

# CHURCHILL SCHOLARSHIP

## APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

**Enable Navigation Pane for best navigation: TO ACCESS:** In the View tab, check the Navigation Pane box (in the Show/Hide group). Click Map headings to jump throughout the document.

All Big 10 candidates work with Scholarship Opportunities Program (SOP) staff, who run the campus advising, application evaluation and endorsement processes. Read this document while you complete the [Pre-Application](#) and refer to it throughout the application process.

### UNIVERSAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

#### BE A UCI UNDERGRADUATE

The SOP is funded to advise current UCI undergraduates only. Students at other universities must work with representatives on their campuses.

#### UCI ALUMNI EXCEPTIONS

In some cases, SOP staff may coach highly motivated recent UCI alumni IF they meet all eligibility requirements and intend to take/are taking a gap year (i.e. year off) before enrolling in a graduate program.

#### SUBMIT A PRE-APPLICATION BY 4/3/17 (NOON)

You must complete and submit a [Pre-Application](#) to begin the [application process](#).

#### BE A U.S. CITIZEN

#### BE A JUNIOR

Submit a [Pre-Application](#) the spring before your final year on campus. **The full application process lasts six months**, so by the time you complete it you'll be in your final year of study at UCI. If you win the Churchill, you will travel to the United Kingdom shortly after graduating.

You may also submit a Pre-Application the spring of your final year if you plan to take a gap year after graduating.

#### BE GOAL-FOCUSED

The Churchill funds graduate study in science, engineering or math at Cambridge University only.

#### BE AVAILABLE IN SUMMER 2017

Candidates must participate in draft writing, SOP advising, and correspondence with recommenders and attend an [August campus interview](#) for their application(s) to earn [UCI endorsement consideration](#).

#### BE WILLING TO WORK HARD

You will submit a series of application drafts to SOP staff and receive advising and editing suggestions. You will also share drafts of application essays with the faculty who will write your [letters of recommendation](#).

Be ready to devote a minimum of 10 hours/week to the process; the commitment is equivalent to that of a part-time job.

#### BE DEADLINE-ORIENTED

You are responsible for ensuring SOP staff receives all application components -- including [letters of recommendation](#) written on behalf of your application(s) -- by SOP deadlines.

Late materials will jeopardize [UCI endorsement](#) consideration, which is necessary to continue the process.

#### COMMUNICATE WITH SOP STAFF

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Candidates must maintain regular communication with SOP staff and with recommendation letter writers.

[Email ALL staff](#) to submit drafts or ask questions.

### APPLYING FOR MULTIPLE AWARDS

Candidates may apply for multiple scholarships simultaneously. However, consider the work required to apply for each, the variances in application components, letters of recommendation and interview scheduling and the time constraints you'll face this summer.

### IS THE CHURCHILL SCHOLARSHIP RIGHT FOR YOU?

#### SELECTING A PROGRAM AND INSTITUTION

Ask your faculty which institutions/programs are considered competitive.

#### FACTORS TO WEIGH

Consider location preference, strength of particular overseas programs and institutions, field of study, long-term academic focus, and eligibility requirements relating to GPA and age.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

Research strong programs and universities specializing in your field.

Check the most recent (2014) edition of the [Research Assessment Exercise \(RAE\)](#), which rates the quality and competitiveness of specific programs at U.K. universities.

Read The Guardian newspaper's [guide to interpreting results](#).

#### U. OF CAMBRIDGE ONLY, SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & MATH = CHURCHILL

Funds a year of graduate study at Churchill College within the U. of Cambridge. Award covers all tuition and fees, living expenses, travel to and from the U.K. and includes possible funding for research travel.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens who will be aged 19 to 26 during the course of the scholarship.

14 annual winners. UCI may endorse 2 applications annually.

[Research Churchill College's program\(s\)](#) to determine whether the curriculum fits your academic goals.

[Degrees](#) include a Masters of Philosophy (MPhil), the Master of Advanced Study (MASt), or the Certificate of Post-Graduate Study (CPGS in different fields).

Some recent Churchill Scholars have chosen to continue their undergraduate field of research, while others have moved into closely related or lateral fields; still others have ventured into new areas of research.

Scholarship candidates must apply for admission to U. of Cambridge, as well.

Candidates are required to contact a proposed laboratory director and secure lab placement before applying and ask for a [Letter of Affiliation](#). Although applicants in Engineering need not name a research advisor (since they will take two terms of courses and will select a research area in the third term), they should indicate an interest in a certain professor's work and demonstrate that correspondence has occurred. Applicants in Pure and Applied Mathematics, Mathematical Statistics, or Astrophysics should indicate their close familiarity with the department's extraordinarily rich offerings, suggest courses they wish to take, and describe the rationale for that selection (e.g., strike out in new directions, seek a new perspective on previous work, deepen one's knowledge of a certain field, etc.).

