

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. Students must **submit all materials to the FASA Office by the campus deadline on Sunday October 19, 2025**. Caltech can nominate two students to the national committee.

- **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.

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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.
- **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