Rhodes Scholarship 2014-2015

Information for Referees writing in support of candidates from the classes of 2012 and 2013

Campus Submission Deadline: August 5, 2013
National Committee Deadline: October 2, 2013

Please note that you will need to submit your letter of reference twice. First, to the Brown Rhodes committee by August 5, 2013 and then to the national committee in early October.

Submitting your letter to the Brown Rhodes Committee – August 5, 2013
Because UFunds, Brown’s online application system does not accommodate candidates who have graduated, you must submit your letter electronically to Linda_Sutherland@brown.edu by the campus deadline. Please have the subject line read: Rhodes letter for [Student Name].

Submitting your letter to the Rhodes Scholarship National Committee – October 2, 2013
After Brown’s campus review, if your student is endorsed for candidacy, he or she will register you as a recommender in the Rhodes online application system then you will receive an email from the Rhodes scholarship online application system with login information for submitting your letter for the National Deadline of October 2, 2103. Note that the Rhodes online system will not accept letters of recommendation that exceed 1,000 words.

About the Rhodes scholarship
The Rhodes scholarship is perhaps the most competitive and prestigious international fellowship. The Rhodes Scholarship Trust brings outstanding students from many countries to the University of Oxford. The Rhodes scholarship is intended to foster good relations between the U.S. and the U.K. is awarded to people who are likely to become leaders in their chosen fields of work and study.

Cecil Rhodes specified in his will the four standards by which applicants should be judged:
1. Literary and scholastic ability and attainments;
2. Truthfulness, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindliness, unselfishness and fellowship;
3. Moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in, one’s fellow beings;
4. Physical vigor, energy. This used to be associated with sports, but the Rhodes Trust now has a broader interpretation of this standard.

Institutional Endorsement
The Rhodes scholarship requires institutional endorsement for all applicants. Brown’s Rhodes Nomination Committee reviews student applications and determines which applicants should be endorsed by the University.

If you have questions about or difficulties with the letter, the submission process to Brown’s committee or the Rhodes online application system, please email Linda_Sutherland@brown.edu or call 401 863-2538. She will be happy to assist you.

For letter writing guidance, please see the following tips for writing letters of recommendation for the Rhodes.
Tips for writing letters of recommendation for the Rhodes Scholarships

The Rhodes Scholarship is extremely competitive, and letters of reference play an important role in a student’s application both for the internal Brown committee and the regional and district committees. The recommender should know the candidate well, believe he or she is truly outstanding, be able to write a strong and detailed letter of recommendation, and be able to testify to one or more specific experiences of accomplishment or performance by the candidate.

Faculty who have served on past endorsement committees have found it most helpful when referees provide details or examples to support their claims. Discussing a student’s personal characteristics as well as his or her intellectual ability is also encouraged. Unless a student is first in a class, it is often not helpful to give a class ranking. However, if a student could be said to be the best, or among the best, in some particular way (the most insightful or imaginative in 15 years, for example), please do say this and follow up with a brief explanation.

If you feel that you cannot write an unequivocally supportive recommendation for a student, please decline to write a letter at all. Also, if you do not know the student well enough to write a detailed letter, or if you do not have the time to write a detailed letter, please decline. Students should have given you information about the scholarship(s) for which they are applying, as well as copies of their personal statements, proposals of study, and information about extracurricular activities. They should also have outlined, and preferably discussed with you, why they are applying for the scholarship and things they would like you to remember about them when you write your letter.

Writing for the Rhodes

*NB: The Rhodes online application system will not accept letters longer than 1000 words.*

Rhodes Scholars are expected to be good ambassadors to the UK and in turn to represent the UK well when they return to the US or Canada. The scholarship is intended for people who will be leaders in their fields and contribute to the well-being of others. It should also be clear that the applicant has the potential to perform well in his or her chosen program at Oxford, where students are unlikely to find as much support, encouragement, or on-going academic feedback as they have at Brown.

Criteria to address in your letter:

- Proven intellectual and academic achievement of the highest standard;
- Integrity of character and demonstrated interest in and respect for his or her fellow beings;
- The ability to lead and the energy to use his or her talents to the full.
- In short, “excellence in qualities of mind and in qualities of person which, in combination, offer the promise of effective service to the world in the decades ahead” (from the Rhodes Trust).

More information about the Rhodes, including profiles of current and past winners, is available at [www.rhodesscholar.org](http://www.rhodesscholar.org) (for the US Rhodes).

Letter writing assistance

Linda Dunleavy, the Associate Dean of the College for Fellowships, is happy to comment on drafts of fellowship letters; her contact information is at the end of this document. You can also find guidance about letters of recommendation on our fellowships website under “Information & Resources” at [http://www.brown.edu/college/fellowships](http://www.brown.edu/college/fellowships).
Thank you for supporting this student’s candidacy for the Rhodes Scholarship!
If we may be of any assistance, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Linda Dunleavy
Associate Dean of the College for Fellowships
Dean of the College Office
Brown University
Box 1828, UH 213
Email: Linda_Dunleavy@brown.edu

Linda Sutherland
Program Coordinator, Fellowships
Telephone: 401 863-2538
Email: Linda_Sutherland@brown.edu

United States Postal Service Address
Linda Sutherland
Brown University
Office of the Dean of the College
University Hall, Suite 213
Campus Box 1828
Providence, RI 02912

Fed Ex/UPS/DHL Deliveries
Linda Sutherland
Brown University
Office of the Dean of the College
University Hall, Suite 213
1 Prospect Street
Providence, RI 02912