

MARSHALL AWARDS: Concise info [draft]  
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<https://www.marshallscholarship.org/apply/information/>

**Putting together a competitive Marshall Award application is time consuming. Before starting the application, read through this guide carefully, including the calendar of work at the end, and reflect on your time commitments in the months leading up to the deadline in mid-September. Only you can determine whether applying for a Marshall is right for you.**

## OVERVIEW

**Deadline. Mid-September.** Check the Marshall website for the exact date of the national deadline. Three days before the national deadline, submit your application for consideration at the campus level. Write the two deadlines for the year you are applying below:

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus deadline \_\_\_\_\_ National deadline \_\_\_\_\_

### What is a Marshall Award?

- Marshall Awards support one to two years of degree study at an institution of higher education in the UK. Read over the one year and two year pathway information on the eligibility page [here](#).
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens
- Applicants must have received their undergraduate degree no more than two years and 3 months before the application deadline.
- Find detailed information about the award rates for specific countries and programs [here](#).

### Eligibility

<https://marshall-wpta.azurewebsites.net/apply/eligibility/>

- Must be a US citizen at the time of application
- Must hold their first undergraduate degree from an accredited four-year college or university in the United States by the time they begin the scholarship;
- Must have a GPA of at least 3.7 in their undergraduate degree at the time of application
- Must have received their first undergraduate degree no earlier than two Aprils before the application (students applying in September 2025 must have graduated no earlier than April 2023)
- Must not have studied for a degree at a British University or completed GCSE or A Levels in the UK

**Selection criteria.** Applications are reviewed in the UK by the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission. Learn more about the Commission [here](#). Criteria are [here](#) and pasted below:

1. Academic merit. Commission criteria on academic merit also [can be found here](#).

- a) Quality of Programme of study. Is the proposed programme coherent and well thought through? Does the candidate's writing give evidence of higher-order thinking skills and the ability to express thoughts clearly and without jargon?
  - b) Knowledge of Proposed Courses and Supervisors. Has the candidate established the relevance of the proposed academic programme to his or her scholarly and career plans and, in the case of a research proposal, provided evidence of substantive engagement with the proposed supervisor(s)? Is there a compelling academic rationale for doing the work at a British university with Marshall support?
  - c) Evidence of Academic Background that is Strong and Relevant. Does the transcript show evidence of high academic achievement. Does this coursework prepare the candidate for the planned field of study? Is there other evidence of high-level performance (e.g. merit scholarships, academic prizes, research results, artistic creations, publications)?
  - d) Quality and Breadth of Recommendations. Are the recommendations excellent and from people who know the candidate and can make informed comparisons with many other students? Do the recommendations, taken together, provide specific and well-documented details about leadership and ambassadorial potential as well as academic excellence?
2. Leadership potential. Commission criteria on leadership potential also [can be found here](#).
- a) Ability to Deliver Results. Can the candidate demonstrate how he or she delivered results from a position of leadership – whether by organizing, mobilizing or inspiring others. This may have been through his/her intellectual or artistic contributions or in other ways. Is there evidence that the candidate initiated something and carried it through to an outcome? Is the candidate likely to attain a position of influence in his/her field of expertise?
  - b) Strength of Purpose. Has the applicant demonstrated courage of conviction, persistence, and determination in the pursuit of his or her goals? Do the candidate's extra-curricular activities indicate commitment?
  - c) Creativity. Is there evidence of creativity and innovation in the candidate's approach to answering questions or solving problems?
3. Ambassadorial potential. The Ambassadorial Potential Criteria also [can be found here](#).
- a) Knowledge of US/UK Relations. Is there evidence that the candidate understands the general US/UK relationship, as well as specific aspects of this relationship that are pertinent to his or her field of study? Is the candidate aware of opportunities for on-going relationships with UK counterparts?
  - b) Evidence of Transferable Extra-curricular Activities. What extracurricular activities has the candidate undertaken that could be put to use in the UK to meet the Marshall Scholarships' objective of gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of contemporary Britain?
  - c) Interpersonal Skills and Ability to Engage with Others. Does the candidate have a track record of proactively and enthusiastically building productive relationships with people outside his or her peer group, particularly when engaging with them in his/her field of expertise. Does the candidate appreciate the needs, motives and concerns of others?
  - d) Self-confidence and ability to Seize Opportunities. How has the candidate responded to opportunities and what was the result?

