



Marshall Scholarships Rhodes Scholarships Fall 2009

Fellowships Office | Office of Career Services | Harvard College

Marshall and Rhodes Scholarships

An Introduction

The **Marshall** and **Rhodes Scholarship** programs offer seniors and recent alumni amazing opportunities for postgraduate study in the United Kingdom.

Both programs require **college endorsement** in order to enter national competitions.

Application deadlines—for college endorsement and for national competitions—fall very early in the academic year.

Read on for more information—and good luck!

Marshall Scholarships

www.marshallscholarship.org

General provisions:

Marshall Scholarships provide for all tuition and college and university fees, plus a living stipend and other expenses, for one or two (or, in exceptional cases, three) years of study in nearly any degree course at any university in the United Kingdom.

One-year scholarships are new for the 2009-2010 competition and are intended **only** for candidates who have a compelling reason for seeking only one year in the U.K. and who have definite plans for the following year. They cannot be renewed.

Marshall Scholarships

www.marshallscholarship.org

To qualify for a 2010 Marshall Scholarship, you must:

- be a U.S. citizen,
- have resided in your place of application for two years,
- possess a bachelor's degree from a U.S. college or university by the time you would take up the scholarship,
- have graduated from college after April 2007,
- have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or better, and
- not have studied for a degree from a British university.



The average GPA of Harvard's Marshall Scholars over the last 10 years is 3.9.

Marshall Scholarships

www.marshallscholarship.org

Selection criteria (from “Rules for Candidates”) include:

- distinction of intellect and character, as evidenced both by scholastic attainments and by other activities and achievements,
- potential to make a significant contribution to society, and
- strong motivation and seriousness of purpose, including the presentation of a specific and realistic academic program.



Check out online profiles of recent Marshall Scholars at www.marshallscholarship.org/scholars/profiles.

Marshall Scholarships

www.marshallscholarship.org

To qualify for Harvard's endorsement, you must:

- meet all of the stated eligibility requirements,
- meet all of the stated selection criteria, and
- present a good essay and a compelling plan of study at the designated universities.



If you designate Oxford, Cambridge, or LSE as your first-choice institution, you cannot designate any of these schools as your second-choice institutions.

Your second-choice institution must be viable—you cannot guarantee admission decisions.

Marshall Scholarships

www.marshallscholarship.org

To apply for Harvard's endorsement:

- E-mail an "intent to apply" message to ocsgrant@fas.harvard.edu by **August 1, 2009**. Include your name, House affiliation, GPA, and short statement of the degree course sought.
- The Fellowships Office will put you in touch with your House Fellowships Advisor and send you Harvard's endorsement application instructions.
- Applications for endorsement are due on Thursday, September 3, 2009, at 12:00 noon, at OCS (54 Dunster Street).



Harvard's endorsement application includes one letter of recommendation—choose wisely!

Marshall Scholarships

www.marshallscholarship.org

National application mechanics:

- Apply from your home state or state in which you have studied.
 - Application includes three essays:
 - a 1000-word personal statement describing your “academic and other interests and pursuits,”
 - a one-page study proposal, and
 - a 500-word statement of your reasons for choosing the U.K. for your proposed course of study.
 - Application includes four letters of recommendation, at least two of which must be from your college instructors.
 - Interviews are held at regional Consulates-General.
 - Up to 40 scholars are selected nationally (up to 8 for one-year programs and up to 32 for two-year programs).
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Rhodes Scholarships

www.rhodesscholar.org

General provisions:

Rhodes Scholarships provide for all tuition and college and university fees, plus a living stipend and other expenses, for one or two (or, in exceptional cases, three) years of study in nearly any degree course at the University of Oxford.

