

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP : DETAILED CONDITIONS OF TENURE

Studying at Oxford is a wonderful experience! Rhodes Scholars may read for any full-time postgraduate degree at the University of Oxford, subject to the few Rhodes requirements and a couple of exceptions outlined below.

We expect Rhodes Scholars to study at Oxford for two years, this is not a one-year Scholarship. A third year of full Scholarship is available for those who choose to read for the DPhil (PhD), subject to the notes below.

See '[Choosing a course](#)' for details of the different types of courses offered by the University of Oxford. (Note: a postgraduate diploma or certificate is not deemed to be a postgraduate degree).

Two-year tenure

For those who wish to complete studies in Oxford at Master's level, or who wish to take a second undergraduate degree, there are several options:

- **A two-year MPhil or BPhil:** a two-year taught Master's course, with a substantial research element in the second year. (The 2-year Master's in Philosophy is known as a BPhil)
- **Two one-year taught Master's course** (eg MSc, MSt, BCL, MPP): two 1-year taught Master's courses in succession. Note the exceptions listed below, under 'Caveats'.
- **A two-year MSc by research:** a research degree taken over two years.
- **BA with Senior Status** (or 2nd BA): a second undergraduate degree taken over two years, rather than the normal three, see [here](#). NB there is an exceptional deadline for Rhodes Scholars applying for 2nd BA of 1st Friday of December.

Caveats/Exceptions (for two-year tenure):

- The **MFE** (Masters in Financial Economics) and the **MBA** (Master of Business Administration) are professional degrees. Scholars may read these degrees on the Scholarship, **but only in the second year** of the Scholarship
- The **MPP-MBA** or **MPP-MFE** combination is not available (that is, neither the MBA nor the MFE may be pursued in the second year for those who take the MPP (Master of Public Policy) in their first year.

Three-year tenure

*For those who intend to pursue the DPhil (PhD) on the Rhodes Scholarship. Please note that an Oxford DPhil will typically take 3.5 to 4 years to complete and, for those who take the Master's route to DPhil, 4-5 years. In addition to giving consideration to the significant academic project this represents, any Scholar wishing to pursue DPhil must think carefully about how they will support living expenses in the final 4th or 5th year in Oxford. Please see the detailed **Notes on Funding** overleaf.*

- **Direct entry to DPhil:** Those with a background in the sciences may apply direct from their undergraduate degree to a DPhil in the Medical, Maths, Physical or Life Sciences. For funding reasons, you are encouraged to do so (see detailed *Notes on Funding* overleaf). However, the Social Sciences & Humanities Divisions at Oxford require a Master's qualification for entry to DPhil and candidates to these divisions will need to take one of the routes below.
- **A one-year taught Master's course** (MSc, MSt, BCL): Scholars who read for a one-year taught Master's course may apply to progress to DPhil in their second year.
- **A two-year MPhil or BPhil:** Scholars taking the MPhil/BPhil (or the two-year BCL/MPhil route) may apply to progress to DPhil in their third year.
- **Four-year DPhil programmes**, eg the Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) and the Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) programmes. Scholars may pursue these programmes only if alternative funding is obtained for the final (4th) year of the programme. Interested Scholars or applicants should contact: registrar@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk before applying.
- **The four-year Accelerated Graduate-Entry course in Medicine** is not tenable on the Rhodes Scholarship
- **DClinPsych** and other courses requiring employment within the National Health Service are not tenable.

See overleaf for further notes ...

Third year of Scholarship, including detailed notes on funding :

The discretionary 3rd year of Scholarship is only available to those pursuing DPhil, as follows:

Discretionary 3rd year:

All Scholars on the DPhil*, or those hoping to progress to DPhil via a one-year or two-year Master's degree, will submit a formal application to the Academic Trustees for a third year of Scholarship in January of their first and/or second year respectively. In approving the third year of Scholarship and/or progression to the DPhil, the Academic Trustees will be looking for outstanding academic performance, combined with strong academic rationale, in the context of intended career path. They expect, in most cases, that the DPhil will be a Scholar's terminal degree. In the case of progression from a Master's course, they will also be looking for a proposed doctoral thesis which is an outgrowth of work done in the Master's course, in order to ensure timely completion. Approval of the third year is always contingent also on meeting any conditions placed on admission by your Oxford department.

** for those who entered direct to DPhil, subject to the conditions above, we would expect Trustees to approve your third year. This should not be a cause for anxiety.*

Notes on Funding (3rd year and beyond):

The DPhil typically takes 3.5 to 4 years across all Divisions for those entering direct to DPhil. Scholars who take the Master's route to DPhil should expect to spend *at least* four years in Oxford, and nearer five years for those who take the two-year Master's route to DPhil.

Fees:

The Trust will cover the University fee liability as follows:

Direct entry to DPhil: Full three years of University tuition fees;

One-year Master's route to DPhil: Full four years of University tuition fees (1+3 years);

Two-year Master's route to DPhil: At present*, full four years of University tuition fees (2+2 years)

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** *From DPhil entry October 2025, the University is raising fee liability to **five years** (ie 2+3 years) for those who take this route. The Rhodes Trustees are considering whether the Trust is able support the extended fee and further guidance will be posted in due course.*

The University levies a termly [Continuation Charge](#) once full fee liability is complete. The Trust will support up to three terms of Charge in the year immediately following expiry of fee liability, if levied.

Stipend/living expenses:

Stipend is reviewed annually and set at around the mid-point of the University's estimated range of [living costs](#).

For those taking the DPhil, whether direct entry or via a Master's route, the Trust supports stipend for three years. Any Scholar embarking on the DPhil must, therefore, consider carefully how they will support themselves in the final year or more of their DPhil. It is important to note that the funding landscape post-Covid is tough and all funding bodies, whether academic or charitable are under pressure. Any Scholar considering DPhil should, therefore, consider this requirement* very carefully.

*Alternative sources of funding might include Oxford departmental funding (occasional), grants, other external scholarship support, part-time work, junior deanships, loans or family support. The Rhodes Trust will require evidence of careful consideration.

The Rhodes Trust reserves the right to vary these conditions at any time without notice. For the latest, definitive, conditions please see <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/files/conditions-of-tenure>.