

### THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FOR CHINA 2017: *Guidance for Referees*

The [Rhodes Scholarship](#) is administered by the Rhodes Trust. In selecting candidates for the Rhodes Scholarship, the Selection Committee is looking for outstanding leaders who are motivated to fight 'the world's fight' and to 'esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim', and to promote international understanding and peace. In short, the Committee seeks young women and men of **outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service**, who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as 'leaders for the world's future'.

The Rhodes Selection Committee will be grateful, therefore, if you would supply a frank and confidential statement regarding the candidate's qualifications. Your prompt response to the auto-generated email request will be of great assistance to the candidate and to the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee will have available for consideration a copy of the candidate's university academic transcript, GRE or GMAT certificates, curriculum vitae, and personal statement of academic interests, other pursuits, extracurricular activities and reasons for wishing to study at Oxford. Observations which would enhance the Committee's understanding of these records will be especially welcomed. **Your comments must not exceed two A4 pages.**

Academic referees should note that their letters of reference will be used by Oxford departments and colleges for determining the Rhodes Scholar-elect's suitability for admission. In the case of proposed postgraduate study, these letters will also be evaluated to ascertain the Rhodes Scholar-elect's qualifications for such advanced work. Consequently, a detailed assessment of the candidate's academic qualifications will be particularly helpful.

Proven intellectual and academic quality of a high standard is the first quality required of applicants. However, and just as important, they will also be required to show integrity of character, interest in and respect for their fellow beings, the ability to lead and the energy to use their talents to the full and the desire to make an effective contribution to the world around them as described above.

It is not expected that you will be able to speak from first-hand knowledge of all the candidate's qualifications. A Rhodes Scholar may seek to undertake advanced courses at Oxford, or undergraduate courses (with senior status) in a field other than that previously studied. Entry to courses is becoming increasingly difficult. If you are primarily acquainted with the candidate through a teacher/student relationship, you are requested to concentrate particularly on academic quality and potential (bearing in mind that your reference will be used for admission procedures at Oxford University) although your assessment of other qualities will be welcomed by the Committee. If on the other hand, you are better acquainted with the candidate through non-academic interests, you are requested to concentrate on assessment of character in the knowledge that the Committee is looking for scholars who show promise of outstanding achievement in later life.

Please do not hesitate to speak of the candidate's limitations as well as strong points. Committees tend naturally to be dubious of appraisals that imply a given individual has no limitations. Your reply will, of course, be treated as strictly confidential to the Selection Committee (and to the necessary Oxford authorities in the case of the successful candidate).

The Selection Committee would prefer your letter to be on headed paper, signed, uploaded in pdf format and (for academic references) delivered from your institutional address. You will receive an auto-generated email requesting the reference, which will contain instructions for completing and submitting your reference.

*Please note that candidates are asked **not** to list personal friends, contemporaries or relatives as referees.*

References **must be received by 12 October 2016**.

For further information: <http://www.rhodesscholarshiptrust.com/rhodesscholarship/about-the-rhodes-scholarships>

\*The Rhodes Trust prefers academic references to be submitted on institutional letterhead where possible.