Are you interested in pursuing advanced graduate study in the U.K. or Ireland?

Do you dream of doing cutting edge biology with Cambridge scientists working in Darwin’s footsteps? Of building bridges between America and its British allies? Of digging your way through the Anti-Slavery Society’s Collections in Oxford’s Bodleian Library? Of playwriting at Trinity College Dublin’s Oscar Wilde Centre?

Today, there are many fellowships available that can help make doing graduate work in the U.K. or Ireland possible. In this brochure, you’ll find all the information you need to figure out what fellowships and programs might be a good fit for you and how to make your way through the application process.

It goes without saying that these awards are highly competitive and there are no guarantees that you’ll win one. Quite the opposite, in fact. The process is relatively long and requires introspection, self-examination, out-of-the-classroom thinking and lots work on your part. Though it can be an arduous process, a vast majority of students who do end up applying for a fellowship find it to be intellectually and emotionally satisfying.

We hope you will consider throwing your hat in the ring this year.
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What Is It?

The Rhodes Scholarship is the oldest and most well-known of the U.K. fellowships. The Scholarships were established in 1903, at the behest of Cecil Rhodes, an industrialist and imperialist, who “dreamed of improving the world” by bringing together scholars at Oxford to study. Improved by their education and exposure to one another, these scholars would return to their communities, ready to fight the world’s fight.

The Rhodes is a graduate scholarship for two years of study at the University of Oxford. Rhodes Scholars may pursue any full-time graduate course offered by the University, whether a taught Master’s program or research degree. University and College fees are paid by the Rhodes Trust. Scholars also receive a monthly maintenance stipend to cover accommodation and living expenses.

Who Wins?

Each year, 32 U. S. citizens win the Rhodes, taking up degree courses at Oxford. The four criteria by which prospective Rhodes Scholars are selected are character, initiative, civic-mindedness, and an ability to make a significant difference in the world.

While good grades are important, Brown’s Rhodes winners have been those students who have been able to make significant cases for themselves as “change-makers.” While there used to be an athletic component, the committee has expanded the criterion to include such activities as hiking. The selection committees seek candidates who are truly outstanding, in mind and person, and promise to be effective, long-term world leaders. The Rhodes Scholarships, in short, are investments in individuals.

Brown Nomination Required.

Application Materials

- Personal Statement (1,000 Words)
- Activities List (2 Pages)
- 5-8 Recommendation Letters (At Least 4 Academic)
- Transcripts

Important Dates & To-Do’s

April 4: Info Session
April 16 & May 1: “Getting Started” Workshops
April - June: Research Oxford, Get Faculty Advice, Request Letters
June - July: Prepare Application, Submit Drafts for Feedback
August 5: Campus Deadline
September: Feedback & Workshops
Early October: Official Deadline
Early November: Mock Interviews
November 22 & 23: Interviews
December: Awards Announced

Resources

http://www.rhodesscholar.org/
Each year up to 40 Scholarships are awarded. Marshall selectors look for distinction of intellect and character as evidenced by significant achievements, scholarly and otherwise. The Marshall seeks students who can make deep and meaningful contributions to society. The Marshall places more emphasis on the presentation of a specific and realistic academic program of study than the Rhodes does. Candidates must indicate two universities they would like to attend: a first and second choice university.


What Is It?

The Marshall Scholarships were founded by an Act of Parliament in 1953. They serve both as a living memorial to US Secretary of State George C Marshall, the creator of the Marshall Plan, and as a testament to the gratitude of the British to the American people.

The Marshall enables intellectually distinguished young Americans, their country’s future leaders, to study in the U.K. in order to gain an understanding and appreciation of contemporary Britain and ultimately act as ambassadors between the USA and the U.K. The award is also designed to promote the personal and academic fulfillment of each Scholar. To this end, scholarships provide winners with two fully funded years of study, with a possible third-year extension, at any university in the United Kingdom in nearly any field of study.

Who Wins?