Requires 4 letters from faculty with whom you have pursued science, engineering, or mathematics-related research or study. Two Churchill letters may be from faculty who wrote letters supporting your Cambridge

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application. However, Churchill-letter content must differ from Cambridge-letter content. Each letter must be accompanied by a signed Churchill reference cover sheet.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Churchill describes the Personal Statement as the most important aspect of the application.

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 have 3.9 or above).

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 recommendation. 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 Examination (GRE) General Test.

Outstanding personal qualities.

### APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Application Form
- 1-page Scholarships, Prizes, Awards, and Other Distinctions
- 1-page Research/Employment Experience
- 1-page Proposed Program of Study Essay (detailed description of plans for accomplishment at Cambridge, information about laboratory placement and the name of the professor who runs the lab, drawing connections to your previous research and study)
- 2-page Personal Statement (intellectual autobiography describing your academic interests, the importance of research for you, someone whose work has influenced you, or another crucial aspect of your work in the sciences, engineering, or mathematics. It may also discuss other work and activities that provide a picture of you are and who you want to be)
- Institutional letter of nomination from UC Irvine
- [Letters of recommendation](#)
- Transcripts from all colleges attended
- [Letters of Affiliation](#) indicating an offered lab placement are required.
- GRE General Test or MCAT scores (sent directly to Churchill)
- Separate Cambridge graduate application

### WINNER CHARACTERISTICS

An intellectual spark; commitment to contributing to your field; the promise of intellectual leadership; a well-written application; and personal qualities suggesting you will benefit from a year in Cambridge and that Churchill College and the University of Cambridge will benefit from your presence.

### APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE

SUBMIT A PRE-APPLICATION BY 4/3/17 (NOON)

You must complete and submit a [Pre-App](#) to begin the campus application process.

### ATTEND BIG 10 INFORMATION SESSION

All students who have submitted pre-applications are required to attend one of three information sessions regarding the application process. (Students who are abroad or have unavoidable scheduling conflicts will watch a video of the presentation and pass a quiz.)

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At this meeting, you will receive your Student Deadline Table and crucial information about the scholarship process.

### REVIEW PRE-APPLICATION FEEDBACK

You will select a personalized advising appointment time to discuss your plan for crafting a strong application. If you will be abroad, [email SOP staff](#) in advance to make arrangements for a virtual meeting.

### SUBMIT SIGNED LETTER OF INTENT AND CONSENT FORM TO SOP

You will be provided a letter of intent and consent form to return with signature and must also register for an appointment to view past winning scholarship applications in EEE.

### READ PAST WINNING APPLICATIONS

On file in the SOP office, past winning applications demonstrate successful methods used by past UCI winners to produce compelling and concise research/study proposal and personal statement essays. They also showcase successful formatting amid each application's unique space constraints. **You must request an appointment in advance to view these files**, as we will select the most closely related applications from our extensive archive and have them ready for you.

### MEET WITH YOUR FACULTY

After submitting your Pre-Application, meet in person with at least four faculty members.

### DISCUSS YOUR PLANS/PROJECT IDEAS

Explain that you'll [furnish him/her with drafts of your application essays](#) as they evolve, and let him/her know when to expect these. Detail your ideas for potential study/research proposals. Ask for advice in narrowing your topic.

### REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Faculty will [send SOP staff](#) two drafts of unique letters for each relevant scholarship. This enables the SOP to complete the process of application evaluation and [campus endorsement](#). **Candidates are responsible for ensuring faculty have submitted their letter drafts to SOP staff by the deadlines.** Ask if s/he is willing to write a comprehensive letter of recommendation on your behalf and participate in the letter draft process. State that SOP staff will follow up with award-specific content and formatting information.

For more information, please see our handout on [letters of recommendation](#).

### SOLICIT INTERVIEW PARTICIPATION

Faculty letter writers are enthusiastically encouraged to serve on your campus endorsement interview committee, which is led by Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education. Faculty participation complements the expertise of SOP staff and the Dean; your professors are uniquely able to support you by providing discipline-specific commentary and offering feedback on the feasibility of your study or project.

Please also identify potential alternate committee members, such as other faculty or teaching assistants in your field of study. If your letter writers cannot attend or decline to participate in the endorsement interview, we may solicit participation from your suggested alternates.

You will be provided with a form to collect contact information (names, titles, department, email, phone) and availability for August dates on which we will schedule your endorsement interview.

