



Are the UK Awards Right for Me?

Scholar Development and Fellowships Advising

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Agenda

- UK Vocabulary
- Overview of the Marshall, Rhodes, Gates, Fulbright UK
- Overview of selection criteria and other factors
- Campus Nomination Application Components
- Campus Nomination Timeline
- Letters of Recommendation
- FAQs
- Next Steps

We incorporate reflection questions throughout to help you assess whether the UK awards are right for you. At the end, we'll ask you to take an Interest Survey.

Let's talk UK vocabulary

When we say “(graduate) program,” they say “course”

- For example, “What course are you pursuing?”
- “A master’s in international development”
- When I refer to the “Marshall Course Finder” or “Marshall Course Tool,” it’s a platform to search for different graduate programs in the UK

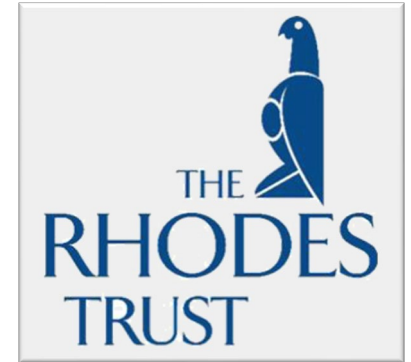
There are typically two types of master’s degrees in the UK:

- A Taught Master’s is more like what we offer here (course work followed by a master’s thesis). BUT, these are typically **12 months long** (nine months of classes, then 2-3 months for your thesis), not two years like in the US
- On a Research Master’s (or a Master’s by Research), you will jump into research much sooner. They are typically two years long.

United Kingdom=England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland

- Ireland is not part of the UK

GRADUATE
STUDY IN
THE UK



Marshall (campus nomination deadline: June 1)

- The [Marshall Scholarship](#) funds a graduate degree anywhere in UK for a two-year period (one-year Marshalls are not commonly granted). Interest in studying at universities other than Oxford, Cambridge and LSE are particularly welcomed. Most common paths:
 - One two-year degree
 - Two one-year degrees (why would someone want to pursue two master's degrees?)
- About 40 Marshall Scholars selected annually
- Open to United States citizens
- Apply as a rising senior or within two years of graduating
- Minimum GPA of 3.7. Requires campus nomination
 - Meet with us to discuss the nomination process!

Campus nomination is an internal process to select our applicants well in advance of the national deadline. The fellowship foundations require this level of institutional review.

Marshall

- In appointing Scholars the selectors look for candidates who have the potential to excel as scholars, as leaders, and as contributors to improved UK-US understanding.

How you “improve the world” will depend on your field and your career. This doesn’t mean you must be an activist!

- Strong candidates show initiative and commitment to larger issues through service, research, and engagement in efforts to **improve the world** and their communities both **on and beyond their campus**.
- Additionally, candidates should have a strong rationale for studying in the UK and an understanding of the research they will conduct in a specific graduate program.
- “Assessment will be based on [academic merit](#), [leadership potential](#) and [ambassadorial potential](#). Details of the criteria used for selection can be found [here](#).” (Marshall website)

Rhodes (campus deadline for US candidates: June 1)

- 32 [Rhodes Scholars](#) from the US selected annually
 - There are 2 Global Rhodes for non-US citizens
 - Certain other countries also support Rhodes scholar applicants
- Funds a graduate degree (or two) or second bachelor's degree at Oxford. Most common paths:
 - One two-year degree
 - Two one-year degrees
- Must be under 24 years of age on October 1 in the year of application, with some exceptions
- GPA of at least 3.7 required
- Famous Rhodes Scholars: Bill Clinton, Cory Booker, Pete Buttigieg, Rachel Maddow, Kris Kristofferson, Susan Rice, George Stephanopoulos, Bill Bradley, and many others
- Requires nomination—meet with us.

