

# Overview of Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes Scholarships & Campus Endorsement Process

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# Presentation Overview

- What are the Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarships?
- Basic Criterion
- Campus Endorsement Application Components
- Essay Descriptions
- Campus Endorsement Process
- Next Steps & Other Fellowships to Consider
- Questions



# Common Myths:

- Provides a gap year and/or a chance to “figure out” what you want to do next
- You need a perfect GPA
- You must have done a thousand things while at USC
- You must be seeking a PhD; you must be interested in only certain career paths (federal service, policy, etc.)
- Strictly merit based
- Preference for certain fields of study
- Study abroad (or a chance to go back to the UK or Ireland)
- It’s easy to get admitted into international graduate programs; they are less meritorious than US graduate programs



# Common Truths:

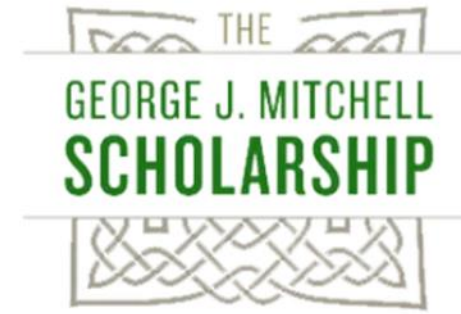
- Funds 1 (Mitchell) or 2 (Rhodes, Marshall) years of intensive graduate study in the UK or Ireland
- To be eligible, candidates must meet both the basic- and mission-driven eligibility
- Expects candidates to have substantive evidence of academic excellence (research, advanced coursework), leadership and/or public service, experiences that originate with academic commitments
- Open to all disciplines
- Expect candidates to be seeking degrees from program/institutions that are *an ideal fit* (not just Oxford for Oxford's sake)
- Are futurist
- Expect candidates to have a driving mission, motivation, and vision for the future and how they are going to make meaningful, lasting change globally



# Marshall Scholarship:



- **Marshall Scholarships** support US citizens of high ability for a two year+ post-graduate degree experience in the United Kingdom.
- Up to 48 Scholars are selected each year to study at graduate level at any UK institution, including Northern Ireland, in any field of study, fully funded for two years+.
- Degrees can be taken at two different institutions.
- As future leaders, with a lasting understanding of British society, Marshall Scholars strengthen the enduring relationship between the British and American citizens, their governments and their institutions.
- Preference given to candidates *not applying* to Oxford, Cambridge, Kings, University College London (UCL), LSE.
- Program website: <http://www.marshallscholarship.org/>



# Mitchell Scholarship:

- The **Mitchell Scholars Program**, named in honor of former US Senator George Mitchell's pivotal contribution to the Northern Ireland peace process; originally conceived of as a peace and reconciliation program; now open to all disciplines but with the expectation that Mitchell Scholars are committed to broader, public service concerns (national, international).
- Designed to introduce and connect generations of future American leaders to Ireland, while recognizing and fostering intellectual achievement, leadership, and a commitment to community and public service.
- Up to 12 US citizens to undertake a fully-funded one-year master's program in Ireland.
- Program website: <https://www.us-irelandalliance.org/mitchellscholarship>





# Rhodes Scholarship:

- **Rhodes Scholars** are chosen not only for their outstanding scholarly achievements, but for their character, commitment to others and to the common good, and for their potential for leadership in whatever domains their careers may lead.
- The Rhodes Trust provides full financial support for 32 US Rhodes Scholars to pursue a postgraduate degree or degrees at the University of Oxford and a number of international Rhodes Scholarships, including the Global Rhodes.
- Students from a range of countries besides the United States are also eligible to apply for the Rhodes Scholarship - please visit the [Rhodes House site](#) for an up-to-date list of eligible countries.
- Program website: <http://www.rhodesscholar.org/>



# Basic Criterion (all three programs):

- Be a third- or fourth-year at USC; or recent alumni (age restrictions apply)
- ***Demonstrate a high esteem for scholarship:*** evidenced by high academic achievement (3.7+ cumulative GPA), research or other scholarly activities that provide a case for success in chosen graduate degree program;
- ***Evidence of significant leadership*** and future leadership potential;
- ***Evidence of commitment to civic engagement*** through ***significant*** co- and extra-curricular (off-campus) involvement, public service, activities that prove you are **ambitious for others**;
- Able to present a compelling and well-constructed **case for their academic program** of choice in the UK;
- Able to **articulate their personal goals and a clear vision for their academic and professional future**, as well as how they will be a “change agent” or “fight the world’s fight”; evidence of agency and an understanding of power structures
- Be able to **secure three to eight in-depth letters of recommendation**





# Mission Driven Criterion:

- **Marshall:** seeks candidates who *exhibit* academic preparation, leadership and ambassadorial potential. Assessment questions include: Has the applicant *demonstrated* courage of conviction, persistence, and determination in the pursuit of his or her goals? *Is there evidence of a strong desire to contribute to society?*
- **Mitchell:** Applicants are judged on three criteria: scholarship, leadership, and a *sustained commitment* to community and public service.
- **Rhodes:** *Proven* intellectual and academic achievement of a high standard is the first quality required of applicants, but applicants will also be *required to show integrity* of character, interest in and respect for their fellow beings, the ability to lead, and the energy to use their talents to the full.



