

BRITISH MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

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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.

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-App 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 Marshall, 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 Marshall funds graduate study at any U.K. university. Be able to articulate your graduate program goals.

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.

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

COMMUNICATE WITH SOP STAFF

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 MARSHALL 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 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](#).

ANY UNIVERSITY = MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP

Funds 1-3 years of study in any field. Tenable at any U.K. institution.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens with a 3.7+ GPA.

Alumni candidates must have graduated since April 2015.

Candidates should intend academic or public service careers.

Approximately 35-40 annual winners.

Degrees NOT funded: Second BA/BSc degrees, MBA, MSc/MFE Financial Economics; degrees leading to professional qualifications in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and law (which typically take 5 years to complete); those requiring extended periods away from the university or the U.K., including joint degrees with universities not in the U.K.; supervised research not leading to a degree qualification; PGDip/Certificates in any subject; MPhil Development Studies (University of Oxford); MPP (Public Policy) (U. of Oxford); MSc Global Health Science (U. of Oxford); MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine (University of Oxford) and MSc Law and Finance (University of Oxford). One year Marshall Scholarship candidates must be registered for degrees that are 12 months in duration. Courses that run for 10 months or less will not be funded on the one year Scholarship. Please check the university websites carefully for the duration of the degree in months.

If you list Oxford, Cambridge or London School of Economics as your first choice institution on the application, then you may not list any of those universities as your second choice.

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SELECTION CRITERIA

Distinction of intellect and character, as evidenced by scholastic attainments and other activities and achievements.

The potential to become a leader, opinion-former and decision-maker.

Strong motivation and seriousness of purpose, including the presentation of a specific and realistic academic program.

The personal qualities of a good ambassador to promote British-American understanding.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Electronic Application
- Four essays and one short answer:
 1. **PERSONAL STATEMENT** (Not more than 1000 words): This should be a short statement in which candidates describe their intellectual development and other interests and pursuits.
 2. **PROPOSED ACADEMIC PROGRAM** (Not more than 500 words): Candidates should describe below their proposed academic programme, giving reasons for their choice of course and preferred university. Those hoping to read for a research degree should give an outline proposal of the research they wish to undertake and with whom they would like to work. Candidates should also include a brief outline of why they have chosen their second choice courses and institutions.
 3. **LEADERSHIP** (Not more than 500 words): Candidates should describe a situation in which they recognized and responded to a need for leadership. When answering this question please consider the Commission's criteria on leadership potential:
 - a. **Ability to Deliver Results.** Can the candidate demonstrate how he or she delivered results from a position of leadership - whether by organizing, mobilizing or inspiring others. This may have been through his/her intellectual or artistic contributions or in other ways. Is there evidence that the candidate initiated something and carried it through to an outcome? Is the candidate likely to attain a position of influence in his/her field of expertise?
 - b. **Strength of Purpose.** Has the applicant demonstrated courage of conviction, persistence, and determination in the pursuit of his or her goals? Do the candidate's extra-curricular activities indicate commitment?
 - c. **Creativity.** Is there evidence of creativity and innovation in the candidate's approach to answering questions or solving problems?
 - d. **Self-Awareness.** Is there evidence of a strong desire to contribute to society? Is the candidate aware of his or her role in particular activities and impact on other people? Can the candidate explain what changed as a result of his or her involvement in something?
 4. **AMBASSADORIAL POTENTIAL** (Not more than 500 words): Candidates should describe what "the USA-UK special relationship" means. They should also describe how they might strengthen ties between the USA and the UK in their field of study and through their extra-curricular activities, whilst in the UK and upon their return to the US.
 5. **POST SCHOLARSHIP** (Not more than 300 words): "Candidates should describe their immediate plans upon completion of their Marshall Scholarship and why two years spent undertaking a degree in the UK would enhance these plans. As well as describing plans for employment or further study, candidates should indicate how they would develop ongoing connections with the UK, through their UK institution or some other contacts they propose to make while in the UK. Please also include a brief statement of your future career plans."

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- Four [letters of recommendation](#): Three must be written by U.S. faculty. Two must be written by faculty who have taught you at the undergraduate level. **Enter your primary recommender first** (the person who you believe knows you best). Two and three should be standard academic letters, and the **fourth recommender should comment on your leadership experience and potential**.
- Letter of institutional endorsement from UC Irvine if the applicant is a full-time student
- Proof of citizenship
- Official undergraduate transcripts
- [Letters of Affiliation](#) are strongly encouraged.
- Applicants who are abroad in November 2017 only: letter stating that you will return to the US on your own funds if invited for a finalist interview.

WINNER CHARACTERISTICS

“Possessor of a keen intellect and a broad outlook.” “Selectors will look for candidates who have the potential to excel as scholars, leaders and as contributors to improved UK-US understanding” and for adequate preparation for the proposed course of study, particularly in the upper-level course work and real strength in the major field. Preference is given to candidates who combine high academic ability with the capacity to play an active part in the life of their U.K. university, and to those who display a potential to make a significant contribution to their own society.

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.)

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**

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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

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.

RECOMMENDED: 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](#).

CONFIRM SCHOLARSHIPS & PROVIDE ROUGH DRAFTS

Confirm scholarships to which applying; list proposed program(s) & institution(s) for each.

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

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SUBMIT 1ST 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.

Complete application (including essays) via electronic system and click Submit. Email materials to faculty and your Writing Specialist.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

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

FACULTY SUBMIT LETTER DRAFTS

Please confirm that your faculty have provided letter of recommendation drafts to SOP staff.

SUBMIT 2ND APPLICATION DRAFT(S)

Submit revised, full application (including essays) via electronic system (click Submit).

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 2nd essay drafts to faculty letter writers and your Writing Specialist.

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.

SUBMIT INTERVIEW DRAFT

Submit revised full application (including essays) via electronic system.

Bring official transcript(s) to SOP.

Recommended: provide copy of [letter of affiliation](#) to SOP office.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

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

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 British Marshall 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.

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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)

Incorporate interview feedback. Ensure faculty have submitted all finalized letters via electronic system AND have emailed to SOP.

Submit finalized full application (including essays) via electronic system. Must incorporate interview feedback and include any *updated* supplementary materials.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

SOP staff will upload your campus endorsement letter, submit your endorsed, complete application to the funding agency, and mail your transcript(s) to complete your application. We will also ask you to sign a hard copy of your application.

MARSHALL AID COMMEMORATION COMMISSION REVIEWS YOUR APPLICATION

Applications from UCI are reviewed by a committee for the Los Angeles Region. Those selected as finalists are notified in early November and invited to interview at the British Consulate-General in Los Angeles. **Please forward the status update to [SOP staff](#).**

WINNER NOTIFICATION

Marshall winners are notified by early December. You do not need to submit a separate application to your graduate program(s) of choice; the Marshall handles placement. **Please forward the status update to [SOP staff](#).**