Rhodes

- “Rhodes Scholars are chosen not only for their outstanding scholarly achievements, but for their character, commitment to others and to the common good, and for their potential for leadership in whatever domains their careers may lead.” ([Rhodes website](#))
- Rhodes Scholars are “**Standing up for the World**”
 - **Reflection:** Take a minute to reflect on what might this look like for you, your field, and your career trajectory
- Leadership should not be just from campus
- Candidates should have a strong rationale for studying at Oxford and a solid understanding of the research they will conduct in a specific graduate program
- Rhodes requirement: No support in developing personal statement
 - What does this mean??

Gates Cambridge

- The [Gates Cambridge Scholarship](#) **does not require nomination**, but Fellowships Advising can guide you through the process
- Funds a graduate degree at Cambridge. Preference is given to applicants who intend to pursue a PhD at Cambridge.
- +/-90 new Scholarships awarded each year. US citizenship NOT required. (About 25 of the 90 awards go to US citizens.)
- [Selection criteria](#):
 - outstanding intellectual ability
 - leadership potential (the ability “to take others with them” is central to the Gates)
 - a commitment to improving the lives of others
 - a good fit between the applicant's qualifications and aspirations and the postgraduate program at Cambridge for which they are applying
 - preference for candidates intending to pursue a PhD at Cambridge



Program Award Types

You can apply for only one country and one program per cycle. The number of awards varies from year to year but tends to be in this range.

1,800+
Awards

140+
Countries Worldwide

There are 3 common paths for study/research grants:
1) An original research or arts project
2) A graduate degree grant
3) A combination of research and courses taken as a non-degree student
Art applicants follow one of these paths

A. Study/Research Grant

Independent research, study (graduate degree grant), or arts projects abroad



800+

Awards



6-12

Months



~140

Countries

★ [List of countries](#) that offer the graduate degree route

B. English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)

Help teach English and U.S. culture in the classroom



1,000+

Awards



8-10

Months



~75

Countries

★ Check out these [regional ETA grids](#) for a quick overview of your options



Fulbright UK

- Has a slightly different mission than the other awards: *To increase cultural understanding between people of the US and people of other countries through exchange*
- No age requirement. No GPA requirement. Must be US citizen.
- Offers over 40 [graduate degree grants in the UK](#). Funds only one year of your studies, but there are many one-year degrees in the UK. (NOTE: Fulbright offers study/research options in over 140 countries with +/- 1,800 awards annually, so you don't have to limit yourself to the UK.)
- **Leadership is seen a little differently for the Fulbright.** Since community engagement is critical to their mission, they are seeking candidates who have already been actively **engaged** with their community in the US.
- Fulbright really cares about your rationale for studying in the UK and the specific program you have chosen. Our candidates have been most successful when they find a course that they couldn't do in the US.
- Fulbright does not require campus nomination, only evaluation. Fulbright expects us to interview every applicant, **but we do not eliminate anyone.**
- Greater chance of selection with the Fulbright than the Rhodes, Marshall or Gates. We have 6-16 recipients of the Fulbright every year! We have been a Fulbright Top Producer five times in 10 years.



Where to Research UK Courses

As a reminder, what we call a “program” (like a graduate program), they call a “course” in the UK.

- **Marshall Course Finding Tool**: A searchable database of all graduate degree programs in the UK. I encourage students to use this for the Marshall, Rhodes, Gates, and Fulbright UK.
- **Reflection**: When considering how to spend your first and second years, reflect on how the two degrees connect to your career trajectory. For example, perhaps an English major would pursue a one-year English master’s, and then a one-year History master’s to focus on her historical period of literary concentration. A biology major might pursue a one-year master’s in epidemiology, followed by a one-year master’s of health policy. What ideas do you have?

We can’t stress enough how important your program selection is. Spend time finding courses (programs) that are an excellent fit for your academic and career trajectory, and that add some element that would be hard for you to achieve here.



Are these fellowships a good fit for you? Let's look at common traits of strong applicants.

