

# Churchill Scholarship

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# Introduction

**The Churchill Scholarship was established to advance science and technology by strengthening the US–UK partnership, contributing to future global prosperity and security.**

- Focus on advancing science, technology, prosperity, and security
- Emphasizes future global impact through STEM research

## **Degree Structure:**

**Scholars pursue either an MPhil (research-focused) or MAST (advanced mathematics coursework with optional research).**

- MPhil (research-based, thesis + oral exam)
- MAST (course-based math program, optional research essay)

**Cambridge's academic structure is highly independent, with limited faculty contact and an expectation of self-directed learning.**

# OVERVIEW

Established at Sir Winston Churchill's request in 1963 as part of the founding of Churchill College, Cambridge. The scholarship fulfills Churchill's vision of deepening the US-UK scientific partnership to advance science and technology on both sides of the Atlantic.

**Awards per year ~18 (16 STEM, 2 policy)**

**Participating US institutions 134**

**Eligible Programs 56**

**Study period 1 year**

*The Churchill Scholarship is a fully funded award for one year of independent graduate research at the University of Cambridge, open exclusively to US citizens in STEM fields.*

# AI-use Policy

“Since 2025, our Selection Committee has noticed a worrying trend of applicants including flowery platitudes that are mostly bereft of meaning and using language we had never previously seen. While we do not have a formal policy against the use of AI and do not screen for it, we can tell you that when you use AI to help in your written work (at least as the technology currently exists), it weakens your application.

All of our applicants are “deeply committed” to their field of study, all of them take “rigorous courses” that “enhance their skillsets.” All of them have “ambitious goals.” What makes for a strong application is what you can tell us about yourself that makes you special. AI cannot help you with that, because it does not know you as well as you do. On the contrary, AI will feed you these trendy buzz words and adjective-filled phrases that make you sound like everybody else.”

**read more  
in the FAQ  
section:  
[here](#)**

# Funding

## Funding covers...

### CORE COMPONENTS

- Full University of Cambridge tuition/course fees
- Stipend set above UK Research Council standard — Return economy airfare to the UK
- Visa fees and Immigration Health Surcharge
- Eligible for a \$4,000 special research grant

### PROGRAM EXTRAS

- Science communication workshop
- Science policy seminar
- Guided visit to Chartwell (Churchill's country home)
- Visit to the Churchill War Rooms, London

The Churchill covers all primary costs of one year of master's-level research at Cambridge, plus unique professional development opportunities.

# Eligibility

Kanders Churchill  
Scholarship (science  
policy track):  
available to  
candidates from any  
US college or  
university with a  
STEM background  
pursuing the  
Cambridge Master's  
in Public Policy – no  
time limit since  
graduation.

**Eligibility**  
**[Check here.](#)**

- US citizens only
- Must be enrolled at or have graduated within the past 12 months
- Must hold a bachelor's degree upon taking up the scholarship
- STEM fields only
- No minimum GPA stated
- Requires institutional nomination (nominate up to 2 applicants)

# Application Information

## **Important to note:**

For most programs (MPhil), applicants must demonstrate confirmed correspondence with a potential supervisor as part of the application.

Applicants to the MPhil, in all cases, are required to show correspondence with a supervisor or course director to ensure that the placement is appropriate.

Applicants to the MAST are not required to contact a potential supervisor make sure that the degree program is a good fit.

**Math applicants also have the option to find a research group for an MPhil in mathematics, in which case correspondence with a supervisor is necessary.**

## **Churchill philosophy.**

Selects based on academic and research excellence—not leadership. Invests in scientists to maximize long-term impact. Supports development through science communication and policy exposure.

# Application Process

1. Select a course
2. Fill out the online application
3. Request four academic letters of recommendation
4. Apply to the University of Cambridge
5. Complete the application

Visit the Churchill Scholarship Apply page for more details:

<https://www.churchillscholarship.org/the-scholarship#apply>

# Application Components

A complete application requires the following specific components:

## 1. Essays & Written Materials

- Proposed Program of Study (1 page): Outlines your chosen Cambridge master's degree (MPhil or MAST). It details what you wish to investigate, your accomplishments, and why the specific lab at Churchill College is a fit for your research goals.
- Academic & Research History (2 pages): Details your previous research, lab experience, employment, and publications/presentations.

## 2. General Information

- Biographical Information & Career Plans: Future career goals (up to 200 words).
- Activities & Distinctions: Information on scholarships, prizes, and non-academic interests.

For detailed guidelines, deadlines, & portal access, visit the scholarship page:

<https://www.gatescambridge.org/apply/how-to-apply/>

# Application Components

## 3. Supporting Documents

- Transcripts: Official transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended.
- Four Letters of Recommendation: Must be from individuals directly familiar with your academic or STEM research work. At least one letter must be external to your home institution if you have done outside research.
- Supervisor Correspondence: If you are applying for an MPhil, you must include prior correspondence with a potential Cambridge lab supervisor showing that the placement is appropriate.

## 4. University of Cambridge Application

- College Choice: You must apply directly to the University of Cambridge, designating Churchill College as your absolute first choice.

## 5. Campus Endorsement

- Before applying to the Churchill Foundation, you must go through your university's internal review process to receive institutional nomination. Deadlines vary depending on your institution, but campus deadlines usually fall in the early fall.

# Selection Criteria

## Three core criteria:

- **Outstanding academic achievement.** Strong record in STEM courses, especially in the major; no minimum GPA but competition is high
- **Proven talent in research.** Extensive lab experience, internships, or independent work showing originality and creativity
- **Outstanding personal qualities.** The Churchill does not seek "well-rounded" applicants; instead it looks for candidates with what they call "jagged edges" — deep commitment to a few areas, intellectual independence, and passion for research.

*Consider how your application reflects these (including letters of recommendation).*

# Application Timelines

**May 2026**

Online application portal opens

**Oct 2026**

Cambridge application recommended by this point (rolling admissions — apply early)

**October 19, 2026**

Applicants must submit draft application material for review and endorsement consideration

**Nov 2, 2026**

institutions must submit nominations by this date

**late Dec 2026**

Applicants notified of results

**Requires  
institutional  
endorsement.**

Internal  
deadline:

**Oct 19**

# Next Steps

Churchill Scholarship  
[churchillscholarship.org](http://churchillscholarship.org)

**Contact a Cambridge supervisor early.** For MPhil applicants in all fields, you must show correspondence with a potential supervisor on your application. This takes time — start in summer.

**Choose your program carefully.** Review the list of 56 eligible programs on the Churchill website.

**Apply to Cambridge in parallel.** You must put Churchill College as your first choice on the Cambridge graduate application. Apply by the Gates Cambridge deadline window (typically second Wednesday in October).

Prepare **four letters of recommendation** from people directly familiar with your academic or research work. At least one must be external if you have done research outside your home institution.



Take this  
survey to  
give  
feedback!

# Questions?

**We're here to help you navigate the process.**

FASAOffice@caltech.edu

[fasa.caltech.edu/fellowships](https://fasa.caltech.edu/fellowships)

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