Date:

Dear Letter of Recommendation Writers:

Thank you for agreeing to provide me with a letter of recommendation. I am applying for the **Rhodes Scholarship**, a prestigious scholarship for graduate school at the **University of Oxford.** Below are details to help with the letter. Please let me know if you would like additional material. This/these scholarships require an institutional nomination so there is an internal application process at MSU. All recommendations need to be submitted to MSU’s National and International Fellowships Office (NIFS) via [nifs@msu.edu](mailto:nifs@msu.edu) . I will know if I am selected as a nominee in early September. **Please read the information below carefully.**

**Personal Information:**

* Student name:
* MSU e-mail address:
* Undergraduate major/minor:
* GPA:
* How you know me (course, research mentor etc.):
* Graduate study focus:
* Future career goal:

**Award Information:**

**About the Rhodes Scholarship:**

* Applications are evaluated for their academic excellence; energy to use your talents to the full; truth, courage, devotion to duty; and moral force of character. See link for details: [**https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/media/46372/information-for-candidates-usa.pdf**](https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/media/46372/information-for-candidates-usa.pdf)
* Students are asked to address these values in their personal statement and the recommendation should also address these:
  + “self”: Which Rhodes Scholar quality do you display most strongly, and how are different contexts and people helping you to develop the other qualities? [the student should let you know what their essay focused on]
  + “others”: What would you like to learn from and contribute to the Rhodes community in Oxford?
  + “world”: From your place in the world, how will you use your energies and talents to address humanity’s pressing challenges?
* **The recommendation needs to be tailored to the Rhodes Scholarship review criteria, this is not like a general graduate school letter. See guidance here:** [**https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/media/46372/information-for-candidates-usa.pdf**](https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/media/46372/information-for-candidates-usa.pdf)

**Proposed graduate program at University of Oxford in application:**

* 1st choice degree/program/institution for year 1:
* 1st choice degree/program/institution for year 2:
* Rhodes value(s) for the personal statement:

**Formatting:**

* Address the letter to: The Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee (DO NOT address the letter to NIFS, the Honors College, or anyone other than the text above)
* Please double check for typos
* Put letter on letterhead, 12 point font
* No more than 2 pages (2 pages is ideal, 1 page is not strong enough)
* If you refer to a top % students taught, please note that anything other than top 1% is not strong enough for these scholarships, so please leave that out
* Signature line should include: a signature, your name, title/position and email
* Deadline: August 1 (this is a hard deadline)
* Email letter to: [nifs@msu.edu](mailto:nifs@msu.edu)