



**THE MANDELA RHODES
FOUNDATION**

HANDBOOK

BUILDING EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA





THE MANDELA RHODES
FOUNDATION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDING PATRON

“I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of you around the world who are assisting in the great project of building The Mandela Rhodes Foundation.

The central purpose of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation is to *build exceptional leadership capacity in Africa.*

The bringing together of these two names represents a symbolic moment in the closing of the historic circle; drawing together the legacies of reconciliation and leadership and those of entrepreneurship and education.

Already the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships are changing the lives of young Africans, who will play vital roles in the future of the continent.

The achievements of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation so far have been remarkable, but it is its future potential that is most exciting.

I urge you to help in every way you can, knowing that you have my personal appreciation.”

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Johannesburg, 2007

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WHO WE ARE

THE MANDELA RHODES FOUNDATION

ORIGINS AND FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

The intention to establish The Mandela Rhodes Foundation (MRF) was announced in February 2002 when The Rhodes Trust, as part of its centenary celebrations, entered into a partnership with Mr Mandela and pledged a founding benefaction.

The MRF is a unique partnership seeking to close a circle of history for the benefit of current and future generations of Africans.

The MRF is guided by the Founding Principles which blend together the 20th century legacy of **leadership** and **reconciliation** embodied by Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, and Cecil John Rhodes' 19th century legacy as it related specifically to **education** and **entrepreneurship**.

VISION AND PURPOSE

The central purpose of the MRF is to **build exceptional leadership capacity in Africa** (whilst also seeking to foster better reconciliation and entrepreneurship) through its various programmes and, to this end, the MRF aims to be the leading protagonist in Africa for such endeavours.

The Mandela Rhodes programmes will develop leadership and vocational capacity across African society, to help the continent achieve success and prosperity and fuller proportional participation on the global stage. They will constitute 'History At Work', extracting from past legacies to help Africa succeed in the 21st century.

MISSION

Whilst in pursuit of this vision, we recognise that we have a variety of stakeholders with different needs and expectations. The MRF's mission for each of these stakeholders is as follows:

For the donors who empower and endow us

We endeavour to provide an efficient and professionally managed and governed enterprise which serves as the vehicle and conduit to deliver the jointly-desired social impact indicated by our vision and purpose.

For the Scholars

We strive to support and build the leadership and intellectual capacity that is needed in order for the MRF to have the kind of social impact that we seek to attain in our vision.

For the communities

From whom we source our Scholars and for whom we ultimately seek to deliver economic and social benefit; we undertake never to forget our purpose and, in so doing, we pledge to work tirelessly and with accountability to maximise the impact that we seek to enable through those whom our programmes empower.

For our related charities and foundations

(Namely The Rhodes Trust, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Nelson Mandela's Childrens Fund) we strive to act collaboratively as needs be and in ways that mutually enhance our respective endeavours and build our collective reputation.

For the staff

Who work on delivering the outcomes of the MRF; we strive to offer an inspiring and rewarding opportunity for them to

be key players in the delivery of that enabling work that is needed to bring the lofty objectives of our vision into being.

STRATEGY

The MRF's strategy to achieve its mission is principally driven through the MRF Scholarships Programme.

This Programme provides excellent educational and leadership development opportunities to aspirant citizens of Africa who exhibit leadership potential; as well as by creating, over time, a network of well-rounded leaders of talent, effectiveness and integrity across African society.

SHAUN JOHNSON, *MRF Founding Executive Director and 1982 Rhodes Scholar*



“It has been the greatest privilege of my working life to be given the task of building this Foundation, in the name of Nelson Mandela, and in partnership with the famous Rhodes Scholarships, to seek out and nurture the next generations of excellent, ethical African leaders.”

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WHAT WE DO

THE MANDELA RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

The Mandela Rhodes Scholarships Programme is the Foundation's primary strategy for 'building exceptional leadership in Africa'.

A Mandela Rhodes Scholarship is more than a bursary, though the costs of Scholars are generously covered during their period of study. The Mandela Rhodes Scholarships Programme offers young citizens of Africa who exhibit academic prowess as well as broader leadership potential an educational opportunity unique on the continent.

Applicants need to have already completed (or, in their year of application, be about to complete) an undergraduate degree.

While pursuing their chosen postgraduate degree, each Scholar benefits from their participation in the Leadership Development Programme (LDP) – which is rooted in the four principles underpinning the Foundation.

