

Churchill Scholarship

www.winstonchurchillfoundation.org

Deadline: WPI deadline: October 15; national deadline: November 9

Fields of Study

Open. One year of graduate study at Cambridge University.

Description

The Winston Churchill Foundation was established in 1959 as an expression of American admiration for Sir Winston Churchill. The Foundation's aim is to encourage the exchange of knowledge and the sharing of ideas in science and technology between the U.S. and Great Britain. The Foundation offers twelve scholarships to Americans of exceptional ability for one year of study in the sciences, engineering, or mathematics at Churchill College, Cambridge University.

The Churchill Scholarship is worth between \$44,000 and \$50,000. It covers all University and College tuition and fees (currently about \$25,000). In addition, students receive a living allowance of £10,000 if enrolled in a nine-month academic program and £12,000 if enrolled in a full-year academic program. They also receive an allowance of up to \$1,000 for travel to and from the United Kingdom. The Foundation also offers the possibility of a Special Research Grant of up to \$2,000 to cover travel for presentations at international conferences, short stays at another university or institute for special research, and other activities.

Applicants must be citizens of the United States and must be a senior or a recent graduate from one of the institutions participating in the Scholarship Program competition. WPI is one of the participating institutions. A Churchill Scholar must be between the ages of 19 and 26, hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent, and may not have attained a doctorate. Applicants first apply for admission to an academic program at Cambridge (deadline in mid-October) and then for the Churchill Scholarship (with a deadline in early November). Each participating university may nominate up to two students.

Criteria for Selection

The criteria for the selection of Churchill Scholars include the following:

- Exceptional academic achievement in all disciplines, but especially in the major, as indicated by course grades (previous Scholars have had a GPA of at least 3.7 and usually above 3.9).
- A capacity to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the sciences, engineering, or mathematics by pursuing original, creative work at an advanced level as demonstrated by awards and prizes and by letters of reference. Applicants in the sciences and engineering will show extensive laboratory experience, internships, or

other related work, while applicants in mathematics will show substantial independent work or other projects.

- Scores on the Graduate Record Examinations.
- Outstanding personal qualities.

In a message to institutional representatives, the Churchill Foundation recently responded to the question, “What is the Churchill Foundation looking for?” The response was “intellectual leadership” as demonstrated by the academic record, evidence of independent research, the all-important letters of recommendation, and intellectual passion. The Foundation is also seeking individuals who admirably represent the United States at Cambridge by their intellectual endeavors and by their participation in the life of the University of Cambridge.

Application Procedure

The Churchill Scholarship application is available online from the Scholarship website. The application asks for honors and awards, research experiences, future career plans, as well as a description of the proposed program of study and a personal statement. In addition, four letters of recommendation, GRE scores, and a transcript are required.

The application should describe in detail what you would like to accomplish during your year at Cambridge. Applicants to one of the research-based programs should provide information about laboratory placement, including the name of the professor who runs the lab. While the research plan will necessarily be detailed and even technical, it should be comprehensible to a highly educated reader in another field.

The Personal Statement is essentially an intellectual autobiography in which you have the opportunity to describe perhaps the development of your intellectual interests, perhaps the importance of research for you, perhaps someone whose work has influenced you, or some other crucial aspect of your work in the sciences, engineering, or mathematics. While the Personal Statement is primarily about your intellectual passions, do not hesitate to discuss other work and activities that provide a picture of who you are and who you want to be.

Deadlines: Applicants for the Churchill Scholarship must apply separately for admission to Cambridge by October 15. They must list Churchill College as their first choice in the section on college membership. To be considered for nomination by WPI, potential applicants should make a copy of their application for admission to a graduate program at Cambridge and send it to the WPI Churchill Representative, Prof. Peter Hansen, by October 15. Up to two nominees will complete the additional application materials for the Churchill Scholarship. Potential applicants are urged to contact Prof. Hansen or Prof. Bland Addison in September to express their interest in the scholarship.

Application materials for the Churchill Scholarship must be sent together to the IIE in New York by the institutional representative to meet national deadline in early November.

Additional Information

The University of Cambridge offers a vast and rich array of programs of study. Applicants should study the websites of the Churchill Scholarship and Cambridge University. The fields of study and the departmental structures do not exactly match those of American colleges and universities, so it is essential that applicants explore the many possibilities open to them. Students who apply for admission to a graduate program at Cambridge will automatically be considered for the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, and they should also investigate eligibility for the Marshall Scholarship of Fulbright Scholarship.

See also:

- Cambridge Graduate Prospectus: <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/gsprospectus/>
- Gates Cambridge Scholarship: <http://www.gates.scholarships.cam.ac.uk/>
- Study in the British Isles: <http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/FS/britainstudy.html>