

JHU National Fellowships Program
Gates Cambridge, Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Churchill Scholarships
2021 Application Process & Timeline

The JHU application process for the Gates Cambridge, Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, and Churchill Scholarship competitions (GRMMC) is designed to be a rewarding experience for all participants. GRMMC applicants work diligently throughout the summer and fall on their application materials. But first, in preparation for putting together their strongest application, in the spring they participate in cohort activities, from writing and CV workshops to junto discussions, as well as one-on-one meetings with NFP advisors and mentors to discuss their candidacy. Through this individual and collaborative work, applicants learn self-presentation acumen, reflecting deeply on their experiences and the motivations behind their academic and career pursuits. Whatever the outcome, applicants come away from the Johns Hopkins GRMMC process richer in self-understanding and a variety of valuable skills, including writing and interviewing.

We have found that grouping these five scholarships together allows for the most effective application process, as they all seek candidates of similarly high quality, and our candidates often apply for two or more of these scholarships. Experience has shown that working as a group during the application process also enables an enriching **cohort experience**, in which its members support and learn from each other.

Although some candidates may be interested in a particular scholarship from the start, we do not identify or select a “Gates Cambridge applicant” or a “Mitchell applicant” initially. (The Churchill is different, since it is open only to those in STEM fields.) The campus selection process begins by identifying Hopkins students and alumni who could be competitive for at least one of these scholarships. Over the spring and early summer, we discuss which scholarship/s best fit a particular applicant’s profile.

Scholarship Terms & Eligibility

The basic terms and eligibility of each scholarship are summarized below. For further details, please see the respective scholarship pages on the [list of fellowships](#) on our website as well as the official websites of each scholarship.

The [Gates Cambridge Scholarship](#) supports a full-time Masters or PhD degree at the University of Cambridge. Preference is given to applicants proposing to pursue a PhD (approximately 2/3 of the GC scholars selected annually are PhD candidates). Citizenship: any country outside of the UK. Age restriction: none. Field of study: open, but 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. Scholarships awarded each year: 80 (25 to US citizens). GPA: 3.8+ to be competitive.

The [Rhodes Scholarship](#) fully funds two or three years of graduate study at the University of Oxford. Citizenship: US citizen, lawful permanent resident, or US resident with DACA status to apply as a US applicant; citizens of certain 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 US, many more for citizens of other countries, for a total of over 100 per year. GPA: 3.7+ required, 3.8+ to be competitive. Application to the Rhodes Scholarship requires university nomination.

The [Marshall Scholarship](#) fully funds two years of graduate study at any university in the UK; 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 one or two annually. Citizenship: US citizen at time of application. Age restriction: applicants are only eligible to apply within three years of completing their first BA/BS/BM (graduation after April 2018 for a 2021 Marshall Scholarship). Field of study: open. Scholarships awarded each year: up to 50. GPA: 3.75+ as an undergraduate required. Application to the Marshall Scholarship requires university nomination.

The [George J. Mitchell Scholarship](#) supports one year of graduate study at an institution of higher learning in Ireland, including the seven universities in the Republic of Ireland and the two universities in Northern Ireland. Citizenship: US citizen. Age restriction: must be under 30 on September 26 in the year that they apply. Field of study: open. Note that applicants are judged on a sustained commitment to community and public service. Scholarships awarded each year: up to 12. GPA: 3.7+ to be competitive. Application to the Mitchell Scholarship requires university nomination.

The [Churchill Scholarship](#) fully funds one year of graduate study at Churchill College, Cambridge University, in [eligible STEM fields](#). Very strong research profile; applicants usually headed toward PhD, MD, or MD/PhD. Citizenship: US citizen. Age restriction: must be a senior or have graduated within 12 months of applying. Scholarships awarded each year: at least 15. GPA: 3.8+ to be competitive. JHU can nominate two students each year to the Churchill Scholarship.

Application Process & Timeline

For the upcoming 2021 application cycle, JHU will use the following process and timeline:

Pre-application phase: March

The GRMMC pre-application process has a single important purpose: to maximize the likelihood that Hopkins students and alumni are truly competitive for these scholarships.

- Pre-application materials are due from cohort applicants by **Monday, March 15th at 9am**. These include a CV with photo, unofficial JHU transcript (& unofficial study abroad transcript and undergraduate transcript from another institution, if applicable), and completed pre-application form. You may download the pre-application instructions and form from the Gates Cambridge, Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell or Churchill Scholarships pages [on our website](#).
- Students with sufficiently strong academic and extracurricular records at Hopkins will be invited to an interview with the selection committee. At this point we're looking for qualities necessary for successful interviewing (interpersonal skills, ability to address a range of topics, connection to the world outside of academic studies), knowledge of the topic and degree field that you propose to study in the UK or Ireland (questions 3A & 3B on your pre-app form) and how the degree links to your future plans (question 3C), and how you discuss your leadership, service, and extracurriculars. The selection committee decides which cohort applicants will proceed in the GRMMC application process.

