

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Research the opportunities for study at Oxford and read the small blue brochure which is available in my office and gives information on the Rhodes Scholarship (also available on the WWW) Decide if this is the right scholarship for you to apply for....There are people at Vassar who can help you make this decision. You may wish to discuss this with your primary academic recommenders and mentors as well as with the Dean of Studies who Chairs the Vassar Committee on Fellowships and, of course, with me.

2. Read the application carefully and discuss any part you don't understand with me. You may print the application from the WWW.Rhodesscholar.org (**new application and information should be available on the website in July.**)

3. Make sure you meet the eligibility requirements; make a filing system and get organized.

4. Contact your referees as soon as possible. When they agree to write a letter in support of your application you should offer to provide a resume and/or copy of your personal statement so that they can learn more about you. **Have them send their letters directly to the appropriate state Rhodes office and--(THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT)-- a copy to my office for your Vassar file.** You should give a stamped envelope addressed to your state Rhodes commission and large enough to hold the form and ten copies of the letter of recommendation to your referees. You should also give them an envelope addressed to: Committee on Fellowships, Box 122, Vassar College--this is for the committee copy--the originals should be mailed directly by the writer.---YOU MUST BE SURE THAT THEY MAKE THE DEADLINE-

5. Meet with faculty members, write and rewrite your personal statement. Remember that every word you write will be scrutinized by the Rhodes selection committee members. Don't write anything that you are unsure of--no grand generalities or vague statements. They want to know about you and your intellectual promise as well as your leadership, academic and community involvement.

6. Be sure to mail your completed application by the deadline stated in the information

7. Submit a copy of your application to the Office for Fellowships by the **September 14th deadline**. This will give the Committee members a week or so to read your application, make suggestions and talk with you about your application. You will still have time, then, to make last minute changes and additions.

8. In order to apply for the Rhodes, you will need an endorsement from the Vassar College Committee on Fellowships. After you submit your application you will have an interview with a member(s) of the committee --this will be important practice for a Rhodes interview, if you are invited. It will also give the committee more information and impressions to be used in our endorsement letter. I will arrange the interview schedule as soon as you I see that you are definitely submitting an application ---the earlier, the better--more time for rewrites and revisions. The Committee will prepare a letter of endorsement for all candidates from Vassar who are viable candidates and who meet the deadlines for application materials. The Committee reserves the right to withhold endorsement from any candidate if it is the consensus of the members of the committee to do this.

9. Keep copies of everything you submit and send everything by certified mail with a return receipt requested. That way you will be sure it arrived and you will have proof of receipt. You will need to send in 10 sets of the application materials including photos of yourself. Ask me about these instructions and deadlines if you have any questions. (Be certain to check on the website to see if these instructions are still current.)

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU. LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS YOU HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO APPLY. WE ARE READY TO HELP YOU THROUGH THIS PROCESS.

If you are asked to come to a state Rhodes interview, we will try to provide a mock interview panel to help you get ready for the real thing. Keep in mind that this is an extremely competitive process. Do everything well --be neat and precise as well as honest and forthright--be dazzling too!

GOOD LUCK AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MY OFFICE.

Lisa Kooperman, Director
Office for Fellowships
Box 122, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
LiKooperman@Vassar.edu
(845) 437-5263 FAX (845) 437-7887

(Do not try to FAX your application or supporting letters to the Rhodes secretaries---send originals by US mail or overnight carrier)

Important Note: The Rhodes Scholarship Trust has an impressive web site which includes the application, information about the Rhodes, information about Oxford and many helpful suggestions. Please read everything thoroughly. It is in your best interest to know as much about Oxford and the Rhodes as possible before starting your application.

The deadline for the fall 2007 competition is in early October.

Campus deadline for your personal statement and list of activities and interests is a firm September 14, 2007.