The Rhodes

THE MARSHALL

The Churchill

The Gates Cambridge

The Craig Cambridge

The Mitchell

The Fulbright

Application Materials

- Personal Essay (1,000 Words)
- Short Essays, including future plans
- Statement of Program
- 4 Recommendation Letters (3 Academic)
- Transcripts

Important Dates & To-Do’s

April 4: Info Session

April 16 & May 1: “Getting Started” Workshops

April - June: Research Programs, Get Faculty Advice, Request Letters

June - July: Prepare Application, Submit Drafts for Feedback

August 5: Campus Deadline

September: Feedback & Workshops

Early October: Official Deadline

Early November: Mock Interviews

November 5-14: Finalist Interviews

December: Awards Announced

Resources

http://www.marshallscholarship.org
The Awards
The Rhodes
The Marshall
**THE CHURCHILL**
The Gates Cambridge
The Craig Cambridge
The Mitchell
The Fulbright

What Is It?
The Churchill Scholarship offers seniors and recent graduates of exceptional ability and outstanding achievement in engineering, mathematics, or the sciences the opportunity to pursue graduate work at Cambridge. One of the newer colleges at Cambridge, Churchill College was built as the national and Commonwealth tribute to Sir Winston, who in the years after World War II championed science and technology as central to the prosperity and security of liberal democracies. The first award was granted in 1963. Churchill Scholars have become leaders in a wide range of fields, from finance to pharmaceuticals, working in university laboratories as well as industry.

The Scholarship provides support for a one-year degree, at Cambridge University. The Scholarship covers all University and College fees and provides for living expenses as well as a small travel grant.

Who Wins?
At least 14 scholars are selected nationwide each year. The Churchill is an award exclusively for those in the sciences, engineering, or mathematics. Churchill Scholars who are ready to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in these fields by pursuing original, creative work at an advanced level as demonstrated by awards, prizes, research, and letters of recommendation. While applicants should demonstrate outstanding personal qualities, they need not be “well-rounded” but can possess “interesting jagged edges.”

Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Upon taking up the scholarship, winners must be between the ages of 19 and 26, hold a bachelor’s degree and may not have attained a doctorate. There is no minimum GPA, but Scholars usually have a GPA between 3.7 and 3.9 or above.

You must apply separately for entry into Cambridge University.
Brown Nomination Required.

Application Materials
- Application to Cambridge University
- Personal Statement
- Research Plan
- Future Plans
- 3 Recommendation Letters
- Transcripts

Important Dates & To-Do’s
May - August: Research Cambridge Programs, Get Faculty & Fellowship Advice, Request Letters
August - October: Prepare Application, Submit Drafts for Feedback
October: Cambridge Deadline
October 21: Campus Deadline
October - November: Feedback
November - December: Official Deadline
January: Awards Announced

Resources
http://www.winstonchurchillfoundation.org/
What Is It?

The Gates Cambridge Scholarships are highly competitive full-cost scholarships awarded to outstanding applicants from outside the U.K. to pursue a postgraduate degree in any subject at the University of Cambridge. In many ways similar to the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships, as all three emphasize intellectual ability, leadership and civic-mindedness, the Gates Cambridge differs in that it provides funding for postgraduate study at the University for the duration of the degree. The award includes all tuition costs, a maintenance allowance and return airfare. The Scholarship was founded in 2001 with a $210 million gift by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, whose major philanthropic foci are: health, equity, technology, and learning. The aim of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship is to build a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others.

Who Wins?

Each year, 90 new scholarships are awarded, with 40 typically going to US citizens and 50 to citizens of all other countries (except the U.K.). The Scholarships are awarded on the following criteria:

- intellectual ability
- leadership capacity
- a person’s desire to use their knowledge to contribute to society throughout the world by providing service to their communities and applying their talents and knowledge to improve the lives of others
- a good fit between the abilities and aspirations of the applicant and what the University of Cambridge can offer in its graduate program.

Scholars are expected to become leaders in their fields and give back to society in ways that they are best placed to do so.

