

Q. Is there less of an inclination to consider those in the fields of animal health?

A. All fields are considered, but you have to be able to demonstrate how the scholarship will help you reach your goal and how this goal will have a benefit to society. For example academic, animal health, agricultural leadership, climate change.

Q. What specifies someone who has completed their degree 'later than usual' for the purposes of the age requirement?

A. This may be someone who has not taken the traditional path to university. The person may have had a pause in their studies or been studying their degree part-time, so it has taken longer to complete their undergraduate degree compared to a traditional school leaver who has come to university straight from school and studied their degree full-time. Or they may have completed a double or joint degree. In ambiguous cases the National Secretary will make a determination of eligibility, so if in doubt, enquire with your State Secretary.

Q. If you're an Honours student finishing in June 2021 would you suggest applying this cycle or next year?

A. You are eligible to apply for the 2021 scholarship if you complete your degree by 30 June 2021. It is entirely up to you if you feel you are ready to apply for the 2021 scholarship. A lot of applicants have already entered the workforce for a year or two before they decide they are ready to apply. You can only apply for the scholarship twice so you need to keep this in mind, along with the age criteria.

Q. Do they consider both GPA and the weighted average mark (WAM)? or either?

A. You are required to use your overall GPA as this is what Oxford will look at. Some universities use a WAM as their grading system and you can provide that too in your application, but your university should be able to assist you with converting your WAM to a GPA if you ask.

Q. How many applicants are there generally for the NSW and the Australia-at-large scholarships?

A. There are nine scholarships available each year in Australia. Each state offers one scholarship and there are three scholarships at the Australia-at-Large round.

NSW usually attracts approximately 50 applications. Some years there have been 35 applications and others more than 50. Before 2020 you could not apply for the scholarship unless you had first class honours, now applicants can apply with an undergraduate degree as long as the academic eligibility criteria of a high GPA is met. We will be interested to see how the change in the academic eligibility criteria will affect this year's applications and whether there will be a significant increase in applications.

The Australia-at-Large scholarship round is open to applicants from ACT and NT. The round also includes up to two candidates from each state who have been put forward for the

Australia-at-Large scholarship by their state selection committee. In the past, the candidates put forward from NSW have had a high degree of success at this national round.

Q. What is the degree of mastery that is ideal?

A. There are different ways to demonstrate mastery in your extra-curricular activity. Consider the elements such as skills required, level of attainment, how you have improved, the time you commit each week or over how many years, competitions you have entered, people you have performed for, awards you have received, whether you teach or train others.

Q. Say that we have not achieved a high level of sport or have not been participating in an extracurricular activity for many years, will we be instantly overlooked? Do you have any other examples of good 'energy criteria'?

A. You do need to be involved with some form of extra-curricular activity to apply for the scholarship. Think about what you do outside your studies and look at the wording of the selection criteria – have you been engaged in an activity that demonstrates you have “energy to use your talents to the full”? Activities that demonstrate discipline, commitment, persistence, teamwork, leadership, and attainment.

There have been applications in the past where people have purely taken up an extra-curricular activity or volunteer work in order to meet the selection criteria. This is noticed by the selection committee and these applicants have not been successful in being shortlisted. If you have no extra-curricular activity you may be best to consider applying for a different international scholarship which does not necessarily require extra-curricular activity as part of the application. But bear in mind, this is only one of the four selection criteria. Your level of attainment in the ‘energy criteria’ will be considered in conjunction with your achievements in the other three areas.

Q. Would employment in the Public Service qualify for the Community Service qualify, or only volunteer service?

A. Your employment does not qualify as volunteer or community service; however your employment might assist you to see things in the world that you would like to contribute to improve or change. It might be a place in which you have demonstrated leadership and it might evidence your commitment to your chosen path, and that is all something worth mentioning in your personal statement.