### SUBMIT FACULTY SUMMER CONTACT INFO & INTERVIEW AVAILABILITY TO SOP

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After you submit this information, SOP staff will email a packet to your faculty about the program(s) to which you are applying, deadlines & formatting requirements for letter drafts, and examples of letters written for past scholarship winners. We will also confirm the time and location of your [campus endorsement interview](#).

### PROVIDE COPY OF EMAIL TO POTENTIAL LETTER OF AFFILIATION WRITERS

Letters of Affiliation (LOAs) are brief, informal invitations from a faculty member or official at your overseas institution of choice to study in a particular department, lab, etc. *should you receive the scholarship*.

Provide a copy of your initial email to at least one potential letter of affiliation writer. For more information, please see our handout on [letters of affiliation](#).

### PROVIDE ROUGH DRAFTS

Research/study candidates must identify program(s) & institution(s), country, and grant type.

[Email essay rough drafts and updated CV](#) to SOP staff, your faculty, and your assigned Writing Specialist.

Email rough drafts of your essays and updated CV to [SOP staff](#), your faculty, and your assigned Writing Specialist.

### SUBMIT 1<sup>ST</sup> APPLICATION DRAFT(S)

**All drafts must be submitted to SOP, not to scholarship funding agencies. All drafts must include the components (forms & essays) of a complete application.**

Email a complete draft of your materials to [SOP staff](#), including application form, Scholarship, Prize, Awards and Other Distinctions List; Research/Employment Experience; Proposed Program of Study Essay; and Personal Statement.

Email essay drafts to faculty and your Writing Specialist.

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### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You'll receive feedback from SOP staff, faculty and your Writing Specialist. Incorporate this feedback into your second draft.

### SUBMIT 2<sup>ND</sup> APPLICATION DRAFT(S)

[Email full, revised application](#) to SOP.

Submit evidence of affiliation, such as an email commitment. Recommended: Bring hard copy of [letter of affiliation](#) to SOP office (or email a PDF if signed and on official letterhead).

Email 2<sup>nd</sup> essay drafts to faculty letter writers and your Writing Specialist.

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### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You'll receive feedback from SOP staff, faculty and your Writing Specialist. Incorporate this feedback into your revised draft for use in the interview.

Bring signed printout of application and official transcript(s) to SOP.

### SUBMIT INTERVIEW DRAFT

Email revised full application (including essays) to [SOP staff](#).

Provide copy of [Letters of Affiliation](#) and official transcripts to SOP office.

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### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

We will distribute your materials to the members of your interview committee for their review.

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After your interview, if the committee decides to endorse your application, you'll receive feedback to incorporate into your final draft.

### CAMPUS INTERVIEW: EARN CAMPUS ENDORSEMENT

The Churchill Scholarship will not accept applications directly from current undergraduate students. They will only review applications that university officials have endorsed (nominated). The SOP evaluates candidate applications and, for endorsed candidates, provides a unique, personalized, comprehensive letter of institutional endorsement, signed by the Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education.

Each candidate is interviewed by a personalized campus committee in August for approximately 60 (for one award) to 90 minutes (if applying for multiple scholarships). The committee evaluates application strength(s) and determines whether it merits endorsement.

Candidates **MUST** attend in person. If you plan to study abroad or otherwise be outside the U.S. during Summer or Fall 2017, alert SOP staff immediately to discuss alternatives.

### SUBMIT AUXILIARY INFORMATION

[Email to SOP](#) details of your future academic & career plans; familiarity with the United Kingdom; senior thesis title, topic, findings & relation to your graduate studies; and plans for engaging in community service while abroad. Using information you provide, SOP staff will complete your campus evaluation.

### SUBMIT FINAL DRAFT(S)

Upload official transcript(s), [letter of affiliation](#); Scholarships, Prizes, Awards and Other Distinctions List; Research/Employment Experience; Proposed Program of Study Essay; and Personal Statement to application system.

Ensure faculty have submitted all finalized letters.

Email pdf of finalized full application including forms, essays and all supplementary materials [to SOP](#).

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

SOP staff will confirm receipt of a copy of your complete application and supplementary materials (letters of recommendation, etc.), add your campus endorsement letter, and submit the complete application to the funding agency.

Submit GRE/MCAT scores directly to the [Winston Churchill Foundation](#).

### WINSTON CHURCHILL FOUNDATION REVIEWS YOUR APPLICATION

Endorsed applications are reviewed by a committee in early January to choose approximately 20 finalists. Finalists are interviewed by telephone. Within one week of interviews, Churchill notifies winners. **Please forward the status update to [SOP staff](#).**