Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Eligibility for the Rhodes Scholarship as a Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States

1. What document should an applicant present to demonstrate status as a lawful permanent resident of the United States?

The applicant should submit the applicant’s current and unexpired Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card, also known as a “green card,” with an initial date of lawful permanent residence (indicated by the notation “Resident Since:____) no later than five years previous to the application deadline. In 2014, the application deadline is October 1, 2014 and so the initial date of lawful permanent residence on the Permanent Resident Card must be a date on or before October 1, 2009.

The applicant should submit a legible copy of the Permanent Resident Card with the application, and, if invited to interview, should bring the original Permanent Resident Card to the interview.

2. Can the applicant submit a conditional Form 551, Permanent Resident Card, with a two-year expiration date, to establish eligibility for the Scholarship as a United States permanent resident?

No. Individuals having conditional permanent resident status are only permitted to reside in the United States for a two-year period. Individuals with a Form I-551 subject to conditions on status and having a two-year expiration date will not have resided in the United States as lawful permanent residents for five years or more.

3. What evidence should the applicant present if the applicant’s Permanent Resident Card has been lost, stolen, destroyed, or mutilated, or if the applicant’s non-conditional Permanent Resident Card has expired or is about to expire, or the applicant’s name or biographical information has changed and does not match the information on the Permanent Resident Card?

The applicant should submit a complete copy of the Form I-90 submitted by the applicant to replace or renew the Permanent Resident card, with all supporting documents submitted. The applicant should also submit a copy of the Permanent Resident Card (even if expired) if the applicant has one, and also a copy of the receipt notice confirming receipt of the Form I-90. The Form I-90 must indicate that the applicant was granted permanent resident status on a date that is no later than the date that is five years previous to the application deadline.

4. How does an applicant demonstrate that the applicant has maintained lawful permanent resident status continuously for the entirety of the five-year period prior to and including the application deadline?

The applicant must submit a current and unexpired Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card, or a Form I-90, as noted in the responses to Q1 and Q2 above.

In addition, the applicant must sign a declaration in the Application stating that the applicant has maintained and expects to maintain lawful permanent resident status continuously for the entirety of the five-year period prior to and including the application deadline. The focus of the declaration is on the applicant’s legal status as a United States lawful permanent resident as determined by United States government authorities.

If the applicant is involved in a United States naturalization process and expects to become a United States citizen prior to the application deadline, this may be noted in the Application.

The Rhodes Trust reserves the right to review the circumstances concerning the applicant’s legal status as a lawful permanent resident, and may determine in its sole discretion whether the applicant is eligible for the Scholarship as a lawful permanent resident of the United States.

5. If an applicant or institutional representative has a question about eligibility as a lawful permanent resident of the United States, who should be contacted?

Inquiries should be referred to the office of the American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust. Decisions of the American Secretary on any matters relating to eligibility based upon lawful permanent resident status, including sufficiency of documentation, are final.