



United Kingdom Graduate Scholarships Timeline

Churchill, Gates-Cambridge, Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarships

Use of this timeline is strongly recommended for USC students and recent alumni applying for UK Graduate Scholarships. Strong, compelling applications take time to formulate and put to paper. Please note that multiple essay drafts and thoughtful conversations with faculty, peers and advisors will be part of your application journey.

January - February

- Review the USC Academic Honors and Fellowships [website](#) to gain an initial understanding of each opportunity individually. While each scholarship supports graduate study in the United Kingdom and shares a similar timeline for submission, they each have a different mission and separate application process. Understanding the mission and process for each and starting your application early is vitally important to your success.
- Watch a recorded information session on [Graduate School in the UK](#).
- Research graduate programs in the UK and determine if you will apply for a taught or research degree. The Marshall Scholarship website offers great info on [choosing a university in the UK](#) and a [summative list of UK institutions](#) that can help you identify programs that fit your postgrad goals.
- Utilize the [UK Research Excellence Framework](#) to assess the quality of research at various higher education institutions and identify UK faculty with whom you would like to partner.
- Identify the top three graduate programs to which you will apply and make a list of *at least three* reasons why these specific programs are the optimal choice for your graduate study. Consider what makes them unique (coursework/faculty/location/resources). Avoid selecting a program simply because of institutional prestige. (Ex. I am applying to Oxford because it has the absolute best program in [fill in the discipline] because of [fill in the three reasons] and I cannot find anything better anywhere in the world.) This early reflection will be applicable throughout the application process.
- After completing these steps, submit an [intake survey](#) to schedule an appointment with an advisor in Academic Honors and Fellowships to discuss the scholarships in which you are most interested. We recommend you identify 1-2 that best fit your postgraduate goals and commit your time and energy fully to a select few rather than applying to all of them. Students who fully understand the mission and process of each scholarship will easily identify which awards best suit them but our advising staff is glad to assist in narrowing your pool.

March

- Meet with faculty mentors and share about your intention to apply for these prestigious scholarships and graduate school in the UK. These scholarships require anywhere from three to eight letters of recommendation so beginning these conversations early and repeating them often will be necessary. The ideal faculty mentors are those who can speak to your academic achievements, leadership potential, research experience, public service record, and postgraduate plans. They will also be willing to provide feedback on your application materials. *Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarship Applicants should request letters no later than mid-March to provide referees with at least two weeks' notice for the early April Campus Endorsement Deadline.*
- Marshall, Mitchell and Rhodes Scholarship Applicants compose drafts of personal statements according to stated criteria available on their respective AHF websites.
- Make an appointment with [The Writing Center](#). Indicate the scholarship award you are applying for and bring a draft of your statements and the prompts for your reviewer.

April

- Early April: USC Endorsement for UK Scholarships Application Deadline for Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarships. Submit an application, including all required supplemental materials, through the application portals on the AHF website.
- Mid-April: USC Endorsement Interviews for Marshall, Mitchell and Rhodes applicants.
- Review examples of successful personal statements in the AHF Office (STU 300).
- Work on personal statements. (It is normal to go through 10 - 12 drafts!)
- Meet with a Faculty Mentor to discuss your application and the feedback offered by the Endorsement Committee. Bring a draft of your statements (including the prompts) for their review.
- Meet with the AHF advisor designated for your scholarship and discuss your progress and personal statements.
- Late Spring: **Marshall Scholarship Application opens.** Marshall Scholarship applicants need not apply to proposed graduate programs. If selected, the Marshall Scholarship Commission will apply to Cambridge on your behalf.

May - August

- Make a second appointment with [The Writing Center](#). Indicate the award you are applying for and bring a draft of your statements and the prompts for your reviewer. *The Writing Center will be closed from the end of April through May, as well as most of August.*
- Work on online application/biographical information.
- Continue to work on statement drafts and share them with faculty mentors and AHF advisor.
- Once your Spring grades have posted, request two official copies of transcripts from all institutions attended. Your STARS report and other unofficial transcripts are not sufficient. Ask your AHF Advisor for a tip on how to request your USC transcript for free. If you are taking summer coursework postpone this step until those grades have posted
- Early July: Rhodes Scholarship Application opens.

September

- Early September: Gates Cambridge application opens. Note, this application is part of the Graduate Application to Cambridge rather than its own separate application. No USC Endorsement is required but this timeline and AHF Staff can still support you during the application process.
- Early September: Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Mock Interviews for endorsed candidates.
- Mid-September: Final revisions and all supplemental materials due to AHF for Rhodes, Marshall, and Mitchell endorsed candidates.

October - January

- Early October: National Deadline for Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarships.
- Mid-October: National Deadline for Gates Cambridge Scholarship.
- November - December: Mock interviews for Scholarship finalists.
- November - February: Notification of Scholarship Recipients