Rhodes Scholarships

www.rhodesscholar.org

To qualify for a 2010 Rhodes Scholarship, you must:

- be a citizen of a country in which Rhodes Scholarships are offered,
 - have resided in your place of application for two years,
 - be between 18 and 24 years of age on October 1, 2009, and
 - possess a bachelor's degree by October 1, 2010.
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Rhodes Scholarships

www.rhodesscholar.org

Selection criteria (from Cecil Rhodes's will) include:

- "literary and scholastic attainments" (scholarship),
- "energy to use one's talents to the full, as exemplified by fondness for and success in sports" (activity),
- "truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness, and fellowship" (service), and
- "moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings" (leadership).



Check out online profiles of recent Rhodes Scholars at www.rhodesscholar.org. (Click "Past Scholars.")

Rhodes Scholarships

www.rhodesscholar.org

To qualify for Harvard's endorsement, you must:

- meet all of the stated eligibility requirements,
- meet all of the stated selection criteria,
- present a good essay, including a compelling plan of study at Oxford, and
- ordinarily, have a cumulative GPA of 3.6 or better.



The average GPA of Harvard's Rhodes Scholars over the last 10 years is 3.82.

Rhodes Scholarships

www.rhodesscholar.org

To apply for Harvard's endorsement:

- E-mail an "intent to apply" message to ocsgrant@fas.harvard.edu by **August 1, 2009**. Include your name, House affiliation, GPA, and short statement of the degree course sought.
- The Fellowships Office will put you in touch with your House Fellowships Advisor and send you Harvard's endorsement application instructions.
- Applications for endorsement are due on Thursday, September 3, 2009, at 12:00 noon, at OCS (54 Dunster Street).



Harvard's endorsement application will include one letter of recommendation—choose wisely!

Rhodes Scholarships

www.rhodesscholar.org

National application mechanics in the U.S.:

- Apply from your home state or state in which you have studied.
 - Application includes a 1000-word essay—a “personal statement of general activities and intellectual interests in college and the proposed course of study at Oxford.”
 - Application includes five to eight letters of recommendation, four of which must be from college instructors
 - Interviews are held in your selection district.
 - Each district selects two scholars, for a national total of 32.
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Rhodes Scholarships

www.rhodesscholar.org

National application mechanics in Canada:

- Apply from your home province.
 - Application includes a 900-word essay—a “statement of general interests and activities, the proposed course of study at Oxford, and present career intentions.”
 - Application includes six letters of recommendation, four of which must be from academic sources (at least three of which are college instructors).
 - Interviews are held in either your province or region.
 - Provincial or regional committees select scholars—for a national total of 11.
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Higher Education in the U.K.

Recommended Online Resources

- **British Council's Education U.K.**
<http://www.educationuk.org>
 - **Higher Education and Research Opportunities in the U.K.**
<http://www.hero.ac.uk/uk/home/index.cfm>
 - **Research Assessment Exercise**
<http://www.hero.ac.uk/rae/index.htm>
 - **The Good University Guide**
<http://www.thegooduniversityguide.org.uk>
 - **Unistats from Universities and Colleges in the U.K.**
<http://www.unistats.com>
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Higher Education in the U.K.

Additional Recommended Resources

Additional recommended resources include:

- University prospectuses—explore the official requirements and comparative merits of the courses you're considering.
 - Scholars in your field of interest—whether at Harvard or beyond, faculty members and graduate students in your field can advise you about current scholarship in the U.K.
 - Scholarship in your field of interest—the literature you consult for your courses or research can give you clues about current scholarship in the U.K.
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Writing the Personal Statement

General Advice

General observations:

- Both Marshall and Rhodes applications require a personal statement from you.
- There are many other components to each application, and they all work together to present your candidacy.
- **The personal statement is arguably the most important component** in each application.



This essay is the only application element over which you have complete control.

A great record will not compensate for a poor essay.

Writing the Personal Statement

General Advice

Preparing to write:

- Know yourself and why you are applying.
- How will you demonstrate the match between you and the fellowship? Between you and a particular plan of study?
- What elements will you draw on to be persuasive?
- How will you structure your essay to help your reader?
- Be prepared to write many drafts, and solicit feedback throughout the writing process.



It's difficult to do this well overnight—be sure to give yourself plenty of time to do your best work.
