



THE MANDELA RHODES  
FOUNDATION

## 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 fulfillment, 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.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE MANDELA RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **Introduction**

The Mandela Rhodes Foundation is a unique partnership seeking to close a circle of history for the benefit of current and future generations of Africans. It brings together the 20<sup>th</sup> century legacy of Leadership and Reconciliation embodied by Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, and Cecil John Rhodes's 19<sup>th</sup> century legacy as it relates specifically to Education and Entrepreneurship.

The overarching mission of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation is to build exceptional leadership capacity in Africa, by providing excellent educational and training opportunities to individual Africans with leadership potential; as well as by creating over time a network of well-rounded leaders of talent, effectiveness and integrity across African society.

The Mandela Rhodes Scholarships are intended as a vehicle for the sustainable and practical expression of the aim to provide exceptional educational opportunities, develop a network of leaders, and thereby help to build leadership capacity in Africa.

The Scholarships programme will seek candidates who identify with the values espoused in his life by the Patron, Mr Mandela, and in the Will of Mr Rhodes; as well as demonstrating the characteristics set out separately in the document: The Characteristics Sought in a Mandela Rhodes Scholar.

What follows is an expansion, intended in the first instance to provide clarity for members of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships Selection Committees, on each of the four 'legacy categories' to which the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships programme is intended to give practical expression.

## **1. 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 fulfillment, 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.

## **2. 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.

## **3. 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.

## **4. 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 required 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.

## **PURPOSE AND VISION OF THE MANDELA RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **Introduction**

As set out in the Guiding Principles of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships, we believe that in order to achieve its full potential, Africa needs a critical mass of

leaders with exceptional intellectual capacity, but also with character, integrity, and commitment.

The Mandela Rhodes Foundation bases its work on the belief that a shortage of individual human skills is a significant factor holding South Africa and Africa back from achieving the necessary levels of good governance and growth to allow the continent to take its rightful place in the globalised world. Through its signature programme, the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships, it seeks to address this need.

### **The Purpose**

The goal of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships programme is to offer educational opportunities to young Africans with scholastic, intellectual and leadership potential to study at suitable tertiary institutions and to create a network of principled future leaders, with the capacity and will to advance themselves and their countries. The Scholarships aim to give expression to the legacy of academic excellence, leadership, education, reconciliation and entrepreneurship.

### **The Vision**

It is the vision of The Mandela Rhodes Scholarships Programme to bring into being a considerable network of leaders, with different educational expertise but similar leadership capacity, who support and inspire each other and who are distinguished by their ability to:

- Facilitate individual and social development,
- Promote peace and reconciliation,
- Pursue fundamental human freedoms, and
- Promote prosperity, honour and respect for the continent and its people.

### **The Strategy**

To achieve this vision The Mandela Rhodes Scholarships programme offers full Scholarships to selected Scholars, who will be registered at suitable tertiary institutions in Africa. The Scholarships will be combined with a development programme run during selected university holidays. The strategy of the Scholarships programme entails the following:

- A written set of Principles, Characteristics and outcomes for a Mandela Rhodes Scholar, which reflect the Mandela Rhodes legacy.
- Recruitment and selection systems which are transparent, ethical, efficient and effective.
- Induction and orientation systems, which inform Scholars about the principles and other requirements of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships.
- Short leadership-related programmes in tandem with study programmes to be run during University holidays over the period of study.
- Mentoring, coaching and support systems which foster accountability from Scholars, institutions involved, and the Mandela Rhodes Foundation

Scholarships programme. This system will be consistent with the principles underlying the programme.

- Co-ordinated communication channels between and among Scholars, institutions involved and the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships programme.
- Criteria which ensure that a Scholar's chosen institution offers accredited programmes.
- Formative and summative evaluation initiatives to ensure alignment of all systems with the programme's goals and philosophy.

**The Trustees of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation**

Cape Town, South Africa, 2005.