into districts for the purpose of awarding the scholarships.

PREVIOUS RHODES SCHOLARS: Several Mount Holyoke students have won a Rhodes Scholarship since the program was opened to women in 1976; the latest was an English major selected in 1990. Note that several Mount Holyoke applicants since then have been finalists. See the Rhodes web site for profiles of recent Rhodes Scholars.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Interested students should contact the Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School at the CDC before beginning the application process. Applicants must submit a preliminary application and participate in an interview with the Committee on Fellowships. The Committee will decide after the interview whether to support a student's candidacy. (Because deadlines are tight and final applications require a birth certificate, medical certificate, photographs, and official transcripts, students should plan ahead, as they may need to produce these documents on short notice if their applications go forward.) The Rhodes Scholarship requires excellence in a broad range of experience and personal qualities; many excellent students with strong academic records may not meet these requirements. We encourage you

to assess your strengths and weaknesses against the criteria for the award before deciding to apply. Your academic adviser and other faculty who know you and your work well can help you determine whether you would be a strong candidate for this award.

PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE, LAMINATE OR BIND ANY PART OF THE APPLICATION FORM OR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, AS THEY WILL BE COPIED FOR REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE ON FELLOWSHIPS!

NOMINATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES:

Friday, September 12, 2008

Submit the following documents to the Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School in the Career Development Center:

- A copy of the completed Rhodes Scholarship **application form (Page A-5) signed in ink**
- A draft of a **list of principal activities and honors** while in college (including prizes, scholarships, offices held, athletic record, extracurricular activities and interests), with dates. This list must be no more than two pages long and set in a typeface no smaller than 10 points.
- A draft of a **personal statement** of academic and intellectual interests in college and proposed course of study and reasons for studying at Oxford. This essay may not exceed 1,000 words, set in a typeface no smaller than 10 points, and should be written in as simple and direct a manner as possible; it must conclude with the signed statement "I certify that this essay is my own work." **Select Committees will place special emphasis on this personal essay, and it will be forwarded to Oxford colleges to which Rhodes Scholars-elect apply for admission.**
- Copies of the **(5 to 8) letters of recommendation** from faculty members. The writers should send these letters directly to the Career Development Center (they may be emailed or faxed if preferred). Note that you should give to each recommender a photocopy of the form provided with the application, signed to indicate whether you do or do not waive your access to the letter. We do not need a copy of this form. **Your recommenders are to send the form, along with their original signed letter of recommendation directly to your district once you are nominated by the College.**
- **Official transcripts** from each institution attended, including study abroad (note: MHC unofficial transcripts may be submitted to the Committee on Fellowships for the interview, however if nominated, official transcripts will be required for final application submission). Transcripts are to be sent directly to the CDC.

Wednesday, September 17 – Friday, September 19, 2008

The Committee on Fellowships interviews candidates. Students will be notified shortly after the interview whether the Committee has decided to support their candidacy.

Monday, September 22 – Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Endorsed candidates finalize their applications and prepare them for mailing. They contact their recommenders to remind them to mail their signed letters of recommendation to the appropriate district committee.

Monday, October 6, 2008

Postmark deadline for completed applications. Each student who has secured an endorsement from the Committee on Fellowships will need to submit to their state committee **TEN sets of the following materials: a completed and signed "Application Blank" (Page A-5) signed in ink, a college transcript form all institutions attended (one of the ten sets must be a certified original, the nine others may be copies), a list of activities and honors not exceeding two pages, and a signed personal statement not exceeding one thousand words.** Also attached should be **TEN passport size photographs of the applicant (applicant's signature on the back side; photos must NOT be stapled to any document and should be submitted in an envelope clipped to the ORIGINAL), and ONE photocopy of the applicant's passport or birth certificate.** Please follow all directions in the application materials carefully. The applicant will have arranged for the required **FIVE to EIGHT "Letters of Appraisal"** to be sent directly to the appropriate district committee. Each letter must be submitted in **TEN copies.** The CDC will send the required institutional endorsement letter to meet the final deadline.

Friday, November 21 and Saturday, November 22, 2008 - District interviews take place.

Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that each portion of the application, including letters of recommendation, is received by the appropriate deadline. If you will be requesting transcripts from other institutions or letters of recommendation from outside the College (particularly outside the U.S.), please do so immediately, as these materials can take several weeks to reach us. If you anticipate a problem meeting a particular deadline or have any questions concerning your application, please contact the Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School at (413) 538-2080.