Just as with the Churchill Scholarship, interested students must apply separately for and earn entry into Cambridge University.

Application Materials

- Application to Cambridge University
- Personal Statement
- Short Essays
- 3 Letters of Reference (2 Academic)
- Transcripts

Important Dates & To-Do’s

May - August: Research Cambridge Programs, Get Faculty & Fellowship Advice, Request Letters
August - October: Prepare Application, Submit Drafts for Feedback
Early October: Cambridge Deadline
October 15: Gates National Deadline
February: Finalist Interviews
March: Awards Announced

Resources

http://www.gatesscholar.org/
**The Craig Cambridge Fellowship** is an internal Brown University Fellowship established by Charles Craig ’72, who studied at Selwyn College, University of Cambridge after graduating from Brown. The Craig Cambridge Fellowship provides an opportunity for one graduating senior or recent graduate to pursue a Master’s Degree (M.Phil) in any field at the University of Cambridge as a resident of Selwyn College.

The scholarship covers tuition, matriculation and laboratory costs, travel, and room and board at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

**Who Wins?**

Each year, one of these awards is given. The successful candidate will demonstrate academic distinction, particularly in his or her field of study, service to Brown and the surrounding community, leadership, and character. He or she will have a compelling reason for wanting to study at Cambridge and be an excellent match for the program of study for which he or she is applying at Cambridge.

*Just as with the Churchill and Gates Scholarships, interested students must apply separately for and earn entry into Cambridge University. The must list Selwyn College as their first choice of residential college on their University of Cambridge application.*

**Application Materials**

- Application to Cambridge University
- Personal Statement
- Program Statement
- A Complete C.V.
- 3 Letters of Reference (2 Academic)
- Transcripts

**Important Dates & To-Do’s**

- **May - August**: Research Cambridge Programs, Get Faculty & Fellowship Advice, Request Letters
- **August - October**: Prepare Application, Submit Drafts for Feedback
- **Early October**: Cambridge Deadline
- **November 8**: Campus Deadline
- **March**: Awards Announced

**Resources**

[http://www.brown.edu/academics/college/fellowships/fellowships_at_brown/detail/craig_cambridge](http://www.brown.edu/academics/college/fellowships/fellowships_at_brown/detail/craig_cambridge)
What Is It?

The Mitchell Scholarship is named after former US Senator George Mitchell, the current envoy to the Middle East and the man whose diplomatic work was pivotal to the Northern Ireland peace process. In honoring Mitchell, the award is designed to introduce and connect generations of future American leaders to the island of Ireland, while recognizing and fostering intellectual achievement, leadership, and a commitment to community and public service. The award provides for one year of postgraduate study in any discipline offered by institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In addition to tuition, the Mitchell Scholarship provides for accommodations, a $12,000 living expenses stipend, and an international travel stipend.

Who Wins?

Each year, up to twelve Mitchell Scholars between the ages of 18 and 30 are chosen for the Mitchell. Candidates must be U.S. citizens. This is an award for graduating seniors, as well as recent alumni. While there is no minimum GPA, candidates should be poised to make an impact in their field of study.

A sustained commitment to serve community and country, along with the characteristics of intellectual distinction, leadership, integrity, excellence, and fairness are the qualities sought in Mitchell Scholars.

Brown Nomination Required.

Application Materials

- Personal Statement
- Program Statement
- 5 Letters of Reference (At Least 3 Academic)
- Transcripts

Important Dates & To-Do’s

April 4: Information Session
May - August: Research Irish Programs, Get Faculty & Fellowship Advice, Request Letters
June - August: Prepare Application, Submit Drafts for Feedback
August 5: Campus Deadline
September: Feedback & Workshops
October: National Deadline
November: Finalist Mock Interviews
November 22 & 23: Finalist Interviews
December: Awards announced

Resources

http://www.us-irelandalliance.org/
There will be approximately 40 U.K. Fulbrights in all-disciplines offered in the 2014/2015 cycle to US citizens. There will be 3 Irish Fulbrights, one full grant, one taught masters, and one Irish language award.

