**FirstRand Oxford African Studies Scholarship to the University of Oxford**

The FirstRand Foundation has entered into a partnership with the African Studies Centre at Oxford University to allow an outstanding South African student to undertake postgraduate study at one of the world’s foremost universities.

The scholarship will provide full funding for one student each year to study a master’s degree at the African Studies Centre of Oxford University. The partnership is for five years. The successful candidate will be housed at Wadham College.

FirstRand will conduct the interviewing and selection process, which will run concurrently with the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship for international postgraduate study, based on academic excellence, leadership ability, community involvement and the candidate’s potential to be a destiny changer.

Candidates have to apply and be accepted to do their MSc at the African Studies Centre at Oxford University and have to apply online for the FirstRand Oxford African Studies Scholarship for their application to be considered.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by mid-April and should be available for final interviews to be held in Sandton on 25 April 2017. A final announcement will be made by end May 2017.

FirstRand and the African Studies Centre are looking for the best applicants who will truly benefit from the opportunity and contribute to South Africa on their return.

The successful candidate is required to return to South Africa for at least five years after completing his or her studies as stipulated by SARS.

Applications for the MSc in African Studies at Oxford University close on 20 January 2017. For more information visit: http://www.africanstudies.ox.ac.uk/msc-african-studies

Applications must reach us by Thursday 23 February 2017 to be eligible for consideration. No late applications will be accepted.

Confirmation of each received application will be emailed to the applicant upon receipt of his or her application.

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Online applications for the FirstRand Oxford African Studies Scholarship for 2017 open on 16 December 2016 and close on 23 February 2017.

 **Click here to apply online**

Shortlisted candidates will be notified at the beginning of April 2017 and should be available for final interviews to be held in Sandton on 25 April 2017. A final announcement will be made before the end of May 2017.

Scholarship criteria are set out below.

 The following factors are taken into account in the awarding of the scholarship:

 - academic excellence;
 - leadership qualities;
 - community involvement; and
 - ability to be a destiny change

This has to be for first-time overseas study. Applicants should have applied to and been conditionally accepted to the University of Oxford for the master’s course in African Studies at the African Studies Centre by April 2017.

Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The decision of the adjudication panel is final and correspondence regarding their decision will not be entered into. The panel reserves the right not to make an award.

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