

## **UK Scholarships**

### **(Churchill, Gates Cambridge, Marshall, and Rhodes)**

### **2024 Application Process & Timeline**

***What is the process and what are the benefits?*** The JHU application process for UK Scholarships is designed to be a rewarding experience for all participants. UK Scholarship applicants work diligently throughout the summer on their application materials. They also participate in occasional cohort activities from the late spring through the fall, from writing and C.V. workshops to roundtable discussions of UK culture and current affairs, as well as attend one-on-one meetings with NFP advisors and mentors to receive advice and guidance on their candidacy. Through this individual and collaborative work, applicants strengthen their applications while also learning self-presentation acumen and reflecting deeply on their experiences and the motivations behind their academic and career pursuits. Whatever the outcome, applicants come away from the Johns Hopkins UK Scholarships process richer in self-understanding and a variety of valuable skills, including writing and interviewing.

***Why are these four scholarships grouped together in a single application process?*** We have found that grouping these four scholarships together allows for the most effective application process. They all seek candidates of similarly high levels of academic achievement, extracurricular commitments, and leadership potential. In addition, candidates who may initially intend to apply for only one of these scholarships often find it makes sense to apply for two or more. Experience has shown that working as a group during the application process also enables an enriching cohort experience, in which members support and learn from each other. Finally, this process helps NFP advisors to develop a robust sense of applicants' strengths beyond the application materials and thereby provide the kind of institutional endorsement we hope to offer UK Scholarship applicants: detailed and enthusiastic.

***Do applicants have to go through the UK Scholarships process to apply for these fellowships?*** It depends on which scholarships you want to apply for.

**MARSHALL and RHODES:** Prospective applicants for the Marshall and Rhodes, who will need an institutional endorsement from JHU to apply for these scholarships, do need to participate in NFP's UK Scholarships process to secure an endorsement.

**CHURCHILL:** The Churchill is open only to those in STEM fields and the number of nominees that JHU can put forward is limited to two each year, requiring a distinctive nomination process. Churchill applicants are strongly encouraged to join the UK Scholarships cohort, but may opt instead to apply through a pared-down Churchill-only advising process *if they are sure they do not want to apply to other UK Scholarships for which endorsement is needed (Marshall, Rhodes).*

**GATES CAMBRIDGE:** The Gates Cambridge is alone among this group of scholarships in

not requiring an institutional endorsement or nomination. Gates Cambridge applicants therefore do not need to participate in the UK Scholarship process *if they do not plan to apply for any of the other UK Scholarships*. In fact, Gates Cambridge applicants do not need to work with our office at all since we play no role in the submission of materials. But we hope Gates Cambridge-only applicants who choose not to participate in the UK Scholarships process will still take advantage of the resources and feedback we can offer.

## **Individual Scholarships At-A-Glance**

The basic terms and eligibility of each scholarship are summarized below. For further details, please see the respective scholarship pages on our website (linked to here) as well as the official websites of each scholarship.

The [Churchill Scholarship](#) fully funds one year of graduate study at Churchill College, University of Cambridge, in [eligible STEM fields](#). Exceptionally strong research profile required; applicants are usually headed toward PhD or MD/PhD. Citizenship: must be U.S. citizen. Age restriction: must be a senior or have graduated within 12 months at time of application. Scholarships awarded each year: around 15. Application to the Churchill Scholarship requires university nomination (JHU may nominate two candidates per year).

The [Gates Cambridge Scholarship](#) fully funds most full-time masters and PhD degrees at the University of Cambridge. Preference is given to applicants proposing to pursue a PhD (approximately 2/3 of the Gates Cambridge Scholars selected annually are PhD candidates). Applicants must make a convincing argument that their qualifications and aspirations accord with a particular postgraduate degree at Cambridge and that they are committed to improving the lives of others. Citizenship: any country outside of the U.K. Age restriction: none. Field of study: open. Scholarships awarded each year: 80 (25 to U.S. citizens). No university nomination or endorsement required.

The [Marshall Scholarship](#) fully funds two years of graduate study at any university/ies in the U.K.; Marshall Scholars who propose a doctoral degree in their application may later request a third year of funding to complete it. While one-year scholarships exist, recently the Marshall has only awarded only a few annually, so applicants should plan a two-year course of study if at all possible. Citizenship: must be U.S. citizen. Age restriction: applicants are eligible to apply in their senior year or within two years of completing their first BA/BS/BM (i.e. graduation after April 2022 for a 2025 Marshall Scholarship, i.e. applied for in September 2024 and tenable beginning in September 2025). Field of study: open. Scholarships awarded each year: up to 50. GPA: 3.7+ (not rounded) as an undergraduate required. Application to the Marshall Scholarship requires university endorsement.

The [Rhodes Scholarship](#) fully funds two years of graduate study at the University of Oxford with the possibility of renewal for a third year. Citizenship: must be a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, or U.S. resident with DACA status to apply as a U.S. applicant; citizens of many other

countries may apply through regional competitions; new “global” scholarships are open for all others (see Rhodes website for details). Age restriction: upon entry to Oxford, cannot have reached age 25, or age 28 if they have completed their first undergraduate degree within the last 2 years. Field of study: open. Scholarships awarded each year: 32 for citizens of the U.S., many more for citizens of other countries, for a total of more than 100 per year. GPA: 3.7+ required. Application to the Rhodes Scholarship requires university endorsement.

