Academic Honors and Fellowships

MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIPS

Instructions for the USC Application Process: Fall 2015

USC Deadline for Marshall Application: Sept. 2, 2015, 4:30 PM

The Marshall Scholarships are available for graduate study in most universities in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland). Up to forty Marshall Scholarships will be awarded for study in 2016.

Most Marshall Scholarships are awarded for two-years; however, fewer than eight one-year scholarships are available for applicants with strong justification for a shortened experience, a clear post-scholarship plan, and an explanation as to how one year in the UK would enhance these plans. There is no limit to the number of candidates that USC may endorse; however, only those candidates with superb applications will be endorsed. The following steps will assist students through the application process.

**PHASE ONE**

- Research the Marshall Scholarships via their [website](#) and thoroughly read the [Rules for Candidates](#) and [Candidate Evaluation Criteria](#).

- Research [graduate programs in the UK](#) and reach out to faculty in relevant research areas. Applicants should consider a [Marshall Partnership University](#) and note the programs the Scholarships do not fund.

- Begin a Marshall Scholarship application [online](#) and select the University of Southern California as your Institutional Endorser. The online application requires a personal statement, demonstration of leadership statement and post-tenure plan.

- Request a meeting with AHF Director [Erica Lovano McCann](mailto:lovano@usc.edu) to discuss the application process.

**PHASE TWO**

- Four letters of recommendation must be posted online by September 2, 2015. Applicants do not need to submit paper copies of the recommendation letters but they must ensure all four letters are submitted by the USC Campus Deadline. [See page 2 of this document for more details about recommendation letters.](#)

- Request a follow-up meetings with the AHF Director to discuss progress.

- Submit the Marshall Scholarship application online including letters of recommendation, and an Official USC Transcript by the USC Campus Deadline: 4:30pm, Wednesday, September 2, 2015. Applicants must meet this deadline to be considered for USC endorsement which is required for Scholarship Consideration. [See page 2 of this document for more details on the endorsement process.](#)

**PHASE THREE**

- Applicants who meet the conditions of eligibility as stated in the application materials will have their materials reviewed by USC’s Campus Endorsement Committee. Superb applicants will be invited to interview with the Committee for endorsement consideration. Interviews will be held September 17-19, 2015 [See page 2 of this document for more details on the endorsement process.](#)

- After receiving official USC endorsement, applicants will make any final revisions and submit their application online by September 28, 2015. The USC AHF Director will then upload an Endorsement Letter and submit the application to the appropriate Region by the final scholarship deadline of October 1, 11:59 PM EST.

For more information, please contact:
USC Academic Honors and Fellowships
Erica Lovano McCann lovano@usc.edu (213) 740-6680
USC Marshall Scholarships Competition

Recommendation Letter Instructions

- The required method for submitting recommendation letters for the Marshall Scholarships is through the online application system. You must enter the name and email address of your recommenders, and each recommender will receive an email with instructions for adding the text of their letter into the application. Please secure your recommendations prior to entering the recommender’s contact information online.

- After you have entered their information, be sure to contact each of them individually to verify that they received an email with appropriate instructions for submitting their letter online. More information for recommenders can be found here.

- Recommendation letters are limited to 1000 words (approximately two pages). Anything over this limit will not be accepted by the online system. One of the recommendation letters may primarily address your leadership and ambassadorial potential, and this need not be provided by an academic.

- **Letters must be submitted online no later than September 2, 2015.** Applications that are not complete with all four required recommendation letters will be at a serious disadvantage in the campus endorsement process. Late letters will not be reviewed by the Campus endorsement committee.

USC Endorsement Process

The Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission require that universities endorse their applicants for the national Marshall Scholarships competition. There is no limit to the number of candidates that USC may endorse; however applicants are strongly encouraged to prepare for their campus interview as if it were for official Scholarship consideration.

How to Prepare:

- Questions asked during the interview often assess knowledge of your application, field(s) of study, proposed program of study, host institution, and country. Other questions may be related to knowledge of topics outside of your application such as national or global affairs or your non-academic interests.

- We recommend reading American as well as British publications such as *The Economist, The Guardian* or *Financial Times* as part of your preparation. You can access a free copy of some of these publications through USC Libraries.

- Additionally, if an applicant is not comfortable in an interview setting, AHF Staff and Career Center Counselors will arrange for a mock-interview.

USC and Regional Interviews:

- USC endorsement interviews will be held September 15-17, 2015. Students will be notified of the committee’s endorsement decision within one week following the interview.

- The Marshall Scholarships national competition is organized into regions. Endorsed applicants who receive an invitation to a regional interview can notify AHF to arrange a mock interview. Regional interview dates are published on the Marshall Scholarships website.

If applicants or recommenders have questions, please contact:
Academic Honors and Fellowships
(213) 740-9116  ahfstaff@usc.edu
www.usc.edu/aif/fellowships