

Webinar Q&A –indicative guidance only –for any doubts or clarification, please consult the Secretariat.

### Eligibility (Age, Degree, Background)

1. Do you need to be in your final year to apply?  
**Typically, yes – applicants usually apply in their final year or after completing their degree with Honours or equivalent.**
2. Is the age requirement strict?  
**Yes – the age requirement is strict. Applicants should contact their State Secretary if unsure.**
3. Can someone with a child apply?  
**Yes – there is no barrier, provided eligibility criteria are met.**
4. Can refugees apply if they haven't completed schooling in Australia?  
**Yes – but applicants should contact the Secretariat early to discuss their circumstances.**
5. Can I apply if my degree is ungraded (e.g. Doctor of Medicine)?  
**Yes – committees can interpret grading systems, and referee comments become particularly important.**

### Academic Requirements

1. Does a Master's degree count?  
**Yes – it can strengthen your academic record and may help meet Oxford requirements.**
2. Are GPA/WAM thresholds strict?  
**They are guides rather than strict cut-offs. Strong Honours results or an upward trajectory can support eligibility.**
3. Can I apply with a WAM slightly below 80?  
**Yes – particularly if supported by strong academic performance later in the degree or relevant context.**
4. What if I have First Class Honours but a slightly lower GPA?  
**You're likely to still be eligible – the overall academic profile is considered. See responses above.**

### Courses at Oxford

1. Can I apply for a PhD (DPhil)?  
**Yes — the scholarship supports both Master's and DPhil pathways. See Conditions of Tenure document linked from Information for Candidates document**
2. Do I need to secure a supervisor before applying for a DPhil?  
**It is recommended to contact potential supervisors in advance. See Information for Candidates document.**
3. Can I list multiple courses?  
**Yes — typically up to 2–3 courses, with a brief explanation of your choices. You need to explain your first two preferences in your Academic Statement of Study.**
4. Does your undergraduate field need to match your intended study?  
**Not necessarily — but applicants must meet Oxford's entry requirements for whichever course(s) your applying for.**

### Referees

1. Who should I choose as referees?  
**A mix of academic and character referees who know you well and can provide detailed insight.**
2. What is meant by 'peer'?  
**Someone at the same level (e.g. a fellow student). Referees should generally be more senior.**
3. Does the academic referee need to be in the same field?  
**Not necessarily — but they should be able to assess your academic ability.**
4. Can a tutor who was a PhD student be a referee?  
**Yes — but it is advisable to include more senior academics as well.**

### Application Components

1. Can I apply before finishing postgraduate study?  
**Yes — provided you meet the Honours or equivalent requirement.**
2. What extracurricular activities are valued?  
**Leadership, service, initiative, and engagement beyond academic activities. See [here](#)**
3. Can advisors help review applications?  
**Yes — advisers can provide guidance and feedback within reasonable limits.**

### Interviews and Selection Process

1. Are interviews group-based?  
**No – interviews are individual (approximately 30–40 minutes).**
2. What is the selection panel composition?  
**A mix of Rhodes Scholars and non-Rhodes scholars of standing in their community; chaired by a State Governor or person of similar standing who is not a Rhodes Scholar; the committee is diverse in terms of disciplinary expertise, professional activity, and cultural and gender identity.**

### Additional Guidance

1. How many people apply each year?  
**Approximately 150–200 applicants nationally.**
2. What distinguishes a strong candidate?  
**Academic excellence combined with demonstrated leadership, service, and thoughtful engagement with broader issues; authenticity that's evident in their application.**
3. Can medical doctors practice in the UK while studying?  
**Generally, yes – subject to local accreditation requirements.**

### Contacts

For further support, applicants should contact the Rhodes Australia Secretariat  
<https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/pages/rhodes-australia-team/>