Pre-writing phase: April – June

The focus of this phase is for GRMMC applicants (i.e. those accepted into the cohort) to work on writing skills in preparation for the application process; select a university/-ties and degree program/s, and

research supervisor (if relevant); and interact with other members of the cohort during group activities aimed to strengthen your candidacy.

- In April, you will attend four one-hour writing workshops as preparation for essay writing in the coming months.
- Also in April, last year's cohort will join the new cohort for a farewell/welcome meeting.
- You will meet with your faculty advisors to discuss your academic plans and specific graduate programs in the UK. Selecting the appropriate academic program (and/or research supervisor) is of paramount importance, as is contacting your prospective research advisor as early as possible. You must have a compelling rationale for studying in the UK or Ireland, and this is tied directly to your choice of academic program.
- In May, you will meet with the faculty or staff mentor whom the NFP has assigned you; this person is a part of your advising team as you select university/-ties, program/s, and research supervisor/s.
- You will meet regularly with NFP advisors to discuss choosing academic program/s in the UK and confirming the selection of letters of recommendation. As part of this work, by mid-May you will complete an "intent to apply chart," indicating which scholarship programs most closely align with your interests and why, along with an indication of your preferred research supervisor/s (if relevant).
- In late May through late June, you will participate in person or via Zoom in four or five GRMMC junto sessions. These will be held on weekdays/early evenings, based on everyone's collective availability. The aim of these popular gatherings is to build your cohort experience; help you to become more informed about US, UK, and global events in preparation for finalist interviews; and work on how to express your ideas concisely to a wide academic audience.
- In June, you will work in small groups to discuss and revise your CVs, which are required in some form for all of these awards.

Writing phase: late June – early September

This phase represents the bulk of the work that you will do as a GRMMC applicant. The number of essay revisions required of candidates can be quite large, and the pace can be furious, but our applicants develop clarity in their academic and career goals and stronger written expression skills as a result of their diligence.

- (Marshall, GC) Drafts are due to the NFP on a regular basis, and you will frequently revise essays; some essays might see as many as 10 revisions. The Gates Cambridge and Marshall will have multiple deadlines spread out over the summer, with varying numbers of essays due each time (sometimes just one, and later in the summer all of them). Individual deadlines for each scholarship are listed in the NFP Guidelines for that scholarship and on both scholarships' Blackboard pages.
- (Marshall, GC, Churchill) Once you have strong second or third essay drafts focusing on your academic program and/or research, you will send the essays to your NFP faculty/staff mentor to receive feedback.
- (Marshall, GC, Churchill) If you have a PI in the UK, you must also seek feedback on essays relating to your research project from this person.
- In late August/early September, we will bring the cohort together for a back-to-school junto.
- (Rhodes) Personal statements are due in early September, but require you to begin reflecting and writing at least six weeks in advance of the deadline.

- If any applicants' written materials have not developed as expected, they will not be allowed to proceed. Applicants making good progress—we strive to make sure that everyone is in this category—will be formally nominated to represent JHU.

Nomination phase: September – mid-November

In some cases, particularly when applying to multiple scholarships, applicants find the intensity of essay writing in September/early October to be on par with what they did over the summer. Interview preparation, as well, can require a lot of attention in a short period of time, though it often proves to be a highlight of the GRMMC experience for JHU applicants.

- In mid-September, Rhodes applicants will receive critiques of their CVs and will meet with us to discuss their essays.
- You will meet 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 nomination letter in mid-September (Rhodes, Mitchell, Marshall) or late October (Churchill).
- You will finalize your applications for submission in late September/early October (Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell), mid-October (Gates Cambridge), or late October (Churchill).
- If able, you will attend small group dinners with Dean Andy Wilson, scheduled at various points throughout the fall.
- If able, in late October, we hold our annual season-ending mocktail party at the Hopkins Club for cohort members, GRMMC committee members, and your mentors.
- Interview preparation for finalists: mock interviews with JHU faculty/staff/alumni, mock interviews with a partner institution and one-on-one meetings with previous JHU finalists and scholars for these awards.
 - First half of November: Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell
 - January intersession: Gates Cambridge (US round)
 - Early/mid-March: Gates Cambridge (international round)
(Churchill does not have interviews)