- Academic Excellence
- Leadership
- Service to Others
- Ambassadorial Potential
- Communication Skills
- Fit

Basic Criteria for the UK Awards: Academic Excellence

Academic excellence

- All competitive fellowships are looking for students who have done well in the classroom, and **all** nominees will have high GPAs. Besides GPA, they are looking for passion and dedication to a field/discipline as well as intellectual curiosity. This could be demonstrated by a combination of these:
 - Undergraduate research
 - If you have the option to write a senior thesis, Honors thesis or a capstone, take it.
 - Participation in programs like LAURA, Diamond Research Scholars, CARAS, and national research programs like an NSF REU, Leadership Alliance, etc.
 - Presenting your research on campus, but also at regional or national conferences
 - Research is not required, but is common among strong applicants
 - Upper-level coursework outside your major, and even outside your school
 - Strong applicants tend to have an issue (in society, in their field, in their community) that they are taking on as a student and hope to take on in their career. So, they strive to learn about from multiple perspectives (for example, a public health major who takes sociology and community development classes to learn more about different aspects of community and culture on health)
 - **Reflection:** What issue drives you, and what have you done to learn about this issue through your coursework and/or research?

Basic Criteria for the UK Awards: Leadership

Leadership

- Have you delivered results from a position of leadership - whether by **organizing**, **mobilizing** or **influencing** others? Is there evidence that you **identified a problem or gap**, and then **initiated** something to address that gap? Was the solution sustained? Are there **tangible** outcomes? Can you explain what changed as a result of your involvement in something?
 - Review our [advice on Leadership Essays](#) to understand what you might be asked to write and how to do so
- These awards are looking for applicants who can point to **action** and then **tangible change or results** due to their leadership. **Strong candidates have leadership experience that extends beyond campus.**
- **Reflection: Do an inventory of all your experiences, and ask yourself how you have influenced or inspired others, or implemented or initiated solutions to identified gaps/problems.**
 - Connect the dots: What issue in your field, community or elsewhere do you hope to take on in your career? Can you connect your leadership to that issue in some way?
 - Did any of these experiences take you off campus? Off-campus leadership and/or engagement is typical of strong candidates.
- Are you early in your Temple career? Meet with me to brainstorm approaches to leadership.

Basic Criteria for the UK Awards: Service to Others

Service to Others

- Can you show a commitment to serving others and using your talents for positive societal contribution? Can you show actions that help to improve the lives of others?
- **Reflection:** Do an inventory of experiences that highlight how you have served your community (“community” broadly defined). These may be connected to your “issue,” but they can also highlight other interests as well.
 - Note: There may be some overlap with your leadership experience, but you want to be sure to have more than one experience (in other words, one leadership experience that involved serving the community will probably not suffice).

Basic Criteria for the UK Awards: Ambassadorial Potential

Ambassadorial potential

- How will you share your US culture in your host country, and build on your experience in the UK when you return to the US (this is particularly important for the Marshall and the Fulbright). How will you engage with your host country in a meaningful, sustained way?
- **Reflection**: Think of times when you have dealt with people of different cultures or backgrounds. This can be from study abroad, but also here in Philly or even on campus. How did you engage with them? How did you share your culture? What did you learn from theirs?
 - How could you continue this level of engagement in your host community abroad? Or are there new activities you would like to participate in to help you engage with the new culture and community?

Basic Criteria for the UK Awards: Communication Skills

Communication

- While this is not a formal selection criterion, excellent written and oral communication skills are needed to prepare a strong written application and to perform well in an interview
- **Tips:**
 - Take writing intensive courses, and if your major has an option for a senior capstone, go for it
 - Write as much as you can, in and out of class
 - Read extensively and broadly
 - Accept or find opportunities to speak publicly
 - Campus, regional, or national conferences
 - Be that person in class who summarizes what your group discussed
 - Represent your department or school at campus events

Basic Criteria for Competitive Scholarships and Fellowships: Fit

Fit

- Most funding organizations have a stated mission or goal for the fellowship. Your candidacy is as much about your record as it is about the “fit” (how well your goals and trajectory align with the organization’s).
- For example, the Rhodes/Marshall/Gates/Fulbright really care about how the academic program you’re interested in the UK is a uniquely good fit for your academic and career trajectory.
 - Could you easily pursue the same master’s degree in the US and have a similar experience? Then keep looking! Often our strong candidates find niche programs that don’t exist in the US, or find unique concentrations and research opportunities in their UK programs
- I’ve worked with students with a 4.0 GPA who are not a good fit. Can you explain why?