Q. Why hasn't UoN ever had a Rhodes Scholar

A. The scholarships has not always been widely promoted to students within some universities. UoN has greatly increased the awareness of the scholarship through Jen Martin's appointment to the NSW Honorary Secretary Role. Both Jen and Tamson are passionate about the scholarship being more accessible to students from regional universities and universities that have not traditionally attracted a lot of applications. If you

are from UoN or any other institution that does not have a history of Rhodes applicants, please get in touch with your network advisor or one of the tate secretaries.

Q. Is there a limit to the number of years in a row you can apply (as long as you're not too old)?

A. You can only apply for the scholarship twice and can apply two years in a row if you wish.

Q. If you are currently an Honours student, finishing in June 2021, but do not make the 80 WAM cut-off (but over 75) for my Bachelor degree, however, are on-track to achieve a First-Class Honours outcome, how will academic achievements be considered?

A. If you complete with First-Class Honours then you are eligible to apply for the scholarship. However, your trajectory across your whole degree is likely to be considered by the selection committee.

Q. I have not done my high school in Australia (I have done my primary schooling and university from Australia though) - does that mean I am not eligible?

A. Please contact the State Secretary and they will discuss your case with the National Secretary.

Q. I completed my 3 year undergraduate in SA my home state and completed my honours in NSW. According to the guidelines I can apply for either SA or NSW. Can I apply for both states?

A. You must only apply in one state. And you should consider which state you have the greatest connection to.

Q. How does the WAM cut-off work for a double degree (undergraduate level)? Is the 80% WAM required for both degrees? Or is having an 80% WAM in one degree enough?

A. 80% WAM will make you eligible to apply. Your entire academic record is likely to be considered when it comes to selection, unless there is a reason. So if your marks in your other degree are significantly different – it is important that you explain why.

Q. Suppose I apply to use the Rhodes for a PhD, and I have two master's degrees, one of which is in the area in which I want to do my PhD, and the other is unrelated. Suppose in the master's degree which is going to lead into my PhD I have a WAM well above 80, but only have a 60 or 70 WAM in the unrelated master's degree, will this disqualify me?

A. This will not disqualify you from eligibility. And it makes sense to pursue a PhD in the area in which you have excelled. But if there is a reason you did not do as well in your other master's degree, that is likely to be something for which the committee want an explanation.

Q. If you discontinued one degree and then started a new degree, will the discontinued degree's WAM count?

A. Not necessarily. As long as you have a GPA or WAM at the appropriate academic level and will have completed your degree by 30 June 2021 you will be eligible. But you should explain in your personal statement why you discontinued the first degree.

Q. Are you able to give us more information on the age/date restrictions if you did a dual degree?

A. For the purposes of the Rhodes application, a dual (or joint) degree is considered a “first degree” and you are eligible to be considered as candidate who completed their first undergraduate degree later than usual. In this case, you must not have reached your 27th birthday (i.e. have been born after 1 October 1993) AND you must have met or will meet the requirements for completion of your first degree on or after 1 July 2019. A university's policy determines the date a degree is considered awarded. In ambiguous cases, the decision of the National Secretary is final.

Q. In terms of academic achievement, would performance on standardised tests from other countries (such as the MCAT for medical school admission in the USA) be considered relevant?

A. These may be considered as evidence of academic excellence under the selection criteria, and if you excelled in these tests, by all means mention them. However, eligibility will be based on your GPA/WAM.

Q. I come from more of an arts and design background, so I feel a little out of my depth because I feel like I can't really compare to academics from scientific backgrounds.

A. All GPA's are equal. It doesn't matter which degree you have studied. The Rhodes Trusts seeks applicants from a wide variety of backgrounds. As long as you meet the eligibility criteria and can demonstrate through your application / personal statement that you have the drive to lead; and can articulate how you will use the scholarship to ultimately contribute and benefit society, your application will be considered.

Q. Does "post-graduate study" including PhD funding?

A. You can use the Rhodes funding for a DPhil (which is what Oxford calls a PhD). Refer to uts.edu.au/RhodesNSW which has a FAQ *I am applying for a DPhil, do I need to submit a thesis proposal?*

Q. For DPhils in particular, should we contact a supervisor prior to the Rhodes application?

A. Refer to uts.edu.au/RhodesNSW FAQ *I am applying for a DPhil, do I need to submit a thesis proposal?* for the answer.

Q. Can the scholarship be deferred once acquired?

A. No. You cannot choose to defer the scholarship. The scholarship cannot be taken part-time either unless the applicant has a disability but this would need to be discussed with the National Secretary.