The Fulbright Program is looking not only for candidates with intellectual ability, but also those with ambassadorial skills, evidence of cultural sensitivity, a genuine desire to learn about their host country and to share American culture. Candidates should also possess wide-ranging interests, leadership potential, and a desire to further the Fulbright Program and give back to their home country upon returning. You must be a US citizen resident anywhere except the U.K., and hold or expect to receive a Bachelor’s degree before departure to the U.K.

Candidates apply to the university and/or program they wish to attend directly. The Fulbright is contingent upon acceptance there.

Brown Review Required.

The Fulbright Scholarship was established by the United States Department of State in 1946 “to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” Scholars should expect to serve as ambassadors of the United States and to have a transformative cultural experience. It is named after Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, who was the longest serving chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Fulbright Scholarship for Study in the U.K. provides funds for the first year of Master’s or PhD study in any subject, at any accredited U.K. university.

The Fulbright Scholarship for Study in Ireland provides funds for the first year of Master’s or PhD study at any accredited Irish university.

Unlike Fulbright awards to most countries, the Fulbright to the U.K. is primarily a study grant for a degree.

Who Wins?

What Is It?

The Awards

The Rhodes
The Marshall
The Churchill
The Gates Cambridge
The Craig Cambridge
The Mitchell

THE FULBRIGHT

Application Materials

- Application form
- Project Proposal (2 pages)
- Personal Statement (1 page)
- Short Essay Questions
- Other Information
- 3 Recommendation Letters (At Least 2 Academic)
- Transcripts

Important Dates & To-Do’s

April 11: Fulbright Orientation
April 17 & May 7: Getting Started Workshops
April-June: Research Universities & Programs, Get Faculty & Fellowship Advice, Request Letters
June-August: Prepare Application, Submit Drafts for Feedback
August 26: Campus Deadline
September: Feedback & Workshops
October 15: National Deadline
March - May: Finalists Announced
March-May: Awards announced

Resources

http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html
In this section, we will take you through what you can expect to happen during the application process, in general, while also giving you an overview of the materials you can expect to provide for most fellowship applications.

The first step in any application process is deciding what fellowship you are interested in pursuing. Hopefully, the overviews you’ve just read have given you some insight into what each award offers, who usually wins, as well as important information to keep in mind about the applications.

The most important thing to do when figuring out which fellowship is right for you involves identifying your interests, talents, and future plans. Rather than thinking simply about winning an award, consider:

- What do I want to study? And for which course of study am I best prepared?
- Who is doing interesting work in my field and where are they doing it?
- What do I want to be doing in ten, fifteen or twenty years?
- What place and program can best help me achieve these long-term goals?

When you’ve sorted through these questions, finding the right fellowship for your life and goals, as well as the process of applying for it is much easier.

To help you in this process, you should attend information sessions about the Rhodes and Marshall and Fulbright. At these events, you will be able to speak directly to an informed party about the respective awards. Consult, too, with professors and mentors with whom you’ve worked closely for advice. Dean Linda Dunleavy in the Dean of the College Office can also offer you advice about these fellowships and programs in the U.K.

For the most up-to-date specific information about these opportunities, consult the Dean of the College Fellowship website. You will find links there to the websites of each award program and you should explore these pages. Remember, Brown is rich in resources of staff and faculty who are here to help you prepare the strongest possible applications.

You should begin to have a good sense of what fellowships you want to apply for towards the end of your junior year. Many applications are due in August before the start of your senior year, so you will need the summer between junior and senior year to work on your materials.

Having selected a fellowship or fellowships, download and read
the applications, making note of what materials each application requires. Typically the applications become available for download in the early part of the summer; if the current application is not available, look at the previous year’s.

In May or June, you should also begin identifying and contacting the people you would like to serve as your recommenders. The more lee time you can give them the better. Because of the summer deadlines, it is important to ask your referees at least 2 or 3 weeks before the end of the spring semester. You should schedule a meeting with each referee to discuss your plans for the fellowship and talk about the possibility of them writing on your behalf.

