

Marshall Scholarships

www.marshallscholarship.org

Deadlines: national: October 2, 2008; preliminary campus deadline: September 16, 2008

Fields of Study

Open. Graduate study in the United Kingdom.

Description

The Marshall Scholarships were established in 1953 by the British government to express the gratitude of the British people to the American people for the Marshall Plan. The main objective of the scholarship is to enable intellectually distinguished young Americans, their country's future leaders, to study in the UK. Such study will help scholars to gain an understanding and appreciation of contemporary Britain and to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in science, technology, the humanities and social sciences and the creative arts at Britain's centers of academic excellence. The scholarships are intended to motivate Marshall Scholars to act as ambassadors from the USA to the UK and vice versa throughout their lives thus strengthening British American understanding.

The scholarships support 44 scholars for two years of study towards degrees at any university in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland). Several Partnership Scholarships are available to specific institutions; see below and the Marshall website. Marshall Scholarships pay tuition and fees, personal travel and book allowances, and a living stipend. They may be renewed for a third year for certain programs. Applications expressing an interest in studying at universities other than Oxford and Cambridge are especially welcome.

Criteria for Selection

As future leaders, with a lasting understanding of British society, Marshall Scholars will strengthen the enduring relationship between the British and American peoples, their governments and their institutions. Marshall Scholars are talented, independent and wide-ranging in their interests, and their time as Scholars will enhance their intellectual and personal growth. Their direct engagement with Britain through its best academic programs will contribute to their ultimate personal success.

In appointing Scholars the selectors will look for distinction of intellect and character as evidenced both by their scholastic attainments and by their other activities and achievements. They will also look for adequate preparation for the proposed course of study, particularly in the upper-level course work and real strength in the major field. Applicants will be required to present a cogent argument as to why their studies and proposed career would be best served by spending two years at a British university. Preference will be given to candidates who combine high academic ability with the capacity to play an active part in the life of the United Kingdom university to which they

go, and to those who display a potential to make a significant contribution to their own society.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens who will have earned bachelor's degrees by the following spring or have been graduated within the past three years. A grade point average of 3.7 or higher is *mandatory*.

Application Procedure

Institutional nomination by WPI is required. Interested applicants should begin work on their application in the spring or summer before the WPI deadline in September. Detailed instructions about the application are available from the Marshall website. The Marshall application includes a transcript, a web-based application from with employment and activities, a 1,000 word personal statement, and a 500 word statement describing the proposed course of study at two institutions in the United Kingdom.

Four letters of recommendation are also required. These letters should be written by faculty in the United States. Ask your recommenders to submit their letters by the WPI deadline. All application materials must be submitted online—only the official academic transcripts will be mailed to the regional competition.

2008 Campus deadline: Applicants for the Marshall Scholarship must be endorsed by WPI. By early September, each applicant should register on Marshall Scholarship application website and submit *draft* essays and the names and email addresses of four references to the Prof. Peter Hansen, the WPI Marshall representative. These materials will be revised by the applicant. To be considered for institutional endorsement, the complete applications materials must be submitted online by September 16 for candidates and by September 24 for letters of recommendation. The complete application will be released online to the national competition by October 2, 2008.

The selection boards, situated in British consulates in eight regions throughout the United States, choose applicants for interviews, which are held in mid-November. In 2008, the interviews are scheduled to take place in the week of 10-17 November. Selections are announced shortly after these interviews. Students accepting a Marshall Scholarship are expected to withdraw from other fellowship competitions. The application materials are then used by the Marshall Commission to secure admission to the British university program proposed by the scholar. Of the 800-1000 nominations submitted nationwide each year, approximately 160 students will be invited to regional interviews to select about 40 scholars.

Additional Information

The Marshall Scholarship may be held at any university in the United Kingdom. The statement of proposed academic program for the Marshall application must indicate a preference for two universities. These may include two-year degrees, or two one-year masters programs at the same university or at two different universities, or a three-year program of study toward a doctorate. If the student indicates a one-year master's degree for the first year, the choice of degree program for the second year is less important. It is

a condition of the award that Marshall Scholars must proceed to a degree that can be completed within the two-year tenure. Third year extensions are granted on a limited basis for strong academic reasons. If one of the two preferences is Oxford, Cambridge, or the London School of Economics, then the other preference(s) must be at an institution other than these three universities.

The Marshall Scholarship program will offer a large number of *Partnership Scholarships* with a variety of institutions, from Birmingham and Bristol to Surrey and Warwick. Anyone indicating one of these institutions on the application form as a first or second choice will be considered for one of these scholarships. See the list of partnership institutions online: <http://www.marshallscholarship.org/applicationpartner.html> Note that Marshall Scholarships may be held at any university in the United Kingdom. Marshall Commission and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also jointly fund *EPA Marshall Scholarships* to support research specifically in the area of the environment and can be in any related field at any appropriate UK Institution.

The *NIH-Marshall Scholarships* are jointly funded by the Marshall Commission and the National Institute of Health (NIH), Bethesda, Maryland, as part of the NIH's Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP). These scholarships will support research leading to a doctorate in bioscience, medicine and related disciplines with a predominant application in bioscience. The Marshall Commission will pay for the first two years of the Scholarship and the Scholar will spend this time in the UK, and the NIH will pay for the third and fourth years and the Scholar may research at NIH in Bethesda.

NOTE: The Marshall Commission will *no longer fund* MBA programs, second BA programs, and programs with supervised research in the second year. All applicants must apply for two one-year programs, a two-year program, or a PhD progression. In addition, the Marshall Scholarship may *not* be used for two programs at Oxford, the MFE (Master's in Financial Economics) and Global Health Sciences, both of which have tuition fees considered too high by the Marshall Commission. Instead, applicants should look at other programs such as the LSE or Warwick in finance or the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for global public health.

Separately, the Marshall Commission sponsors the Marshall Sheffield Fellowships, a *post*-doctoral research award for one or two years in science and engineering.

See the resources on the web for Study in the British Isles to find a degree program in your area of interest: www.wpi.edu/Academics/FS/britainstudy.html

Prominent past Marshall Scholars include Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer; former Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt; Duke University president Nannerl Keohane; psychiatrist and author Peter Kramer; Pulitzer Prize-winning author Daniel Yergin, Thomas Friedman of *The New York Times*; and scientist and inventor Ray Dolby.

Marshall Scholars from WPI:

2004:

Ian C. Bonzani '04, West Haven, CT, biomedical engineering major, for a PhD in Tissue Engineering at Imperial College London.

2003:

Nicholas T. Baker '03, Milford, NH, computer science and philosophy majors, for an MSc in Computer Games Technology at Liverpool John Moores University and an MA in Digital Games Design at the Surrey Institute of Art and Design.