THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP 2017

KENYA

MEMORANDUM
FOR ELECTION FOR 2017 ONLY
(This Memorandum cancels those issued for previous years)

Updated May 2016

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. 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 should be submitted by midnight, local time, 31 August 2016.

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 summer of 2016, a Bachelor’s degree with First or Upper Second class standard (i.e. an average score of 69% / 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 have reached your 19th and not have passed your 25th birthday on 01 October 2017, which means you must have been born after 30 September 1992 and on or before 01 October 1998.

3. Application procedure

   a. Applicants should apply online (from early June) at: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/kenya.

      Online applications are strongly preferred. However, if, for good reason, you are unable to submit online, you may submit your application in hard copy by completing the Preliminary Application form attached to this Memorandum and posting it, together with the required documents and information, to the Secretary of the Selection Committee at the postal address provided. Complete applications must be received by the closing date specified above.

   b. The Selection Committee will invite candidates they wish to see to a personal interview in November 2016. 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.
c. Candidates who do not receive further communication by 31 October 2016 should assume that their application has been unsuccessful.

4. Information to be submitted with application

You must submit a completed application form on-line (see 3a above) or in hard copy with the documents and information detailed below. All documents must be submitted in English, or English translations provided. Please note that, if you are invited to interview, you will be asked to bring the originals of all documents with you:

a. 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.

b. 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.

c. Certified copies of primary and high school leaving certificates, and KCSE (or equivalent) certificate.

d. Curriculum vitae (CV): this should be a factual list detailing 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. Please note that the personal statement (see below) is an additional requirement, and it is expected that your personal statement will expand on the achievements listed in your CV.

e. Your personal statement of no more than 1000 words which includes:

   i. Your general interests and activities and what you plan to do with your life once you have completed your studies.

   ii. Your aims and priorities and the contribution you have made and would like to make to society.

   iii. An indication of the course of study and degree you wish to follow at Oxford.

   **It is 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 available online at [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions), as well as on individual faculty/departmental websites.

   iv. Demonstration 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 on the web pages of the University of Oxford: [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/). Some courses also require successful completion of the GRE.

   v. Applicants wishing to undertake a DPhil must provide a brief outline of their proposed research and and list one or more researchers under whom you would like to work in Oxford.

Your personal statement is a very important part of your application. General advice on preparing your personal statement can be found in a short video entitled Rhodes Scholars speak about preparing the personal statement and the application process [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply). You will be required to confirm in your application that the Personal Statement is your own work.
and that no external help was given in its creation.

f. A list of five people (your referees) who will be prepared to write in support of your application and provided detailed information to the Selection Committee.

i. You should provide a list of your referees together with their business and home (or mobile) telephone and fax numbers as well as their postal and email addresses.

ii. You should 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 and let them know that they will receive an auto-generated email on behalf of the selection committee in due course. Referees should be sent a copy of the Referee’s Request Letter at the bottom of this Memorandum.

iii. 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 persons, not being academics under whom you have studied, who are able to comment critically on whether you fulfil the broad non-academic requirements Rhodes set out in his Will. 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.

iv. Letters of reference not submitted through the online system should be sent by the referees directly to the National Secretary in Kenya. See Guidance to Referees attached.

g. Please do not include certificates or testimonials other than those required.

h. It is preferred for applicants to submit their application with supporting documentation online, but 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.

5. Selection Procedure

a. The Rhodes Trust does not require any financial information from applicants, since selection for the Rhodes Scholarship is made without regard to financial means.

b. If you have dual citizenship, you may apply to one constituency only;

c. Selection for the Rhodes Scholarship is of course made without regard to marital status, race, ethnic origin, colour, gender, religion, sexual orientation, social background, disability, caste or other irrelevant distinction.

d. The Rhodes Scholarship for which you are applying is for entry to Oxford in October 2017 and may not be deferred.

e. The Rhodes Scholarship is confirmed only upon successful admission to the University of Oxford.

f. The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

6. Procedure after Selection

a. Please note that successful applicants will need to apply to the University of Oxford very soon after selection. Full details will be given upon selection.

b. The full application of successful candidates will be forwarded to Rhodes House, Oxford, where the Scholarship references will be used as appropriate in support of the candidate’s subsequent application to Oxford.
c. Applicants for a second undergraduate degree with senior status will need to submit a paper application, provided on selection, which must reach Oxford by Friday, 2 December 2016. Candidates must therefore make a quick submission immediately following election.

d. Successful candidates will be encouraged to disclose, in confidence, any medical condition or special needs which may require academic or personal support in Oxford. This disclosure is entirely voluntary and is requested only to enable Rhodes House to provide suitable support in Oxford and to make the transition to Oxford as smooth as possible.

J. Kabiru
National Secretary
The Rhodes Trust in Kenya
PO Box 1813 00606
Nairobi
Kenya

Telephone: +254 722 810044
Email: Rhodes.Selection.Kenya@gmail.com

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 on the Rhodes Trust website and these notes carefully before filling in the form.

B. This form must be completed and returned together with the documents and information outlined in Paragraph 4 of the Memorandum to: J. Kabiru, The Secretary, The Rhodes Scholarships Selection Committee for Kenya, P0 Box 1813 00606 Nairobi.

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 2016, this means that your application has been unsuccessful.

F. If the Selection Committee decides to consider your application further, you will be required to attend an interview to be held in Nairobi on a date in early November of which you will be notified.

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM

1. Surname: ............................................................... First name: ............................................................
   (as on your passport or National I. D.)

2. Date of Birth: ................. My age on 1 October this year will be _______ years and _______ months.
   (attach certified copy of birth certificate)

3. I hold the following University Degree/s, or equivalent qualification/s:
   University / Institution        Degree          Class       Date of award ______
   (e.g. B.A. Economics)          (e.g. First Class Hons.)
   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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(attach certified copy of school leaving certificates)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(attach certified copy of KCSE (or equivalent) certificate)

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 have attached a Personal Statement, which I have signed to attest that it is my own work. Neither it nor any earlier draft has been edited by anyone other than me, nor has anyone else reviewed it to provide me with suggestions to improve it. I understand that any such editing or review would disqualify my application.

This statement must be no more than 1,000 words and 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 a list of five referees whom I have requested to write to the Selection Committee in support of
my application. 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. 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 Kenyan citizen.
(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: ...........................................................................
THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP 2017

KENYA

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 automated email from 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. Please follow the instructions given.

• 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. 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 J. Kabiru, The Secretary, Rhodes Scholarships Selection Committee for Kenya, PO Box 1813 00606, Nairobi, should be sealed and signed by you over the seal and should be posted directly to the Secretary.

All references must be submitted to the Secretary of the Selection Committee by 31 August 2016, at the latest.

National Secretary
Rhodes Trust in Kenya

J. Kabiru
The National Secretary
The Rhodes Trust in Kenya
PO Box 1813 00606
Nairobi
Rhodes.Selection.Kenya@gmail.com

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