Having picked one or a few fellowships to pursue, it is now time for APPLICATION SUMMER. To do well in the hunt for one of these competitive awards, expect to spend a good chunk of time drafting, revising and compiling your materials. The process of preparing a compelling application takes time, real time. Without exception, all of Brown’s recent award winners have committed to the process in this way.

So what will you be working on during the summer? Though applications differ—and you must do the legwork to know what exactly each fellowship requires and when things are due—there are a number of items that typically make their way into all of these fellowship packets. We will list them here and go into more detail about what each item entails more thoroughly later on in our guide.

The items are:

- A Personal Essay
- An Activities List or CV
- A Program Proposal or Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- The Application Itself

In order to complete these pieces, you will need to stick to a relatively tight schedule.

June is the time for you to draft the essays for each application including the personal statement, the program proposal, and any required short essays. Once you have completed drafts of these essays, submit them to the Fellowship Proctor or Dean Dunleavy for feedback. The Dean’s Office encourages you to submit drafts of essays, ask questions, and request advice and information. Trusted mentors in and outside of your field of study can also serve as valuable sounding boards.

It can be useful to identify people with whom you would be interested in working in the U.K. and Ireland, and now would be a good time to learn about and potentially contact those people.

Establishing contact with a potential mentor in the U.K. is not required for these fellowship applications, but it can be useful to be in touch with people in order to learn about their research and if a given program would really be the right fit.

A number of awards are contingent upon acceptance into one of the U.K. or Irish universities. At this time, it is critical that you begin the separate applications to Cambridge for the
Churchill, Gates, and Craig, as well as any applications to U.K. or Irish universities for the Fulbright.

**During July**, it is time to revise, revise, and revise some more.

Attend workshops and work with your advisors and the Fellowship Proctor. Incorporate the feedback you have received into your essays.

As July moves along, follow-up with your recommenders to tell them about any changes you've made to your application and to remind them about approaching deadlines.

This is a good time for taking care of other aspects of your application, like preparing your activities list and/or C.V. and ordering any copies of your transcript that you need.

Many applications also require a passport photo, so get that taken care of when you can.

In early August, you must submit your application materials for many of these awards to the Brown Committee.

**During September**, if your application has moved forward through Brown’s Internal Evaluation you will need to revise and polish your application materials using feedback from the committee and Dean Dunleavy.

The Fellowship Office will host workshops and provide advice for those whose applications have advanced. If you are on campus, you should plan on attending at least one of these sessions. Past applicants have found these small seminars enormously useful venues for thinking about their essays.

In October, sign, seal, and send your completed fellowship materials, as well as any separate University application materials you might have.

**By late October/early November**, Several Fellowship foundations—Rhodes, Marshall and Mitchell—will notify the candidates they will interview. At Brown, these applicants will be given mock interviews. Real interviews will follow in mid-late November.

For several Fellowships, award winners are announced in December.
Applying for Multiple Fellowships

CLUSTERING

If you have identified a program you like at a particular institution, we encourage you to maximize your opportunities to succeed!

**Apply for all of the U.K. fellowships that support the study program you want to do.**

Create a cluster of applications.

If you would like to study at Oxford, for example, apply for the Rhodes, Marshall, and Fulbright.

If you have identified a program at Cambridge, apply for the Marshall, Gates, Churchill (if you are a math, science, or engineering student), Craig, and Fulbright.

If you want to study at Queen’s University in Belfast, apply for the Marshall, the Mitchell, and the Fulbright to the U.K.

SCHEDULING YOUR WORK

Because the core materials for so many of the applications are similar, it makes sense to apply for multiple awards. If you’re going to be applying for multiple awards, we recommend that you work on them in the following order. This order is based both on the application deadlines and the type and volume of work involved.

1. **Marshall:** Because the Marshall application requires the most writing, we recommend that any student whose portfolio of fellowship applications includes the Marshall work on that application first.

