

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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Latest Rhodes Scholar all-round high achiever

Tasmania's newest Rhodes Scholar is Russian-born 20-year-old Alexander Shabala, one of the youngest ever recipients of the distinguished Scholarship.

Alexander was chosen above seven other applicants to receive the Scholarship.

Alexander holds a Bachelor of Science from UTAS, during which he achieved consistently excellent academic results. He will graduate with First Class Honours this December.

Born in the former Soviet Union, Alexander came to Australia in 1995 after his father was offered an academic position at UTAS.

Alexander plans to use his Rhodes Scholarship to the famed Oxford University in the UK to undertake a PhD in Applied Mathematics.

Alexander has been on the Dean's Roll of Excellence for three years and won a Tasmanian Honours Scholarship for 2008.

In 2007 he was awarded the Australian Institute of Physics Prize for greatest proficiency in final year undergraduate Physics and was also the recipient of the Tasmanian Scholarship in Physician Sciences.

As well as his academic pursuits, Alexander is a keen rugby and cricket player and a talented musician.

He is also involved in organising fundraising activities for his sports clubs and coaches junior cricket.

The Rhodes Scholarships were created under the will of Cecil John Rhodes in 1902. Rhodes scholars are chosen not only for academic excellence but also for sporting prowess, community involvement and strength of character.

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