In addition to the opportunity to interact with a diverse group of fellow Scholars that spans the continent and academic disciplines, Scholars become part of a wide-ranging network of young Africans of excellence who are expected to play leadership roles in their fields and societies in the years following their time in residence.

Indeed, Mandela Rhodes Scholars do not cease to be a Mandela Rhodes Scholar when they complete their studies. They remain Mandela Rhodes Scholars for life as engaged Alumni.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Scholarships Programme will seek candidates who identify with the values espoused by the Patron, Mr Mandela, and in the Will of Mr Rhodes; as well as demonstrate the characteristics set out separately in the next section: Characteristics Sought in a Mandela Rhodes Scholar.

The section below expands on each of the four 'legacy categories' to which the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships Programme is intended to give practical expression.

Leadership

By Leadership we mean the will and capacity to use one's own personality and abilities to guide, inspire, and develop fellow human beings to achieve excellence in any area of endeavour.

This leadership should be principled, strategic, and effective; it should carry moral authority and be visionary in pursuit of the advancement of individual and social fulfilment, human rights, human dignity, the achievement of equality and other fundamental freedoms. Personal success by a Scholar which does not translate into wider benefits for society does not in itself meet the goal of the Scholarship programme. Leadership could include, but does not necessarily presuppose, a career in the public sector.

Reconciliation

By Reconciliation we mean an embracing of human diversity, and a belief in a world in which all individuals and cultures enjoy equal rights and respect.

This commitment to human reconciliation means seeking to make a contribution to freedom, peace and prosperity for all human beings, never to the exclusion of any category of humanity. It implies a generosity of spirit, and a willingness to harness an imperfect past to help develop a more just world.

Education

By Education we mean the pursuit of a high minimum standard of scholastic attainment, certainly sufficient to meet the requirements of the course envisaged by the Scholar.

In tandem with this we seek understanding that academic achievement on its own is not sufficient to justify selection – this is what is meant by a blend of character and intellect. Further, we seek a thoughtful understanding of how education writ large – not just the education of the individual Scholar – can be a tool for the advancement of human development.

Entrepreneurship

By Entrepreneurship we mean a belief in the critical role played by individual human effort, hard work, innovation and creativity in leading to the betterment of society and Africa’s place in the world.

Scholars are expected to exhibit vigour and integrity, and the energy to use their talents to the full, in pursuit of their own career and beyond its confines. Entrepreneurship in this conception could include, but does not necessarily presuppose, a career in the private sector.

JUDY SIKUZA, MRF Deputy Executive Director, and 2007 Mandela Rhodes Scholar



“The MRF creates an opportunity for a new calibre of African leaders to emerge, whose efforts will over time undoubtedly usher the continent into its rightful place as an equal citizen of the world. It is a privilege to be part of curating the requisite space of learning, growth and connection for these inspiring human beings.”

CHARACTERISTICS SOUGHT IN A MANDELA RHODES SCHOLAR

Young African,

Aspire to be a Mandela Rhodes Scholar if you dream of being a leader; a leader in whose blend of character and intellect Africa will take pride.

Aspire to this if you believe you have within you the moral force of character and instinct to lead; and understand that leadership is more than personal ambition, it is also service, requiring the will and capacity to inspire and develop fellow human beings to their own excellence;

Aspire to this if you believe that the advancement of individual and social fulfilment, human rights, dignity, the achievement of fundamental freedoms, is among the highest of callings;

Aspire to this if you believe that hard work is essential, and you esteem the performance of public duties to be among the noblest of aims.

Aspire to be a Mandela Rhodes Scholar if you understand education to be both a gift and a tool for the advancement of human development, to the benefit of all.

Aspire to this if you value and pursue scholastic attainment, but understand that intellectual excellence is not to be seen in isolation from other qualities of character; that leaders require a roundedness of personality;

Aspire to this if you believe that in receiving an exceptional education, an individual embraces a responsibility to foster such opportunities for others;

Aspire to this if you believe that your own success might also make a difference to others.

Aspire to be a Mandela Rhodes Scholar if you believe in an entrepreneurial spirit to allow Africa to take with dignity its rightful place as an equal and competitive presence in the global world.

