

Scholarships for International Students – English Literature

Scholarship	Date of Application	Date of Interviews	General Comments
Fulbright Scholarship	March/April of year preceding planned study (so you apply in March 2013 for a degree starting August 2014)	May/June (Interviews are 6-8 weeks after the submission of your applications. If you are not accepted for interviews, you will receive no communication from the Fulbright organisers).	<p>For study in the United States for MA, PhD or non-degree purpose coursework relating to your PhD. Provides funding for a maximum of two years. In your application, stress the significance of your potential contributions to South Africa, and give detailed (though succinct) explanations as to why you need to study in the U.S. Some important points to note:</p> <p>1) Fulbright does not allow you to apply to universities independently after you have received the award. They apply to universities through the IIE and <i>will not necessarily apply to all of your universities of choice</i>, particularly if they are expensive. You have to provide very strong motivation if you are set on a specific university or city.</p> <p>2) In line with this, if you receive the Fulbright you will usually only discover which university you will be attending in roughly April of the year you leave.</p> <p>3) If you receive the Fulbright, revise for your GREs. You will</p>

			need to write both the standard GRE and the GRE for English Literature.
Rhodes Scholarship	July/August of year preceding planned study	September (first round) and December (second round)	For study at the University of Oxford. Either for Masters or second Undergraduate degree. Focus on extra-curricular activity and home-country benefit. Be prepared for grilling interviews from a panel of up to ten. Pay attention to detail in your motivation: questions are often derived from this. A dinner with the other applicants and members of the interview panel is held the night before and conversation contributes to the application process.
National Research Fund (NRF) Scholarship	August of year preceding planned study	None	Generally with a bias towards empirical research, and only partial funding. There are two assignments of money; the second being a dividing up of whatever money is left over after preferred choices are made. Be sure to stress home country benefit. Application is made through the University.
Commonwealth Scholarship	August/September of year preceding planned study	October-December	For study in the UK at Masters or PhD level. Core requirements are home country

			benefit, and why studying in the UK is necessary and beneficial to your field. Requires a return to your home country after study. Particularly good if you plan to study in London as extra funding is provided. 'Split-site' funding (where you are based at two universities, one of which is in the UK, and the other South Africa) is also available. Application is through the University at which you are based, though some study institutions offer 'shared' funding which is applied for through that university.
Chevening Scholarship	December of year preceding planned study	January-March	For study in the UK at Masters or PhD level (with preference for a Masters). Emphasis is on leadership potential, and impact on improving set UK Foreign Affairs Ministry objectives.
Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship	March of year of planned study	April (first round) and June (second round)	For Masters study. Emphasis is on being a 'game-changer'. This incorporates academic and leadership excellence. The second round involves interviews with a panel, but the final decision rests with Laurie Dippenaar

			himself. Emphasis is on main stream development goals. This scholarship can be extended for Doctoral study if it is awarded to a student for Masters.
Oppenheimer Memorial Trust	At any time	None	Generally not advisable to approach the OMT directly; get a Dean, Head of Department or other connection to send a letter. The OMT is more willing to give money to Humanities students than most bodies.
Skye Scholarship	January of year of study	February-March	Generally for Masters study. Emphasis is on pure academic achievement rather than leadership or community service. Look to apply at Universities (Cambridge for example) that offer shared Skye Scholarships as the Foundation looks to provide as many students as possible with funding. Also a viable 'top-up' fund if you have partial funding elsewhere. Application is through the Dean of Faculty.
Wits International Scholarship	February of year of study	None	Partial funding only. Acceptance to a University is helpful in this application, as is an emphasis on a priority of the University.

			Application is through the Scholarships office.
Flanagan Scholarship	August of the year before you wish to commence study.	Variable	Emphasis on female empowerment.

URLs

Fulbright (USA)

http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/fulbright_program.html

Rhodes (UK)

<http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/about/rhodes-countries/southern-africa-including-south-africa-botswana-lesotho-malawi-namibia-and-swaziland>

Commonwealth (UK)

<http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/>

NRF (will provide partial funding for overseas study - \$12 000 in 2012/13)

<http://www.nrf.ac.za/>

<https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za>

Wits contact – Waheeda Bala

Chevening (UK)

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/what-we-do/scholarships/chevening/>

FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Postgraduate Scholarship for International Study

http://firststrandfoundation.org.za/live/content-layout.php?Item_ID=1326&Category_ID=42

Oppenheimer Memorial Trust

You can email Clare Digby at CDigby@Omt.org.za or phone 011 551 9500

Flanagan (UK – for South African women with a 75% or higher average)

pgfinaid-admin@ru.ac.za (2012 applications closed 15 Aug)

For Cambridge Only

Gates-Cambridge

<http://www.gatescambridge.org/about/>

Mandela-Magdalene (One year taught degree at Cambridge)

<http://www.magd.cam.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate/scholarships-mandela.html>

Some advice:

Many universities have specific scholarships – eg. the Clarendon at Oxford, the Chancellor’s Scholarship at Warwick, and so on.

Most scholarships require certified or original copies of academic transcripts. Be sure to order these at least two weeks before the application is due. When you collect your transcripts, ensure that *all* of the correct information is there. Pay particular attention to awards and scholarships, which are often left off transcripts due to glitches in the system.

All scholarships will require references. Be sure to give ample warning to your referees, and where possible have the reference styled to the scholarship you are applying to. Remember that where references are submitted online, your referees must submit their write-ups before the deadline: that you have submitted your reference and given their name is generally not enough.

Take careful note of the terms of your scholarships. Most scholarships require the student to return to South Africa for a period of time after the completion of their degree (usually this is for no less than a year, sometimes it’s for a period equal to that for which you were funded). In most cases, this return can be delayed if you convert your MA to a PhD. Sometimes it can also be delayed if you take up a Post-Doctoral position. However, you will still have to return to South Africa before you take up a paying position in the country in which you have studied. Some organizations are far stricter about this than others.

If you receive extra funding – for example, if the university that you will be attending gives you a fees waiver – your scholarship pay-out will usually be reduced accordingly. For instance, if you receive a scholarship for up to R200 000, but Yale or Oxford agrees to give you a fees waiver to the value of R90 000, you will usually only receive R110 000 from your scholarship. Adjust your calculations for living expensed accordingly.

Many students make it overseas with a combination of scholarships. While you can’t hold the ‘big’ scholarships such as Skye, Flanagan and Commonwealth simultaneously, you can often receive funding from, for example, the Wits Local Scholarship, Oppenheimer Memorial Trust and NRF simultaneously, so long as each body is cognisant of this fact.

If you have to write a test for an overseas scholarship of university – the US GRE, for example – ensure that you revise so you’re not caught out.

Apply for everything, and give yourself sufficient time to write the personal motivations; they always take longer than you think.