

# Churchill Scholarship Guide

Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad

Center for Student Services, RM. 319

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Churchill Scholarship <https://www.churchillscholarship.org/>

## Timeline & Eligibility

- **Applications for 2025–26 scholarships** are open now; the **nomination deadline** is **Monday, November 3, 2025** by 5:00 pm Eastern Time.
- **Eligibility requirements:**
  - U.S. citizen (native-born or naturalized).
  - Enrolled as a senior at a *Participating Institution* or graduated within the last 12 months.
  - Must hold a bachelor's degree by the time the scholarship begins.
  - Up to **two applicants** may be nominated

## Getting Started—Step-by-Step

- 1. Confirm your eligibility**
  - a. U.S. citizenship, senior or recent graduate (last 12 months), bachelor's degree pending or completed by the scholarship start.
- 2. Engage your institution**
  - a. Contact your campus scholarship or fellowship office to verify if your school participates and learn internal deadlines.
- 3. Choose your field of study**
  - a. Churchill funds one-year MPhil or MAST programs in STEM fields at **Churchill College, University of Cambridge**.
  - b. Eligible programs include scientific research MPhils and MAST courses such as Part III in Mathematics. MAST applicants may not need supervisor contact; MPhil applicants must secure prior correspondence with a Cambridge supervisor. [churchillscholarship.org](https://www.churchillscholarship.org)
- 4. Prepare your application materials**
  - a. Required components:
    - i. 1-page "Proposed Program of Study"
    - ii. 2-page "Academic & Research History"
    - iii. Four academic reference letters (including at least one external if applicable)
    - iv. Official transcripts and, if applicable, Cambridge supervisor correspondence.
- 5. Apply via online portal**
  - a. The portal opens around May. After drafting, you'll submit for institutional endorsement and then finalize by **Nov 3, 2025**.
- 6. Apply to Cambridge University directly**
  - a. Submit your Cambridge admissions application, listing **Churchill College as your first choice**. The deadline aligns with Gates Cambridge applications—typically early October.

## Tips to Build a Competitive Application

- **Academic & Research Preparation**
  - Showcase excellence in STEM and major coursework. Strong lab experience or independent research (especially in math) is essential.

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- **Research Originality & Initiative**
  - Demonstrate creative, independent thinking and sustained research engagement.
- **Stand Out with “Jagged Edges”**
  - The Foundation values unusual interests or strengths beyond academics—not superficial “well-roundedness.”

## Selection Process Overview

- **Institutional nomination** → national selection by former Churchill Scholars → informal phone interviews with finalists → winners notified by **late December to early February**.

## Additional Practical Advice

- **Manage application timing carefully**
  - Cambridge’s rolling admissions mean your university endorsement must align well before the national deadline.
- **Benefits are substantial**
  - Scholarships cover tuition, airfare, visa, health surcharge, and a stipend (generally ~5% above UK Research Council rates), plus potential research grants. Total value is around \$65,000.
- **Seek early feedback**
  - Work closely with your campus adviser; refine materials and prepare for potential phone interviews.

## Summary Checklist

- Confirm eligibility (U.S. citizen, senior/graduate status, degree timeline)
- Confirm campus participation and internal deadlines
- Select a Cambridge STEM program and assess supervisor reach-out requirement
- Draft all written materials: study proposal, academic history, transcripts
- Secure four strong recommendations
- Submit both Cambridge admissions and Churchill application portals on time
- Prepare for potential finalist interview
- Stay responsive through late December for award decision