## **UK Scholarships Application Process Timeline**

For the upcoming 2024 application cycle (i.e. applications due in Fall of 2024 for awards that begin in Fall of 2025), JHU will use the following process and timeline:

### **Pre-application phase: March – April**

#### **Late March - mid-April:**

- Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of NFP’s virtual information sessions on UK Scholarships. If unable to attend, please [make an appointment](#) to speak with Dr. Kathleen Barry, NFP’s lead advisor on UK Scholarships this year.

#### **Monday, April 22 at 9am ET:**

- Pre-application materials are due from prospective applicants who want to join the UK Scholarships cohort (\*required\* for all Marshall and Rhodes applicants; otherwise, highly recommended).

The required materials include a C.V., unofficial JHU transcript (& unofficial/official study abroad transcript and undergraduate transcript from another institution, if applicable), and completed pre-application form. You can access the pre-application and instructions on our Canvas site for UK Scholarship applicants (email [nfp@jhu.edu](mailto:nfp@jhu.edu) to request access).

### **Pre-writing phase: May – June**

*The focus of this phase is for UK Scholarship applicants to select a university/ies and degree program/s, and research supervisor (if relevant); get to know other members of the cohort during group activities aimed at strengthening your candidacy; and work on writing skills in preparation for the application writing process.*

#### **May:**

- NFP staff and possibly other JHU faculty, staff, and affiliates with extensive knowledge of UK Scholarships and higher education in the UK will offer advice on researching and choosing programs in a scholarships workshop. Selecting the most appropriate academic program (and/or research supervisor) is of paramount importance, as is contacting your prospective research advisor if you will need one as early as possible.

#### **May-June:**

- You will meet individually with NFP advisors to discuss choosing academic program/s in the UK and your selection of letters of recommendation. To track your progress on

confirming the awards and programs you will apply to, research supervisor(s) [if applicable], and your letters, you will maintain and update a document we call an “intent to apply chart.” Your goal is to have this set by the end of June at the latest and use those choices to guide your application writing over the summer.

June:

- Cohort members will attend a series of writing workshops as preparation for essay and C.V. writing over the summer.
- The cohort will get together for the first of our roundtables (these will be scheduled on weekdays in the early evenings, based on everyone’s collective availability). To prepare, everyone will read a small selection of articles from magazines and newspapers on a chosen cultural or current affairs theme focused on the UK and/or the relationship between the US and UK. The aim of these gatherings is to build community among the cohort; help you to become more informed about US, UK, and global events in preparation for finalist interviews; and provide practice on how to express your ideas concisely to a wide academic audience.

**Writing phase: late June – late August**

*This phase represents the most intensive and individualized phase of the work that you will do as a UK Scholarships applicant. The number of essay revisions needed to craft a competitive application can be numerous (especially for the Marshall). But applicants develop clarity in their academic and career goals and stronger written expression in proportion to their diligence.*

Late June:

- Having determined which awards you’re applying for and for which programs, and considering your other obligations over the summer, you will work with your NFP advisor to develop an individual timeline for application essay draft writing and deadlines through late August. We will provide a tracking sheet we’ve designed to help you plan your workflow over the summer and make sure you complete all additional tasks needed for your applications (arrange for letters of recommendation, etc.)

July-August:

- Following the agreed-to deadlines on your individual timeline, you submit and revise drafts for Marshall, Gates Cambridge, and/or Churchill to your NFP reader for feedback. Rhodes applicants should begin drafting their Rhodes personal statement by July (no direct feedback is allowed on this essay, per Rhodes rules, so applicants draft this entirely on their own).
- For Marshall, Gates Cambridge, Churchill applicants - if you have a PI in the UK, you should seek feedback on essays relating to your research project from this person.

August:

- Rhodes applicants will meet with an NFP advisor to discuss personal-statement best practices in general terms.

Late August (Rhodes and Marshall):

- You will submit your application materials and arrange for your recommenders to submit their letters for the campus nomination deadline(s).

### Early September (Churchill):

- You will submit your application materials and arrange for your recommenders to submit their letters for the campus nomination deadline.

### **Nomination phase: late August – mid-November**

*With the intense phase of essay writing over, the cohort's focus shifts to group activities to build skills and prepare for interviews while individual applicants carry out final essay revisions and complete & submit their applications.*

### September:

- The cohort will get together for the final roundtable sessions, with a particular focus on topics and skills of relevance to finalist interviews.
- The cohort will get together also for a final C.V. workshop and receive feedback on their C.V.s (which will aid with the front pages of the Marshall application, which does include a C.V. submission).
- Rhodes and Marshall applicants will meet individually with one of the NFP advisors to discuss who you are outside of what you've written in the application, with an eye toward your institutional endorsement letter.
- Churchill applications will be reviewed and two nominees will be chosen.

### Late September-mid-October:

- Using feedback from NFP advisors and/or other mentors, you'll finalize your applications for submission by the national deadlines in late September (Marshall), early October (Rhodes) or mid-October (Gates Cambridge).

### October:

- The cohort will get together for an interview skills workshop.

### Late October-early November (for Churchill):

- Using feedback from NFP advisors and/or other mentors, nominees finalize applications for submission by the national deadline.

### **Interview Prep for Finalists: November - March**

*Additional individual interview preparation for Gates Cambridge, Marshall, and Rhodes finalists, including practice interviews with JHU faculty/staff/alumni and consultations with previous JHU finalists and scholars for these awards. (Churchill does not have finalist interviews.)*

### November:

- Rhodes, Marshall

### January:

- Gates Cambridge (U.S. round)

### Early-mid March:

- Gates Cambridge (international round)