THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Instructions for the USC Application Process - Fall 2015

USC Deadline for Rhodes Application: Sept. 2, 2015, 4:30 PM

The Rhodes Scholarship is for study at Oxford University in England. The scholarship period is normally for two or three years but may be held for one year only, depending upon the degree program pursued by the scholar. Each Fall, thirty-two American Rhodes Scholars are selected through one of 16 districts representing the fifty states. There is no limit to the number of candidates that USC may endorse; however, only those candidates with superb applications will be endorsed. The following steps will assist students through the application process.

PHASE ONE

☐ Research the Rhodes Scholarship via the Rhode’s Trust website and thoroughly read the Rhodes Scholarship downloadable brochures Information on Oxford and Rhodes Scholarship the Memorandum of Regulations and Frequently Asked Questions.

☐ Research graduate programs at Oxford and reach out to faculty in relevant research areas.

☐ Begin a Rhodes Scholarship application online and register Erica Lovano McCann, Director of Academic Honors and Fellowships at USC, as the Institutional Endorser. Applicants should not “submit” an online application until formal endorsement from USC has been confirmed. Endorsed candidates will have an opportunity to make revisions to their application, but this can no longer be done after the online application is submitted.

☐ Request meetings with AHF Director Erica Lovano McCann and USC Rhodes Faculty Advisor and Institutional Representative, Professor William Handley to discuss the application process.

PHASE TWO

☐ Prepare supplemental materials. Review the Rhodes Requirements for Personal Statement. Applicants must provide a 1,000 word (or less) Personal Statement, Personal Resume, and Official USC Transcript.

☐ Secure five, but not more than eight, letters of recommendation. At least four letters should be written by faculty and at least one should speak to an applicant’s character. See page 2 of this document for detailed instructions on recommendation letters.

☐ Request follow-up meetings with USC Rhodes Faculty Advisor and AHF Director to discuss progress.

☐ Deliver all materials to STU 300 by the USC Campus Deadline: 4:30pm, Wednesday, September 2, 2015. Applicants will be required to submit hard copies of the Rhodes application, recommendation letters, personal statement, resume, and official transcripts by this deadline to be considered for USC endorsement. Proof of citizenship and passport-size photographs are not required at this time.

PHASE THREE

☐ Applicants who meet the conditions of eligibility as stated in the application materials will have their materials reviewed by USC’s Campus Endorsement Committee. Superb applicants will be invited to interview with the Committee for endorsement consideration. Interviews will be held September 17-19, 2015 See page 2 of this document for more details on the endorsement process.

☐ After receiving official USC endorsement, students will be responsible for submitting a complete application to the appropriate District by the final scholarship deadline of October 1, 11:59 PM EST.

For more information, please contact:

USC Academic Honors and Fellowships
Erica Lovano McCann, Institutional Endorser
lovano@usc.edu  (213) 740-6680

USC Rhodes Faculty Advisor
Professor Bill Handley, Institutional Representative
handley@usc.edu 213-740-3733
USC Rhodes Scholarship Competition

Recommendation Letter Instructions

NOTE: Recommenders writing recommendation letters for Rhodes Scholarship applicants must submit their letters twice; once for the USC campus endorsement process and again for the online application.

- **For the campus endorsement**, applicants must request letters in sealed/signed envelopes so that they may be submitted by the applicant along with the other application materials by the campus deadline of September 2, 2015. Important: Only hard-copy letters received by the campus deadline will be reviewed by the campus endorsement committee.

- **For the online application**, applicants must register each recommender in the application system by entering their name and email address. Recommenders will then receive an email from the system with instructions for electronically submitting the letter. Applicants should notify recommenders prior to entering their information in the application form. Also, take note of any word count limits.

- Applications that are not complete with all five required recommendation letters will be at a serious disadvantage in the campus endorsement process. Late recommendation letters will not be reviewed.

USC Endorsement Process

The Rhodes Trust requires that universities endorse their applicants for the national Rhodes Scholarship competition. There is no limit to the number of candidates that USC may endorse; however applicants are strongly encouraged to prepare for their campus interview as if it were for official Scholarship consideration.

**How to Prepare:**

- Questions asked during the interview often reference application materials and asses an applicant's knowledge of field(s) of study, proposed program of study, host institution, and country. Other questions may be related to knowledge of topics outside of the application process such as national or global affairs or an applicant's non-academic interests.

- Reading American and British publications such as *The Economist or The Guardian* is an important step in the application process. Applicants can access a free copy of these publications through USC Libraries.

- Additionally, if an applicant is not comfortable in an interview setting, AHF Staff and Career Center Counselors will arrange for a mock-interview.

**USC and District Interviews:**

- After an initial faculty review, superb applicants will be invited to interview with the campus endorsement committee September 15-17, 2015. Students will be notified of the committee’s endorsement decision within one week following the interview. Endorsed applicants must register “Erica Lovano McCann, lovano@usc.edu” as the Institutional Endorser.

- Applicants apply as a representative of one of the fifty states, represented by sixteen districts. Endorsed students who receive an invitation to the district interview should contact AHF for a practice interview to prepare for the selection process. District interviews will be held on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Thanksgiving holiday.

If applicants or recommenders have questions, please contact:

Academic Honors and Fellowships
(213) 740-9116  ahfstaff@usc.edu
www.usc.edu/aif/fellowships