2. **Rhodes:** The Rhodes is similar to the Marshall, but without the program proposal. The challenge here is fitting a short discussion and the program proposal into the 1,000 word personal statement and in the process losing some of the words in the personal statement you may have prepared for the Marshall application. The Activities List is a demanding project as well. Keep in mind that you also need to set up 8 letters of recommendation for the Rhodes, twice as many as for the Marshall.

3. **Mitchell:** This application has an early deadline and requires 5 letters of recommendation.

4. **Fulbright:** Similar to the Rhodes and Marshall though the project proposal essay is longer and the personal statement is shorter.

5. **Churchill, Craig, and Gates:** These applications all require that candidates apply to the University of Cambridge separately.
The Personal Essay

The word essay comes from the French word “to try” or “to attempt.” A personal essay, then, is an attempt to put a picture of yourself into words. No small task, it is not surprising that producing a compelling paper version of themselves strikes many applicants as the most difficult part of the application process. While there is no secret way to produce a good personal essay, there are a number of things that you can strive to emulate in order to make your essay successful and a number of pitfalls to avoid.

A good first step when approaching this essay is to consider the fellowship for which you are applying. Read the essay question! What attributes, in particular, is this award emphasizing? While the awards are similar, depending on the selection criteria, you will want to emphasize different things about yourself in each one. The Rhodes, for example, tends to emphasize leadership and active involvement in the significant issues of our day; an award like the Marshall shades a bit more towards candidates who demonstrate their intellectual and academic depth and development.

Having thought about what the selection committees are seeking, it is critical now to begin asking questions of yourself. Before you begin writing an essay take some time to consider and answer the following questions in prose detail:

- What has your experience growing up been? How has that shaped who you are and what you care about?
- How did you first become interested in what you’re interested in?
- Describe a moment when you demonstrated bravery? When you failed?
- In what moment did you feel most powerful, scared, intrigued, inspired? Why?
- Where do you see yourself in ten, fifteen, fifty years?

By answering these questions, you will be doing two important things: one, getting started writing and two, thinking about what it means “to be personal.” Use your answers to these questions to begin constructing a story about you, future fellowship award winner: Who you are, what do you care about, where you come from, where you are going, and most importantly why should the people reading your essay want to meet you in person (and give you this award).

One easy, if silly sounding, thing to do is to imagine yourself as a character in a novel. How does a successful writer, like Jane Austen, let readers know that a character has character? Typically, a good author will put a character through some sort of trial or scenario, one that allows readers to see the best (and worst) of that fictional person. Use events and actions to give readers a sense of who you are through how you behave. In a novel, too, you’ll expect to see descriptive detail about a character’s life, portraits of where they live, what they look like, how they’re dressed, what they eat, what they say and how they sound. By providing us with this descriptive detail, authors enable us to see
where characters are coming from not just physically but also intellectually and emotionally. Hence the old adage: **show, don’t tell.**

The advantages of this narrative approach are many. First and foremost, showing, rather than telling, enables you to present a formidable case that you deserve to win an award without explicitly stating, “I deserve this award.” It is important to take on the pose of humility even if you do not actually possess it.

Another advantage of this method is that it forces you to avoid the **most common personal essay mistake:** namely, writing a narrative C.V., i.e., “I did this and this and this and this.” You have a very limited amount of space within the application to make a big impression. Rather than replicating information that the committee will already have seen elsewhere, pick a moment or two out of your experience that provides insight into **who you are** and **what you value.** Your essay shouldn’t come out of left field and seem unrelated to your ambitions or proposed course of study; rather each portion of your application should tell the selection committee something distinct.

As you write, there are a few other important things to keep in mind. First and foremost? **Be honest.** On a practical level, don’t lie, don’t exaggerate. On a metaphysical level, don’t be flip. Try to communicate some form of the truth about what you want, how you think, and for an essay like the Rhodes, how you are going to “fight the world’s fight.”