— Campus Nomination Application Components

Before you begin: Meet with Barbara Gorka in advance of the campus deadline to review your candidacy and to discuss the process

Components of the Campus Application:

- Campus waiver
- Three references, at a minimum
- List of additional references
- Series of short essays (Issue, Motivation, Leadership, Proposed Academic Programs, Preparation, Future Plans, and optional Additional Information)
- Resume
- Unofficial transcripts

Campus Nomination Timeline

For Rhodes and Marshall:

- **Campus Application Deadline:** June 1
- **Campus Interviews:** Early to mid-June
- **Completed Scholarship Essay(s):** Any time up to August 1. This is when you will learn if you are a nominee
- **National Deadlines:** Mid-September to early October

Review the Campus Application guidance for details about this timeline

For Fulbright (Fulbright does not require nomination, only evaluation!):

- **Campus Deadline:** Early September
- **National Deadline:** Early October

Letters of Recommendation: How Many

For the **campus application** (Rhodes/Marshall), we need three letters, and one of them should focus on leadership. You may choose to submit additional letters, but we require three. This is a summary of **the total number** of references you need to apply:

- **Fulbright:** Three references
- **Gates:** One reference (this is because two other academic letters go directly to the department)
- **Marshall:** Three references (one should focus on leadership)
- **Rhodes:** Five to eight references (at least one should focus on leadership and character)

Letters of Recommendation: Who?

Letters of reference

- Select your reference writers carefully. Discuss with Fellowships Advising.
- [Review this guidance](#) on how to ask for a letter and what information to provide to letter writers. For example:
 - Be sure to give them information about the fellowship. Explain to them why you are applying, and how the experience fits with your academic/career trajectory. Offer to meet with them before they write the letter.
 - Give them a draft of your application essay in advance of the deadline.
 - Provide [this advice](#) specifically for letter writers.
- Give them at least one month to prepare the letter
- **What if I'm not sure the person I'm asking will say yes?**
 - Give your letter writer an out. Here's a sample approach: "I am applying for X. They have asked for recommendation letters to be sent by X date. You know my work well from our past experience X, so I was wondering if you would be able to write a strong letter of recommendation for me. I know that you have a lot going on right now, so I understand if the timing does not work."
- There are more FAQs like this on our [Recommendation guidance](#) page.

FAQs

Do these fellowships favor specific majors?

- Not necessarily.
- Tip: Read profiles of past/current recipients on the websites of fellowships you're interested in. You will notice the breadth of academic and career interests.

Can I apply after I graduate from Temple?

- Yes! Most of our recent recipients have been alumni at the time of application. Fellowships Advising works with alumni.

What if my GPA is below a 3.7?

- Among the fellowships mentioned today, the Fulbright is most open to applicants with a wide range of GPAs. We've had Fulbright study/research recipients from a 3.4 to 4.0.

Do I need to have a plan for my future career?

- In general, yes. You need to be able to “connect the dots” among your past, present, and future plans (“future” as it relates to the fellowship, but also to your short- and long-term plans).
- You need a vision for what you hope to achieve in your career and a general plan on how you're going to make that happen

Next Steps

Take [this UK Awards Survey](#) to show your interest in applying and to indicate that you've reviewed these slides

Intend to apply now or in the future?

- [Schedule a time](#) to meet with Barbara Gorka

General questions

- fellowshipsadvising@temple.edu or barbara.gorka@temple.edu

[Fellowships newsletter](#)

[LinkedIn Fellowships Advising Group](#)

**[Fellowships Advising on Instagram](#)
(@templefellowships)**

