

Marshall Scholarship

Agenda

Introduction

Award Overview

Award Funding

Eligibility

Application Information

Application Components

Selection Criteria

Application Timelines

Next Steps

Questions

Introduction

This is a fully funded award that supports exceptional students in pursuing postgraduate study in the United Kingdom.

Marshall Program Objectives

- Enable outstanding young Americans to study in the UK
- Foster understanding of contemporary Britain
- Advance knowledge across disciplines
- Develop lifelong US–UK ambassadors
- Promote scholars' personal and academic fulfillment

Study Duration

- 1 or 2 years for master's study
- Up to 2 years for doctoral study (Third year extension in limited cases)
- Five flexible pathways: one or two master's degrees, a PhD, or a combination

OVERVIEW

Established by Act of Parliament in 1953, the Marshall Scholarship was created as Britain's thank-you for the Marshall Plan — the US-funded program that helped rebuild postwar Europe. Named for General George C. Marshall, it remains one of the most prestigious US-to-UK graduate scholarships in the world.

Awards per year ~40-50

Countries eligible US Citizens only

UK universities available any accredited UK university

Study Duration 1-3 years

Program ANY field of study

The Marshall Scholarship aims to develop future leaders with a lasting understanding of British society who will strengthen the enduring relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Funding

Funding covers...

CORE COMPONENTS

- Full university tuition/course fees
- Annual living allowance (covers accommodation and living expenses)
- Return economy airfare
- Visa costs
- Books and research expenses allowance

Additional funding may include thesis, research, and travel grants, and in some cases support for a dependent spouse.

The Marshall Scholarship is fully funded and covers all primary costs of graduate study at any UK university of your choice.

Eligibility

The Marshall Scholarship also has a Marshall Sherfield Fellowship for postdoctoral researchers — check the website for details.

Eligibility
[Check here.](#)

- US citizens only
- GPA of 3.7 or higher (unrounded)
- Completed first undergraduate degree from a US college or university
- Graduated after April 2023
- Must not have studied for a degree at a British university
- Requires institutional endorsement
- May only apply to one US region

Application Information

“The student completes and submits their application through the application system to the institution. The registered institutional advisor ensures that the application is true, original and in accordance with the Candidate Rules, and decides whether to endorse it.”

Candidates may apply in one region only – either that in which they have their permanent home address or ordinary place of residence/employment, or that in which they are studying. Any candidate applying in more than one region will automatically be disqualified.

Application Information

Candidates may apply for either the one-year or two-year Scholarship program, but not both. Any candidate who submits applications for both programs will be automatically disqualified. If a student accidentally selects the wrong application, they may correct it within the application system.

All candidates must complete and submit their applications no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific on September 22, 2026. Recommenders must **also** submit their letters of recommendation by this deadline. After submission, applications will be processed by the endorsing institution for final submission. No changes may be made to the application after the deadline.

To be considered for institutional endorsement, you must submit drafts of your application materials to FASA no later than **September 1, 2026**. Candidates are strongly encouraged to meet with FASA staff before September 1 to review materials, receive feedback, and allow staff the opportunity to get to know them better in support of a stronger institutional endorsement.

Application Components

1. Written Components

The online application includes five specific short essays:

- **Personal Statement: (Max 750 words)** A narrative of your academic and personal journey, highlighting intellectual distinction and character.
- **Proposed Academic Programme: (Max 500 words)** Details your reasons for your first and second-choice courses and universities in the UK, including a research outline if applicable.
- **Leadership Essay: (Max 500 words)** Demonstrates your capacity for leadership, your initiative, and your ability to deliver results.
- **Ambassadorial Potential Essay: (Max 500 words)** Explains your motivation for strengthening UK-US relations and acting as a cultural ambassador.
- **Post-Scholarship Plan: (Max 150 words)** Outlines your career goals and how you plan to contribute to society after the scholarship.

2. Supporting Documents

- **Official Transcripts:** Complete academic records from all undergraduate (and graduate, if applicable) institutions attended.
- **Resume/CV:** Details of your honors, awards, research, leadership, and extracurriculars.

Application Components

3. Recommendations & Endorsement

- **Three Letters of Recommendation:** These are highly detailed letters:
 - **Preferred Recommender:** An academic mentor who is very familiar with your primary undergraduate training.
 - **General Recommender:** A secondary academic reference who can speak to your scholarly abilities.
 - **Leadership/Ambassador Recommender:** Someone (academic or professional) who can focus on your leadership, service, and ambassadorial potential.
- **Institutional Endorsement:** You must go through your university's campus nomination process. The institution's President or Academic Dean will provide an endorsement letter that contextualizes your application.

Visit the Marshall Scholarship “Apply” site for more details.

<https://www.marshallscholarship.org/apply/>

Selection Criteria

Three equally weighted criteria:

— Academic Merit.

Exceptional academic achievement across your undergraduate career

— Leadership Potential.

Demonstrated capacity to lead and create impact in your field

— Ambassadorial Potential.

Ability to strengthen UK-US understanding and represent the breadth of American talent.

Selection committees seek candidates who will excel in each area.

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

Application Timelines

Jun-Jul 2026

Application cycle opens; institutional advisors begin working with candidates

Sept 29, 2026 @ 5pm Pacific

National application deadline — applicants & recommenders

Oct - Nov 2026

Regional interviews conducted across 8 US regional centres

Nov - Dec 2026

Tentative scholarship offers delivered to candidates shortly after regional interviews

**Requires
institutional
endorsement.**

**Internal
deadline:
Aug 14**

Next Steps

Marshall Scholarship
marshallscholarship.org

Choose your UK universities and courses carefully. You may list up to two universities and three courses. Know why each is the right fit for your goals.

Articulate your interest to others. This scholarship prioritizes service and leadership with purpose — not just achievement.

Build your recommender network early. The Marshall requires three letters of recommendation, all submitted through the application portal.

Craft your ambassadorial narrative. The Marshall explicitly selects for candidates who will strengthen UK-US relations — not just academic achievement alone.

In short: Know your "why UK" story. Be intentional about your course choices. Build faculty relationships.



Take this
survey to
give
feedback!

Questions?

We're here to help you navigate the process.

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fasa.caltech.edu/fellowships

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