Similarly, you should try to avoid writing about how great Oxford is and how terrific the fellowship you are applying for is. The people reading your essay know this already – they’ve been there and earned it. You only have a limited amount of space in your essay.

**Remember, tone is important.** When writing about your academic work in your personal essay, assume an educated audience, if not one entirely fluent in your field. When discussing your politics, toe the line between needlessly inflammatory and obsequiously fawning and non-committal. You won’t know what your readers politics are, but assume that they’ve come to their conclusions rationally and in good faith.

Don’t let your ego get in the way of your success. In order to compete for an award, you must be willing and able to **write and revise** your essay many times. Solicit criticisms from people you trust and respect and be open to and incorporate their feedback. Come to the workshops the Fellowship Office offers, and work with the Fellowship Proctor one-on-one for more granular advice on your essay.

Finally, successful personal essays are as individual as the people who craft them, but if you need some models, there are a number of winning essays available for you to look at in the Fellowship Office, University Hall, Suite 213.
The Project Statement/Proposal

Most U.K. fellowships want you to identify a program or course of study that will help you move forward in your academic work and overall life plan. In addition to naming a program and a potential mentor in that program, you should be able to say something specific about the kind of focus your work would take there. This can be in the form of an anticipated thesis topic, mentors, the types of seminars you would take, and/or the guiding question that will shape your work within the program.

It is important when writing a persuasive program statement that you thoroughly research the university and programs to which you are applying. Knowing what assets each department possess, who is doing what research, and how you can take advantage of all the school offers will make your proposal more compelling. If you could do your research anywhere, why send you to study specifically in that department at that U.K. University?

Your proposal will answer the following questions in clear succinct prose:

- What is the focus of my work in this program?
- Why is it interesting?
- Why you?
- Who cares?

Let’s discuss what each of these items means. First, the focus of your research and why it’s interesting. Because you have spent approximately 4 years studying a particular field, you should have a sense of the problems and question with which you hope to most seriously engage.

If you’re unsure of how you want to move forward in graduate study, speak with your professors, advisors and your fellow students about what related research areas seem most promising, read the professional journals of your particular discipline and get a sense of “what’s happening.”

Next, the task is making a convincing case for why you, in particular, must do this research, in this particular place, with these particular people. This means detailing your previous experience—be it writing a thesis, doing laboratory work, conducting anthropological studies—in the field. Try to narrate your intellectual experience in such a way that your undertaking seems like a natural progression of the work you have done so far. The expectation is not that you will be an accomplished and polished scholar, but that you will be on your way to becoming one.

Your program proposal should include a brief discussion of the contributions pursuing this program will have on your development and future plans. Describe how you...
envision your work in this program enhancing your plan to make a difference in the field you are pursuing and, particularly for the awards that emphasize leadership, like the Rhodes, Marshall, and Gates, how you envision your work in this program leading to your ability to make a positive impact on the world.

Letters of Recommendation

Your letters of recommendation are one of the most significant pieces of your application. They are also one of the aspects of your application over which you exercise the least control, as you are not writing them. That said, there are a number of things you can do to ensure that your letters do good work on your behalf.

The most important aspect of getting good recommendation letters is finding the right people to write them for you. Right does not mean that your recommendations need to come from Nobel Laureates, however. Your recommendations should be from those who know you and your abilities well and can speak, from direct experience with you, about your successes and potential. If one of the most important activities is your work to improve disabilities services at Brown, a letter from Brown’s Director of Student and Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS) is important. Think of your application as a unified whole in which all parts work together; your letters should support and amplify other parts of the application. That said, it is always useful to have recommendations, particularly academic ones, from professors rather than Teaching Assistants.

If you’ve gained the attention of an important person in your field, all the better for you.

