

MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIPS 2026-27

GUIDANCE FOR FELLOWSHIPS ADVISORS AND APPLICANTS

APRIL 2025

The Marshall Scholarship programme is intended to strengthen relationships between the British and American peoples, in gratitude for post-WWII US economic aid provided under the Marshall Plan. The Scholarship enables recent American graduates to pursue postgraduate study at any UK university.

As the US approaches the 250th anniversary of Independence, the special relationship forged between our two countries remains as important as ever, and the Marshall Scholarship programme continues to foster ties among new generations.

For the Semiquincentennial Class of 2026, the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (MACC) – the UK Government body which oversees the Marshall Scholarships – will introduce some changes to its selection process intended to further strengthen the programme. This guidance provides information on those changes ahead of releasing new competition rules in May 2025. It also highlights the Commission's preferences with regard to the selection of scholars.

Scholarship pathways

A Marshall Scholarship provides funding for one or two years for master's degree programmes, or up to three years for doctoral study, at any UK university. There are five possible pathways of study:

- (1) 1 x one-year master's degree (minimum 10-month programme).
- (2) 2 x one-year master's degree (at the same or different universities, pursued consecutively)
- (3) 1 x two-year master's degree (at one university)
- (4) PhD/DPhil degree (at one university, typically 3 years in the UK)
 - a. *For Marshall Scholars who enter as PhD/DPhil candidates, the Commission provides three years of guaranteed funding, subject to academic progress.*
- (5) 1 x one-year master's degree + start PhD/DPhil in Year 2 (at the same or different universities).
 - a. *In this scenario, the Commission will guarantee two years of funding, and may provide a third year of funding on a discretionary basis. To complete their PhD/DPhil, Marshall Scholars may need to secure external funding thereafter.*

The Commission welcomes applications for all of these pathways.

We expect that all applicants will have a strong rationale for their selected pathway and duration of award. For one-year awards, we particularly encourage applicants to reflect on, and convey in their applications, how they intend to engage actively with UK cultures and communities during their time in the country.

Selection criteria and process

As it has for seven decades, the Commission seeks to identify and support **American graduates who demonstrate the three core criteria of academic merit, leadership and ambassadorial potential**, who wish to continue their higher education in the United Kingdom and engage actively with UK communities.

The Commission also seeks **to support Marshall Scholars studying at a wide range of universities throughout the United Kingdom**, since this promotes broader understanding of the UK, creates connections between all regions of the UK and the US, and further strengthens our enduring relationship for the future.

In particular, the Commission wishes to **expand the geographic spread** of Marshall Scholars across the constituent nations of the UK (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and the English regions; to **expand the range of UK universities** at which Marshall Scholars are regularly placed; and to **increase placements** at universities with which the Commission has **partnership agreements**, which reduce or waive tuition for Marshall Scholars. To this end, **applicants' university choices will influence the final allocation of Marshall Scholarships. This consideration stands alongside, and is in addition to, the three core selection criteria.**

The Commission therefore encourages applicants to consider a wide range of UK universities in making their course selections.

Fellowships advisors and applicants should be aware that Marshall selection committees typically receive a high number of applications for universities in London and the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh. The Commission will continue to support Marshall Scholars hoping to study at these institutions, but committees will recommend a minimum number of awards to applicants intending to study elsewhere in the UK, particularly at partnership universities.

The Commission therefore encourages applicants to consult the list of UK universities where the MACC has partner agreements, which is available on our website here: [Partner Universities - Marshall Scholarships](#)

Partnerships are typically limited to between one and three awards per institution.

University selection

If selected, all Marshall Scholars are expected to attend the courses and universities indicated on their applications, subject to admission for those courses. Those selected for multi-year pathways are expected to complete all years of their proposed academic programme in their chosen universities.

Please note: the Commission will not support university applications made independently by candidates for courses not listed on the Marshall application.

Restricted degrees

The Marshall Scholarship programme offers a pathway to an enormous variety of courses and qualifications from UK universities. It is tenable at any accredited UK university, and for any degree programme with only a handful of exceptions.

As a reminder, the Commission does not support Marshall Scholars pursuing **Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses at any UK university.**

The MACC also limits the number of students it supports pursuing the **Master of Public Policy (MPP) course at the University of Oxford.** In the 2026-27 academic year, the MACC expects to support ONE Marshall Scholar funded by a partnership to attend the Blavatnik School of Public Policy. An internal selection process will determine the partner awardee in the event there is more than one candidate. Those who do not receive the partner award must pursue their second-choice course for the academic year, even if they are admitted to the MPP programme.

The MACC does not support Blavatnik's two-year MPP + MSc in Public Policy Research pathway.