Q. Is it possible to live off campus while holding the scholarship (e.g. with a partner)?

A. It is encouraged that you live on campus for the first year. Many of the colleges have couples accommodation and if you are successful the National Secretary can advise you which college to apply to. Moving off campus is something many students do in the second and third years.

Q. Could the Rhodes be used to cover both a masters and a PhD at Oxford, or only one of these?

A. Refer to uts.edu.au/RhodesNSW FAQ *My aim is to study a Masters program at Oxford, however I am wondering if there is an opportunity to expand that goal to include a DPhil or MBA afterwards should I be accepted, or whether this needs to be made explicit during the application and interview process?*

The Rhodes scholarship will cover only the Masters but you could apply externally for ongoing funding after the scholarship is completed.

Q. What if I have started a PhD, can I continue my research in Oxford with this scholarship?

A. But you would need to suspend (or end) your studies in Australia, and begin the Oxford DPhil from scratch. Of course if you continue research in the same area, the work you have already done may assist you but there is no system for getting credit for it. This would be a matter to discuss with your Oxford supervisor after you are awarded the scholarship.

Q. Will the Rhodes Must Fall protest and the BLM movement impact or change what the selection committee is looking for in applicants this year?

A. The committee is looking for socially responsible and engaged candidates who want to use the scholarship to lead and promote change to better society. Several Rhodes scholars are involved in the BLM and Rhodes Must Fall campaigns providing a range of views, noting also that Rhodes funding supports a number of Black and non-Black African/non-African students to pursue their studies (Rhodes Scholarship and Mandela Rhodes).

Q. I am international student from Nepal, studying at UOW. Is there any scholarships an international student could be eligible for?

A. Unfortunately you are not able to apply for the NSW Rhodes Scholarship. I would encourage you to speak with your scholarships department or international office at UOW as they will be able to provide you with some information on scholarships and opportunities for international students.

Q. Who is on the selection panel(s)?

A. The selection panel is chaired by the NSW Governor and comprises three Rhodes Scholars and three members of the community. If you are shortlisted the names of the panel will be circulated in advance of the interview.

Q. I saw that there are some degrees that may not be available for 2021, how will that change the Rhodes application process?

A. This will not change the selection process. If you have concerns because you wish to enrol in one of these degrees, contact your state secretary in the first instance.

Q. In order to apply in time to make the age cutoff, would I be allowed to 'pause' a current MD?

A. That is up to your university. But suspending your current study programme is usually an option. Please contact the state secretary to discuss

Q. If I do a PhD at university of Sydney next year, I will graduate when I'm 25. Is it possible to apply for the Rhodes scholarship while doing a PhD in Australia, so I can apply before I am 25?

A. Yes it is possible to apply for the Rhodes scholarship while doing a PhD in Australia. But if you are awarded the scholarship you would need to complete or suspend the Australian PhD in order to take up study at Oxford by 1 October 2021.

Q. If you do the first two years of your PhD under the scholarship, can you complete your third back in Australia, or would you have to stay at Oxford?

A. That would be a matter for discussion with your Oxford supervisor and the Rhodes Trust when the time came. But with their permission it may be possible.

Q. What would you recommend if you have multiple high academic achievements from both secondary school and university, but less practical/extra-curricular achievements in that field (I studied history and art history and achieved the university medal last year at USYD) that someone in the sciences would have? Would that disadvantage me?

A. It does not matter which course you have studied, as long as your marks are at the appropriate GPA, so do not compare yourself to sciences students. If you feel like you will not meet the extra-curricular criteria you may like to consider applying for another international scholarship which does not have the same weight applied to extra-curricular activities. Bear in mind, extra-curricular activities are activities you do *outside* your studies such as sports, music, drama, dance, creative writing or other pursuits, so they need not have any connection to your field of study.