Aspire to this if you have the vigour to pursue this aim with integrity; and the energy to use your talents to the full, as exemplified by a fondness for and success in team pursuits beyond the confines of your professional career;

Aspire to this if you believe that individual human effort, innovation and creativity will lead to the betterment of society and an effective contribution to the world;

Aspire to this if you love Africa and all of its peoples.

Aspire to be a Mandela Rhodes Scholar if you believe in reconciliation, freedom, peace and prosperity among all human beings, who should share equal citizenship and opportunities in this world.

Aspire to this if you believe in being part of creating a humane world in which all individuals and cultures enjoy equal respect; a world whose emergence will say a new order is born in which we are all each other's keepers;

Aspire to this if you value truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship;

Aspire to be a Mandela Rhodes Scholar if you believe that the past, in all its imperfection, should be harnessed to benefit the present and the future.

A NOTE FROM THE PROGRAMMES TEAM

CORALIE VALENTYN, *MRF Programme Manager, and 2014 Mandela Rhodes Scholar*



“The MRF, through its commitment to education and leadership development, seeks to unlock the potential in each of its Scholars by believing in their ability to lead with integrity and purpose, in turn, transforming the spaces they are in. The vision is thus to capacitate wholehearted leaders in Africa, positioning the continent at the forefront of ethical and responsive leadership.”

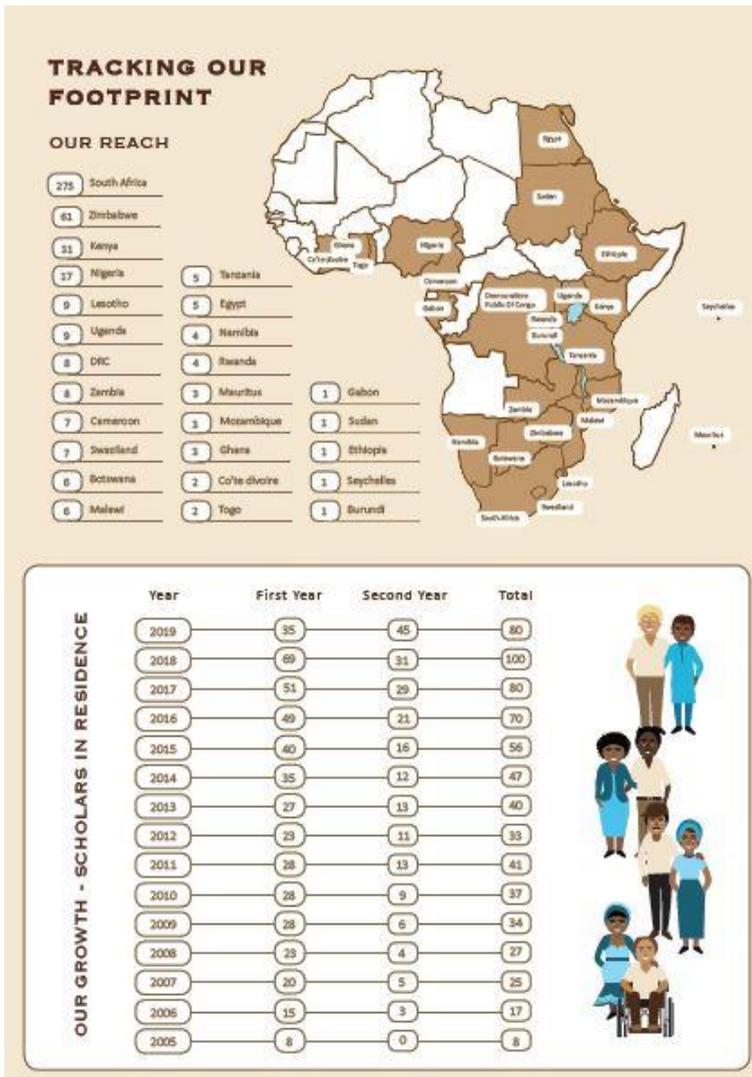
ABIGAIL MCDUGALL, *Communications and Alumni Relations Manager, and 2013 Mandela Rhodes Scholar*



“Through its unique Leadership Development Programme, the MRF invites Scholars to undergo a deep personal leadership journey that extends far beyond their time in residence with us. The impact of the Foundation lies in the transformative leadership that our Scholars will deliver throughout their lives.”