**Application components**

- Essays (see below)
- Campus endorsement
- Three letters of recommendation
- Transcript(s). Order PFW transcripts from the Parchment app [here](#).
- Online application

How to apply: <https://www.marshallscholarship.org/apply/>

## GUIDE TO LONG ESSAY PREPARATION

Keep the criteria for the three areas of consideration in mind as you write the essays. The information below is cut and pasted from the Marshall Commission website.

**Personal statement**

This should be a short statement in which candidates describe their intellectual development and other interests and pursuits. (750 words maximum)

**Proposed academic programme**

Candidates should describe their proposed academic programme, giving reasons for their choice of course and preferred university. Those hoping to read for a research degree should give an outline proposal of the research they wish to undertake and with whom they would like to work. Candidates must also include a brief outline of why they have chosen their second-choice courses and institutions. (500 words maximum)

**Leadership**

Candidates should describe a situation in which they were working with a group of people and recognised and responded to a need for leadership. The objective is to help the committee understand the candidate's leadership conviction and drive, style and potential rather than provide a list of achievements. (500 words maximum)

**Ambassador potential**

Please share how you will serve as an ambassador between your USA and UK communities. Candidates should describe transferable skills, experiences, or extracurricular activities that will enable them to successfully engage with and contribute to their community in the UK. Please include specific reasons why the UK, under a Marshall Scholarship, matches their personal and professional interests and how the USA-UK relationship will be a part of their lives post-Scholarship. (500 words maximum)

## SUGGESTED TIMELINE

Students who begin on August 1 should plan on 45 minutes of daily work and weekly meetings with the OMSA director to put together a competitive application by the mid-September deadline. Students who begin earlier will be able to work at a less intense pace.

TIME	APPLICANT TASKS	OMSA DIRECTOR TASKS
<b>July 1. TEN weeks to deadline.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange and attend meeting with OMSA director.</li> <li>• Research possible country and program options on Fulbright website to identify a short list of THREE possible programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with applicant.</li> <li>• Provide information about Marshall Award and the writing process.</li> </ul>
<b>July 15. EIGHT weeks to deadline.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize first and second choice programs.</li> <li>• Begin working on essays, starting with the brainstorming stage.</li> <li>• Meet with OMSA director.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide feedback on essay drafts.</li> <li>• Meet with applicant and answer questions as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>August 1. SIX weeks to deadline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare new drafts of essays, work with OMSA director on these.</li> <li>• Decide which professors to ask for reference letters and reach out to them.</li> <li>• Meet with OMSA director as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide feedback on essay drafts.</li> <li>• Meet with applicant and answer other questions as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>August 15. FOUR weeks to deadline.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm letter writers.</li> <li>• Work on essays.</li> <li>• Work on online application.</li> <li>• Secure transcripts.</li> <li>• Meet with OMSA director as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide feedback on essay drafts.</li> <li>• Contact members of campus committee, schedule interview with student.</li> <li>• Meet with student as needed and provides feedback on essays.</li> <li>• Review student's progress on online application.</li> </ul>
<b>Sept. 1. TWO weeks to deadline.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize on-line application.</li> <li>• Work on drafts of long essays.</li> <li>• Meet with OMSA director as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with student as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>THREE days before national deadline.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit application.</li> <li>• Attend interview with PFW committee.</li> <li>• Meet with OMSA director to discuss changes to application.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange and lead interview.</li> <li>• Write institutional endorsement letter.</li> <li>• Meet with student to discuss changes to application.</li> </ul>
<b>National deadline _____</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make final changes to application materials and resubmits by national deadline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check with student to make sure application is finalized and submitted and to answer any questions.</li> </ul>