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 . 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