OUR IMPACT

Since the first Cohort of Mandela Rhodes Scholars in 2005, the MRF has grown its impact. Today we have nearly 500 Scholars from 26 African countries, and in 2018 we achieved the milestone of having 100 Scholars in residence in the year of the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth.



SCHOLAR TESTIMONIALS

JOEL OBE

DRC & Tshwane University of Technology, 2015



“A year’s worth of experience for every day spent. I found a sense of belonging through spontaneous connections with total strangers, high –minded strangers, who became high-value partners. This experience filled the gap between my doubts and dreams about Africa, and gve me strength to stand up and start making that dream come true.”

VIVIAN NYAATA

Kenya & University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, 2014



“I learnt that life is all about taking initiative - opportunities are all around us, waiting to be explored. I also learnt that one can and should identify, leverage and use entrepreneurship as a catalyst for social change. Most importantly, I learnt that the genius of life is in understanding its systems and working towards solutions while keeping things simple.”

SCHOLAR TESTIMONIALS

NKAZI SOKHULU

South Africa & University of Cape Town, 2006

“From those to whom much is given, much is expected.’ I plan to remember this for the rest of my life. The Scholarship has equipped me with various skills that have contributed to moulding me into a well-rounded leader of today and tomorrow.”



SHAROUK SEBAA

Egypt & University of Cape Town, 2018

“I believe the MRF is unique in its sense of community. You are not taking a scholarship, but getting admission into the biggest family you'll ever have. Once you're accepted, you're going to be supported in every way possible. I found trouble getting admission to university for six months. I expected that the scholarship would be withdrawn. But the MRF supported me. Genuine interest and affirmation of everyone's journey is what the MRF stands for.”



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do aspirant Scholars apply?

All potential applicants to apply online via the MRF website (www.mandelarhodes.org)

What is the application deadline for each year?

The deadline for applications falls early in the year around mid-April, by which time all application documentation needs to have been received by the MRF via the online application platform.

Is there an age limit to the Scholarships?

Under current rules, a Mandela Rhodes Scholarship is open to candidates who would be under the age of 30 at the time they take up the Scholarship, if awarded.

What does the Scholarship cover?

Tuition, accommodation and meals, a book allowance and general allowance, and some travel expenses. The Scholarship also covers all expenses relating to attending components of the Leadership Development Programme.

Other than financial assistance, what else is included in the Scholarship?

- The Residential Workshops (currently there are three a year for five to six days each)
- Voluntary Mentoring Programme
- Access to regional gatherings (Group Pods) for further learning and connection between Workshops

Is it mandatory to participate in the Residential Development Workshops?

Attendance at the Residential Workshops and Regional Pods is mandatory unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed to preemptively by the Foundation. Participation in the Mentoring Programme is optional.

Which universities and what courses of study can the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship be used for?

The Mandela Rhodes Scholarship is open to postgraduate study (Honours and Masters degrees only at present) in any field, to be studied at any recognised South African institution of higher education.

I am a citizen of an African country outside of South Africa. Am I eligible for the Scholarship? And can I study in my home country?

Students who are citizens of an African country, no matter where they are currently living or studying, are eligible for the Scholarship. However, students need to be accepted into a South African institution of higher education.

How long is the tenure of the Scholarship?

The Mandela Rhodes Scholarship provides funding for the duration of your degree to a strict maximum of two years, with no exceptions allowed. Students who receive the Scholarship for their Honours degree receive one year of funding, while Masters students will receive one or two years funding.

“The work of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation will substantively contribute to a better life for the people of South Africa and further abroad on the African continent ...”

- NELSON MANDELA

Details

The Mandela Rhodes Building, 150 St George’s Mall, 8001, Cape Town
PO Box 15897, Vlaeberg, 8018, Cape Town, South Africa

Reg no: IT 5164/2003 | **NPO no:** 038-181 | **PBO no:** 930004744 | **VAT no:** 460022082

Tel +27 (21) 424 3346

Email: info@mandelarhodes.org.za

Website: www.mandelarhodes.org



THE MANDELA RHODES FOUNDATION

Founding Patron

Mr Nelson Mandela

Trustees

Prof Njabulo Ndebele (Chairman), Mr Achmat Dangor, Sir John Hood, Dr Mo Ibrahim, Mrs Janet Kabiru, Dr Elizabeth Kiss, Mr John McCall MacBain, The Hon Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Justice Yvonne Mokgoro and Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson

Founding Executive Director

Mr Shaun Johnson