In order for a recommender to write a good recommendation, they are going to need help, in the form of time and information, from you. When you know that you are going to be applying for a fellowship, schedule an appointment with your potential referee and ask them if they would support your candidacy if they agreed, give them the materials they need. Provide the following materials to your referees:

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Sir,

Some recent work by E. Fermi and L. Szilard, which has been communicated to me in manuscript, leads me to expect that the element uranium may be turned into a new and important source of energy in the immediate future. Certain aspects of the situation which has arisen seem to call for watchfulness and, if necessary, quick action on the part of the Administration. I believe therefore that it is my duty to bring to your attention the following facts and recommendations:

In the course of the last four months it has been made probable – through the work of Joliot in France as well as Fermi and Szilard in America – that it may become possible to set up a nuclear chain reaction in a large mass of uranium, by which vast amounts of power and large quantities of new elements could be produced.
• The recommendation form itself. In most cases, referees may write the letter on their own letterhead, but they might also need to include the form. If someone is writing multiple letters for you, make sure you emphasize that each fellowship needs to have its own letter specific to the application and addressed to that foundation or appropriate committee at Brown.

• The deadline.

• To whom the letter(s) should be addressed (individual or committee, relevant titles, address).

• Specific information about where the letter needs to be sent. If the letter needs to be uploaded to UFunds and later to the program’s online website, provide the referees with all the relevant information. You can find the specific forms for the Rhodes, Marshall, and Fulbright referees on the Fellowships @ Brown website.

• A description of the fellowship and your specific project or program within it. Ideally, your letters of recommendation speak to your suitability for the fellowship. Referees need to understand the nature of the award to write strong letters of support.

• A copy of your fellowship essay. If your referees can read the essays and perhaps even discuss them with you, their letters will be more forceful and germane. You might also take this opportunity to ask for their feedback on your essays.

• The resume and/or activities list you plan to submit as part of your application.

• Reminders of any relevant work you did with your referees or under their direction, including papers, presentations, and research projects.

Be in touch with your recommenders should any of your plans change and to remind them of approaching deadlines.

Though it has many names – Curriculum Vitae, resume, activities list -- this portion of your application serves one essential function: to provide a quick overview of you and your accomplishments for those who read it. Some applications may ask for more depth than others, so again, be prepared to read directions and adjust your materials accordingly.

For the most part, resumes should include the following:

• Your name and contact information.
• **Your education.** State the highest degree you have earned, the institution where the degree was granted, date of (anticipated) graduation, the level of degree and field), any minors, and your GPA.

• Your academic achievements, including any awards you have won and descriptions of any research projects (including conference papers and publications)

• Your work experience, including the name and address of jobs, the dates of employment, your title and a description of your responsibilities.

• Your “other” extracurricular activities, including service commitments, leadership, art-making, athletic accomplishments. Be sure to include relevant information about the organizations with whom you worked, the dates and duration of activities, as well as a short description.

When writing a resume or C.V., readability and concision often trump proper English. One typical practice is called “gapping.” “Gapping” is the use of incomplete sentences (normally frowned upon) in order to get your points across quickly and clearly. Rather than writing, “Organizers asked me to participate in the AIDS Walk so that I could fundraise money for HIV awareness” you would write “Fundraised $400 for HIV Awareness in AIDS Walk.” Use action verbs and the active voice!

Though you want to keep things concise, be sure to spell out unusual or unfamiliar acronyms. As you move through your resume, make sure too, that you are using consistent phrasing when describing your work, so that readers can easily follow the thread of your experience.

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**General Tips**

As we close out our booklet on applying for fellowships to the U.K. and Ireland, let us part with some general advice about the process and preparing the application. Here’s a few tips to take with you:

• Get started early and stick to schedule.

• Ask for help

• Revise and re-draft as necessary

• Proofread! Your application should be well polished and professional looking.

• Enjoy yourself. While applying for these fellowships can be hard work, it will also be a rare opportunity to think about what you value and which direction you want your life to go in.
Our final bit of advice is simple. Be in touch! The people at the Fellowship Office are here to help you through this process and want to help you succeed. Here’s all of our relevant contact information for any questions you might have and for recommendation letters you need sent to our office.

Good luck.

**Staff**

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