Q. I have a first class honours however my total WAM for my entire degree is 78. Does that mean I am not eligible as it is not 80 WAM?

A. The scholarship is highly competitive so if your application does not meet the academic eligibility criteria you will not be considered for the scholarship.

Q. Long term (perhaps wishful) thinking but how does the interview process run? Are there situational/group components? Is it solely individual?

A. The interviews are held over two days. There is a first round of interviews (each candidate with the panel) from which the selection committee determine who will move to the second round of interviews on day two (same format). Usually there is a dinner with all of the candidates and the selection panel held on the evening before the first round of interviews. This year's dinner may or may not proceed given the current COVID pandemic.

Q. Just to clarify, am I eligible if my WAM is above 80 but my GPA is below 6.75? Also, can I apply for a DPhil if I do not have Honours?

A. If you have a WAM of 80 plus for your honours year but a GPA of below 6.75 for your third year of university your WAM of 80 will be the grade considered by the selection committee.

Please note that some students who receive first class honours may not have a WAM of 80. Eg Honour 1 for a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Sydney has a WAM of 75. Please contact the state secretaries if you are unsure.

Please note some courses at Oxford are very competitive and even though you meet the academic eligibility criteria to apply for the scholarship you still need to meet the academic requirements for the course you wish to study at Oxford.

The entrance criteria for each degree programme is listed on the Oxford University website. If you do not have honours it probably makes more sense to apply in the first instance for a MSt or a MSc at Oxford (a 1 year Masters degree). That is a good route into the DPhil.

Q. Are non Go8 university applicants viewed less favourably by the selection committee?

A. Certainly not. The role of the committee is to assess each application and applicant on its merits.

Q. Is there a preference given to certain universities? In particular, given that the committee is looking strongly beyond the Group of Eight (which is great!), is preference given to students from non-GO8 unis?

A. The role of the committee is to assess each application on its merits.

Q. So if I stayed here at UoN and did an Honours here instead of a G8 university I would have equal chance for a Rhodes scholarship?

A. Yes you certainly will. The selection committee is concerned with your application and how your application meets the selection criteria, not which university you have studied at.

Q. What aspects are included in the "fully funded" scholarship, ie. accommodation, travel, etc.?

A. refer to uts.edu.au/RhodesNSW. FAQ *What expenses does the scholarship cover?*

Q. I have heard there is some support mechanism for interview support, like how to perform well in the interview and I suppose dinner etiquette

A. If you are shortlisted for interview I would encourage you to speak with the network advisor at your university so perhaps a mock interview session can be held. The state administrator will be able to provide you with the further details for the dinner eg how to address the NSW Governor and committee and the dress code.

Q. I read the unofficial biography of Malcolm Turnbull and it said he had referees like Neville Wran, Tony Street and some famous federal Judge, so you are saying the status of the two non-academics referees don't need to be high profile people?

A. The scholarship application process has changed in the decades since Malcolm Turnbull applied. Non-academic referees should testify to your character and/or your involvement in extra-curricular/service or leadership activities. These referees should be persons who are able to comment critically on whether you fulfil the extra-curricular, non-academic requirements of the Scholarship and who can speak in detail to your character. A good referee is one who knows you well, rather than a well-known person who only knows you superficially. Please note that Rhodes Scholarship referees are not typically personal friends, contemporaries or relatives. If a referee fits into one of these categories, they should make the connection clear within the reference.

Q. Should the academic referees all be from university? Is high school too far back?

A. Three of your referees should be academics who have formally taught, supervised or graded you in your undergraduate (or, if relevant, postgraduate) studies and who can comment in detail on your academic ability and how well they think you would fare at Oxford. Note – for successful Rhodes Scholarship applicants, these references can, in many cases, later be used to form part of the application to study at the University of Oxford, so it is important that you and your referees bear this in mind. In addition to uploading a reference, your academic referees will be asked a small number of additional questions, including to provide an estimated class ranking. See referee guidance on the final page of this document.

Q. The panel won't put any weight to having a reference from a high profile person

A. No