



From the Office of the American Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rhodes Scholarships to open applications to all U.S. Territories in 2016

**The Rhodes Trust, Office of American Secretary Elliot Gerson
Washington, DC**

The Rhodes Trust is pleased to announce that effective 2016, all U.S. citizens and certain legal permanent residents of the United States who attend universities within the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) will become eligible for the first time to participate in the U.S. Rhodes Scholarship competition. Previously, the United States Rhodes Scholarships were only available to students who either resided in or attended university in one of the fifty states or the District of Columbia.

Starting in 2016, all students and institutions within U.S. states and territories will be able to observe the same rules and guidelines in place for U.S. applicants. More information regarding the scholarships and the newly implemented rule change will be made available on our website at: www.rhodesscholar.org

Elliot Gerson, American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust said, "I am delighted that the Rhodes Trustees have agreed to this change in our rules of eligibility. Our former policy originated because the Last Will and Testament of Cecil J. Rhodes assigned his scholarships to the states of the United States and not to the United States as a whole."

Hila Levy, the only Puerto Rican resident to receive a Rhodes Scholarship, thanks to her attendance at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, was excited to work with the Trust for this rule change. Now back at Oxford for doctoral studies following service in the active duty Air Force, she stated, "Though I knew of the rule limitations for territory residents in applying, when I was elected in 2008, I was truly surprised and honored by the milestone I was achieving. Now, years later, I am thrilled to see a push for equal opportunity in higher education forged by the Trustees and the American Secretary."

About Rhodes Scholarships

Established in 1902, the Rhodes is the oldest and perhaps the most prestigious international graduate scholarship program in the world. A class of 89 Scholars is selected each year from 32 countries, representing men and women from diverse backgrounds who show potential to be leaders for the world's future. The Rhodes Trust provides full financial support for Rhodes Scholars to pursue a degree or degrees at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom in partnership with the Second Century Founder, John McCall MacBain and other generous benefactors. Selection committees in each Rhodes constituency are comprised of Rhodes alumni and distinguished non-Scholar members of the community. Per the Will of Cecil Rhodes, applicants will be selected based on (but not limited to) outstanding scholastic achievement, moral force of character, leadership, and commitment to service.

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