# The four “A”s of the MMR:

- **A**cademic excellence
- **A**ltruism (ambition for others)
- **A**gency (you have set your course; turned challenge into opportunity)
- **A** vision for a better future (for all)



# USC Campus Endorsement Application Components:

- Online application (due June 1, 2021)
- Motivation statement
- 9 short essays: leadership; meaningful service; ambassadorial potential; relevant course-work; case for postgraduate program(s); societal problem to address; proposed future plans
- A comprehensive resume or curriculum vitae (CV)
- Three letters of recommendation submitted by the campus deadline;
- The names of one to five additional recommenders (Mitchell & Rhodes only)
- Unofficial transcript (3.7 overall GPA)

*You only complete ONE campus endorsement application and interview; institution endorsement is for 1-all 3 awards.*



# Letters of Recommendation:

## **Campus Endorsement:** 3 total letters

- 2 academic letters; 1 who can testify to your leadership through service, etc.

## **National Competitions:**

**Marshall:** 3 total letters; 2 should be academic; 1 who can testify to your leadership, service and/or ambition for others

**Mitchell:** 4 total letters; at least 2 should be academic; 2 should testify to your leadership, service and/or professional training

**Rhodes:** 8 total letters; 5 should be academic; 3 should testify to your leadership, service and/or ambition for others (character)

Academic letters = from teaching or research faculty (any rank/any institution); no post-docs or graduate students.

No letters from advisors of any type (career, academic, etc.), peers, or professionals who do not know you well.



# Motivation Statement (aka Personal Statement):

A 750-word narrative that clearly articulates your motivations as they relate to the needs of society you wish to address. You should be able to “show not tell” the ways you have started toward this effort – through your academic training, leadership, service, and professional activities as relevant. This is not a narrative CV.

- *What gets you out of bed in the morning? What keeps you awake at night?*
- *How have you turned challenge into opportunity?*
- *Are you impatient with the way things are in the world and willing to spend your energies changing those things?*



# Short essays:

## 1) Describe one specific example of *leadership* (350 words max.)

As it relates to your specific example, we want to see the following:

- **Delivery of results:** can you actually tell us what has changed as you became involved in something?
- **Strength of purpose:** can you show us that you took something from start to finish? Can you demonstrate that your leadership connects to your overall sense of purpose and plans for the future? Does it reinforce your broader commitments and the career you want to undertake (illustrates potential for future leadership in your field).
- **Creativity and problem solving:** can you come at a problem or issues from a different angle or approach? And, can you show us why this approach was necessary? What have you changed?
- **Self-awareness:** how are your leadership styles different? How have you evolved as a leader? How does this impact others, enable others? How does this enable you to convince others to come along with you?



## 2) Describe a recent, particularly satisfying public service activity. (350 words)

Or, if you have focused your efforts on research, please describe a particularly satisfying broader impact experience you have had (either in your research or in public science education, tutoring, etc.).

*Broad definition of public service – how have you served others?*

## 3) Ambassadorial Potential (350 words):

Candidates should discuss how work in their field of study (including their own research) can enhance the USA-UK and/or Ireland relationship. They should further explain what they might do to contribute to improved relations in this area now and following the scholarship.



**4) List the 3 most significant courses you have taken in preparation for your proposed graduate study and future career. (150 words max.)**

*Are you academically prepared for graduate study and your proposed career?*

**5) Describe the top-choice graduate program in the UK, Ireland or at Oxford, if you receive a Marshall, Mitchell or Rhodes scholarship. (250 words max.)**

*Do you have a case for your chosen program and why you need to be in either the UK or Ireland?*





**6) Describe the problem or needs of society (domestic or global) you want to address once you have finished your formal graduate training. (350 words max)**

*What hurts you about the world and why?*

*What you going to end?*

**7) What do you hope to do and what position/role do you hope to have upon completing your studies in the UK or Ireland? (3-5 year post-scholarship plan; 150 words max.)**



**8) What do you hope to do and what position/role do you hope to have 7-10 years later? (150 words max)**

*Do you have a specific vision and plan for your future? How are you going to fight the world's fight? What are you going to end?*

**9) Additional information (350 words max)** Is there anything you would like the committee to know that is not anywhere else in your application?



# Campus Endorsement Process

- **June 1, 2021:** Campus Endorsement Deadline
- **Mid-June:** Campus Committee Review (may include invitation to interview)
- **July-August:** Endorsed Candidates work closely with AHF and faculty mentors on refining materials
- **Early September:** Campus Feedback Meeting with Faculty Committee
- **Late September/Early October:** Scholarship National Deadlines



# Reality Check

- If endorsed, we will expect you to make these applications *among your highest priorities* over the summer. You can be stripped of your nomination at any point.
- It will not be easy, but we believe the self-reflection, writing, and communication skills gained are (so) worthwhile and will contribute to other efforts (other fellowships, graduate school applications, etc.)

## *What you can expect from AHF*

- We will be with you through the entire process –supporting your writing and helping you to communicate your ideas as best you can.
- A thoughtful letter of endorsement will be written on your behalf and submitted to the national scholarship review committee



# Next Steps

Attend our next information session featuring:

**USC Marshall Scholar Jamie Kwong & Professor  
Tamara Black of the Writing Program**

**Wednesday, April 28 from 10:00-11:00am PST**

If you haven't started already...

- Begin to think about who will write your letters of recommendation
- Start researching your ideal programs
- Mark **June 1, 2021** on your calendar



**Jamie Kwong '18,**  
BA International Relations &  
Masters in Public Diplomacy

2018-2021 Marshall Scholar



# Other British Fellowships to consider...

**Fulbright U.S. Student Program** (UK graduate study or research awards)

<https://ahf.usc.edu/fellowships/fulbright/>

**Churchill** (Cambridge; STEM only)

<https://ahf.usc.edu/fellowships/churchill/>

**Gates-Cambridge** (Cambridge)

<https://www.gatescambridge.org/>

**Ertegun** (Oxford; Humanities only)

<https://www.ertegun.ox.ac.uk/scholarships>



Questions?



Academic Honors and Fellowships  
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