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Johor scholar wins prestigious Rhodes Scholarship (New Straits Times – 17 December 2024)



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KUALA LUMPUR: Yayasan Khazanah has announced Hoh Jia Da from Johor Baru as the recipient of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship for Malaysia.

Hoh, a graduate of Kolej Yayasan Saad and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) with a degree in Software Engineering, will join a distinguished cohort of global Rhodes Scholars in October 2025 to pursue postgraduate studies at the University of Oxford.

He will undertake a Master of Science in Advanced Computer Science and a Master of Business Administration.

In a statement, Hoh shared his aspiration to explore the intersection of technology, policy, and social impact while forging connections with like-minded individuals committed to addressing global challenges at Oxford.

"I believe emerging technologies, when guided by empathy and innovation, hold immense potential to uplift underserved communities and transform lives.

"Through this journey, I aim to contribute meaningfully to Malaysia's digital transformation and inspire others to pursue their aspirations and make a difference," he said.

Hoh secured the Rhodes Scholarship, established in 1903, following a highly competitive selection process in Malaysia, which included two rounds of evaluation and a final interview with an international panel.

Meanwhile, the national secretary for Malaysia, Rhodes Trust, Tan Sri Shahril Ridza Ridzuan praised Hoh for embodying the values of the Rhodes Foundation with his resilience, innovative thinking, and commitment to societal progress.

"Hoh has the potential to become a catalyst for positive change, addressing critical challenges both in Malaysia and globally. We look forward to the impact he will make at Oxford and in the years to come," he said.

Yayasan Hasanah chief programme officer Intan Zalila Mohd Yusof said Hoh's selection reflected his unwavering commitment to using technology for society's improvement.

"The Rhodes Scholarship is awarded to young leaders with outstanding intellect, character, and a passion for tackling global challenges. We are proud to support Hoh on his transformative journey and are confident he will emerge as a value-driven leader, contributing meaningfully to Malaysia's development and inspiring others along the way," she said.