

Marshall Scholarship Guide

Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad
Center for Student Services, RM. 319
FASAOoffice@caltech.edu

Marshall Scholarship <https://www.marshallscholarship.org/>

Timeline & Eligibility

- Applications for the **2026** Marshall Scholarship **open in June 2025**.
- The national application **deadline is Tuesday, September 16, 2025, by 5:00 PM** (your institution's local time).
- **Institutional endorsement forms** must be **submitted by Thursday, September 18, 2025, by 5:00 PM**.
- **Eligibility requirements:**
 - Must be a U.S. citizen at the time of application.
 - Hold a bachelor's degree from a U.S. institution by September 2026.
 - Have graduated after April 2023.
 - Maintain a minimum unrounded undergraduate GPA of 3.7.
 - May not have studied for or currently hold a British degree.
 - No age restriction.

Getting Started—Step-by-Step

1. **Confirm your eligibility**
 - a. U.S. citizen with a qualifying undergraduate degree and GPA
 - b. Graduated after April 2023; no prior UK degrees
2. **Determine your application route**
 - a. Apply through your U.S. university if currently enrolled or recently graduated
 - b. Work with your institution for endorsement; required for submission
3. **Select your award type**
 - a. Two-Year Award: Funds two full years of graduate study in the UK
 - b. One-Year Award: For one-year UK programs (available only at certain consulates)
4. **Choose your program and university**
 - a. Use the Marshall site and UK university resources to identify programs
 - b. You may apply to any UK institution; regional diversity is encouraged
5. **Prepare application materials**
 - a. Personal statement
 - b. Academic program proposal
 - c. Leadership essay
 - d. Ambassadorial potential essay
 - e. Four recommendation letters
 - f. Official transcripts

Tips to Build a Competitive Application

Essays & Purpose

- Articulate a coherent academic plan with strong rationale for studying in the UK
- Show how your proposed course aligns with your goals and UK offerings

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- Explain how you'll contribute as a cultural ambassador and how you'll use this experience long-term

Qualifications & Academic Preparation

- Demonstrate academic excellence and a clear record of achievement
- Select programs that match your background and career goals
- Support your case with strong, relevant recommendations

Leadership and Impact

- Provide concrete examples of your leadership potential: mobilizing others, setting initiatives, sustained commitment
- Show how you will represent the U.S. and build bridges between the UK and U.S.
- Convey maturity, motivation, and clarity of purpose

Seek Feedback at Multiple Levels

- Work closely with your campus fellowship or scholarship office to draft and revise materials
- Conduct mock interviews if invited for a regional interview
- Seek feedback from mentors, faculty, and past scholars

Selection Process Overview

- Applications are submitted to one of eight regional panels based on your institution or residence
- Committees assess candidates equally on:
 - Academic merit
 - Leadership potential
 - Ambassadorial potential
- Finalists are interviewed in November 2025 (in person or virtually)
- Successful candidates must accept within 5 business days of offer

Additional Practical Advice from Candidates

- **Research your UK program choices thoroughly**—program fit and logic are critical
- Marshall prioritizes regional distribution, so **consider less traditional UK universities or cities**
- **Begin early**—especially securing recommenders and institutional endorsement
- **Marshall essays are substantial**—allocate time to craft compelling narratives

Summary Checklist

- Confirm eligibility and GPA requirements
- Obtain institutional endorsement
- Select award type and eligible UK programs

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- Build a coherent academic and leadership profile
- Draft and revise four required essays
- Secure four strong, relevant recommendations
- Submit transcripts and complete online portal
- Prepare for possible interview by late fall