



Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships

Rhodes, Marshall, & Churchill Scholarship [Campus Application Process](#)

*****For prestigious graduate scholarships at institutions in the United Kingdom: please note that this process formerly included the Mitchell Scholarship. Unfortunately, this program is on pause until further notice.**

Students interested in studying in the United Kingdom are also encouraged to consider the [NIH OxCam Scholars Program](#), [Gates Cambridge Scholarship](#) (open to citizens of all countries except the UK), and [Chevening Scholarships](#) (open to citizens of many countries outside the US or UK).

Interested in applying?

Email curf@ku.edu to express your interest and discuss the application process with a Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships staff member.

Review details regarding each scholarship:

[Rhodes Scholarship](#) – all disciplines

[Marshall Scholarship](#) – all disciplines

[Churchill Scholarship \(STEM only\)](#) – KU can have up to two nominees annually

Apply at the campus level (Deadline – May 19, 2026) | juniors, seniors, or recent graduates:

General Process:

- Submit the campus application online using the **Rhodes, Marshall, & Churchill Scholarship Canvas space** by May 19th, 2026. Email curf@ku.edu to access the Canvas modules.
***See below for more information.
- Four letters of recommendation need to be submitted by letter writers by May 19th [via the online form](#).
 - a. For Rhodes and Marshall candidates, at least one letter should be from someone who can comment on your leadership.
 - b. For Churchill candidates, all letters must be from STEM faculty.
 - c. Students who applied for Astronaut, Goldwater, Truman, Beinecke, or Udall have letters on file with the Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships. These letters may be recycled for this campus-level application.
- Candidates selected for an interview will be notified and invited to interview via Zoom in early June.
- Provisional nominees for the national competitions will be selected and will work with the Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships team on next steps for the national applications over the summer in anticipation of fall final deadlines. ****Deadlines for non-U.S. citizens (Rhodes only) occur in early August.*

Required campus-level application elements submitted via the online form (see above):

- A. Resume or CV
- B. Student Academic Summary (unofficial transcript)
- C. Programs of Study Essay
- D. Short Answer Essays
- E. List of Recommenders (4) as well as four submitted letters

A: Resume/CV

Include all significant activities and honors from college; earlier activities may also be included if they are truly significant. For final applications, you will be required to keep this list to only two pages or to fit the content to conform to an application form, but at this point more is better.

B: Programs of Study Essay (300-500 words)

For each of the fellowships/scholarships of interest, list the graduate study programs you would like to pursue. If you have multiple programs of interest, you may allot 300-500 words for each program. For each program/school of interest, write a short statement that:

- 1) explains why you want to pursue that type of degree or that combination of degrees, and what you want to get out of your graduate education and
- 2) specifically addresses, as appropriate, why you want to study at Oxford/Cambridge/in the UK, etc.

Example list of programs:

Rhodes/Oxford – International Relations MPhil (2 years)

Marshall: Oxford as above; Exeter – International Relations MA (1 year) and MRes in Security, Conflict and Human Rights (1 year)

*****Not all programs are eligible, so check program eligibility carefully.**

C: Short Answer Essays

1. **“What’s your problem?”** KU alumna and Rhodes Scholar Ruth Anne French-Hodson posed this question to a group of potential applicants. Discuss what issue or concern drives your studies. Limit 300 words.
2. **Describe two courses** (or one course and one out-of-the classroom experience) that have influenced you in your choice of career path. Limit 300 words.
3. **Where are you going?** If you were awarded one of these scholarships, what would be next for you after finishing your studies in the UK or Ireland? What job might you have in 5, 10, or 20 years? Limit 300 words.
4. **Your winner’s bio.** When the winners of these scholarships are announced each year, the scholarship foundations release brief biographies of all the winners. What will yours say? Limit 150 words.

D. List of Recommenders (See above.)

Provide a list of four recommenders, including institutional affiliation and email address, who will submit letters of recommendation by May 19th. You may list additional potential recommenders (eventually required for Rhodes candidates). Additionally, four letters must be submitted via the [online form](#) by May 19th, 2026.

If you are selected as a campus nominee:

Complete the nominee [waiver form](#), [news release biography form](#), and [transcript release form](#) as requested by the Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships. Look for an email about getting your photo taken for the campus news release if needed.

Develop your application materials for each award for which you wish to apply with the help of your mentors, letter writers, and Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships staff before the national deadline(s) in fall 2025. Each award has its own application, process, and deadline.

If selected as a campus nominee, you are approved to apply for the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships. KU may only have two Churchill Scholarship nominees each year; you will be informed if you are one of the two selected nominees. You may also wish to apply for other awards as referenced in the beginning of this document.