



## RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA, 2026

As a top achieving postgraduate or final year student at the University KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) we wish to draw to your attention a wonderful post-graduate opportunity to further your studies at Oxford University. Online applications for the [2026 Rhodes Scholarships for Southern Africa](#) open on 01 June 2025. The scholarships target talented, young South Africans; are fully funded for at least two years of study; and are inclusive (race, gender, religious affiliation, course of study, and financial need are **not** criteria for the Rhodes Scholarship).

### Background

Internationally, the Rhodes Scholarship is regarded as the oldest and, arguably, the preeminent global fellowship programme. Funded by a bequest in the Will of Cecil John Rhodes, the Rhodes Scholarship has been awarded since 1903. Over the last 122 years, nearly 1000 young people from across Southern Africa have been given the opportunity to further their post-graduate studies at Oxford University thanks to this scholarship programme. Annually, more than 100 Rhodes Scholarships are awarded to high potential graduates from over 50 countries across the globe.

### Who should apply?

The Rhodes Scholarships are targeted at young, high potential graduates, aged between 19-24 years (with a special accommodation made for Health Sciences graduates), who are academically talented, display proven leadership skills and a commitment to making a difference in their own community and beyond. The scholarships fund post-graduate degrees (Masters and Doctorates) at Oxford University, which is ranked consistently as one of the top academic universities in the world and offers magnificent opportunities for post-graduate research and studies. Entrance to Oxford is highly competitive, hence the scholarships are aimed at academic high-achievers, who have the courage to lead, show moral force of character, energy and empathy, and a commitment and desire to impact positively on the world.

Of the 100 Rhodes scholarships awarded globally each year, ten are allocated to the Southern African Constituency (comprising South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and eSwatini). Further scholarships are awarded to graduates from other regions across the continent: Zimbabwe (2), Zambia (2), Kenya (2), East Africa (1) and West Africa (3).

### Online applications open on 01 June 2025

The Rhodes Scholarships are open to final year undergraduates and post-graduates, across all faculties, attending universities in the Southern African constituency.

The scholarships are inclusive and generous, covering most of the graduate's expenses in Oxford (including application and university tuition fees, accommodation fees, a settling-in allowance, a monthly stipend, one return air fare per Scholar, financial assistance with visa and health insurance costs); and offering superb wrap-around support. The scholarship also includes a *Character, Service and Leadership*

Programme facilitated at Rhodes House; access to a range of forums, conferences and events on a host of global themes/topics; and international service projects.

If you are interested in applying for the 2026 academic year, applications open online on 01 June 2025 and close on 01 August 2025 (*Note: this is a hard deadline and late applications will not be considered*).

### Information Session for students/graduates in the KZN Region

A virtual information session for KZN students and graduates will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 21 May 2025

Time: 13:00 - 14:00

Registration link: <https://rhodeshouse-ox-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/84889028706>

### Additional information to assist you with your application

To make sure you are as prepared as possible to start your application, you are encouraged to read the information on the Scholarships tab on the [Rhodes Trust website](#), the [Conditions of Tenure](#) document, and the [University of Oxford's graduate admissions pages](#).

In addition please review the [Information Document](#) for applicants from Southern Africa, paying particular attention to the section relating to [Eligibility](#): citizenship/residency, age and academic achievement.

#### Useful Links

- [An A-Z list of the graduate courses at Oxford University](#)
- [An introduction to the types of graduate degrees offered by Oxford University](#)
- [The Rhodes House Website](#)
- [Our Application Overview with videos to guide you through the application process](#)
- [Courses covered by the Rhodes Scholarship \(Conditions of Tenure document\)](#)
- [Privacy Policy and Data protection statement](#)
- [List of the Rhodes constituencies](#)
- [The University of Oxford's English language proficiency guidance](#)
- [University of Oxford Graduate Admissions](#)

Interested candidates are also invited to follow the Rhodes Scholarships on social media:

- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RhodesTrust>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/rhodestrust>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RhodesTrust>

There is no doubt that being awarded a Rhodes Scholarships is a life-changing experience. Should you have any queries or if additional information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Beverley Johnson, Regional Manager of the Rhodes Scholarships for Southern Africa, directly on e-mail: [southernafrica.secretary@rhodestrust.com](mailto:southernafrica.secretary@rhodestrust.com).

We look forward to receiving your application and wish you every success.

