

## GUIDANCE FOR 2026 SELECTED MARSHALL SCHOLARS

### Confirmation of your award

The confirmation of your scholarship will be completed in two stages. Please email the Marshall Secretariat team at [prog.admin@marshallscholarship.org](mailto:prog.admin@marshallscholarship.org), if you have any questions on the information below.

#### Stage 1

- Complete the health and disability form task on the ASAMS task list
- Complete UK university application to your first-choice programme
- Upload outcome of UK university application to ASAMS task list. If you receive a conditional offer, you will need to fulfil the conditions before the offer will become unconditional. You will also need to upload your unconditional offer to ASAMS once it is received.

#### Stage 2

- Once you have uploaded your conditional offer, the Secretariat team will contact your university to confirm the details of your placement. You will then receive a **Notification of Award letter** through ASAMS which you will need to sign and upload.
- You will most likely be required to apply for a Student Visa. Your UK university be the sponsor of your Student Visa. Extensive guidance on the visa process will be provided to you in early Spring 2026.
- You should contact your university for any queries relating to your visa in the first instance. The immigration team ([immigration@marshallscholarship.org](mailto:immigration@marshallscholarship.org)) will also be able to provide guidance once a Client Care letter has been signed as part of your ASAMS task list.
  - o If your personal situation means that you will not require a UK student visa (i.e. you are active-duty US military or intend to travel on a British/Irish passport), please contact the immigration team to discuss next steps.
- Once you have met all conditions of your offer, your UK university will issue you a **Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)** reference number.
- Once you have uploaded your unconditional offer, official final undergraduate transcript and CAS to ASAMS, you will receive a **Confirmation of Award letter** which formalises your award. You must have your CAS and Confirmation of Award letter before you apply for your visa.

### Conditions of Award

Selected Scholars are reminded that, as outlined the [2026 Rules for Marshall Scholarship Candidates](#) and placement letter, this scholarship is subject to receiving an unconditional offer of study at a UK University approved by the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (MACC). It is a condition of the award that Scholars must proceed to a degree(s) that can be completed within the relevant tenure – one year for the one-year award and two years for the two-year award. There are conditions that must be met for two-year Scholars to progress to the second year of their award, including successful completion of their first-year course (if on a one-year course) or demonstrating that you are on track to progress to year 2 (if on 2+ year course). Scholars who begin their award on a PhD or DPhil should refer to section 33 in the current [Scholar Handbook](#) for more information.

#### Two-year Scholars

As outlined in the 2026 Rules, the courses and universities listed in the application for all projected years of study should be well-researched and considered carefully. A range of factors are evaluated under the academic selection criteria, including a candidate's choice of course and university in relation to their academic interests and aims. Therefore, candidates selected as Marshall Scholars must apply to and attend their course and university choices as specified in their application, in the order indicated, subject to successful admission. If unsuccessful in gaining admission to their first-choice course each year, not selected for the MPP partner award or if a course is no longer running, candidates will be expected to apply for their second-choice university and course each year and accept that place if admitted. Please refer to sections 30 and 31 in the current [Scholar Handbook](#) for more information on Year two.

Please note that if you are approved to uptake a PhD in your second year, it may not be possible for the Commission to extend your award to a third year, subject to the availability of funds. Scholars are responsible for applying for a third-year extension to funding in their second year. Funding for third year study will only be granted for PhD or DPhils only. Scholars may not begin a two year course in their second year and may not commence a new programme of study in their third year.

## UK University Application

The Marshall Commission cannot guarantee that a Marshall Scholar will be admitted to their preferred course(s). The decision to admit a Scholar is with the University, and the Commission has no influence on the outcome of UK university applications. However, the Marshall team can provide advice and guidance, and more information on the application process can be found in the [General Application Guidance](#) section below.

As outlined above, the award of a Marshall Scholarship is subject to receipt of an unconditional offer at the university for which the Scholar was selected and that has been approved by the MACC for the type and tenure of the award. Should the Scholar be unsuccessful in their first-choice application, the Commission's Secretariat team will meet with the Scholar to discuss the application to their second choice. In the rare instance that a placement cannot be found at an institution or for a course of which the Commission approves, then the Commission would be unable to confirm the award of a Marshall Scholarship.

A selected Scholar who, either before or since interview, has applied to the Year 1, 1<sup>st</sup> choice course at their designated university or other institution in the UK, should at once inform the Secretariat and upload outcome letters via the ASAMS task list, where relevant. This is especially pertinent for applications to Oxford or Cambridge as the College choice might need to be updated. As highlighted in the Rules for [Two Year](#) candidates, the Commission allocates a College place based on our partners for Scholars applying to Oxford and Cambridge. Candidates are not disbarred from making or maintaining contact with their selected institutions in order to obtain information about courses, the application process, research facilities, etc.

Receiving a place on courses at UK universities can be a competitive process, especially for those courses with a high number of applicants and low number of places available. **Unless a university deadline indicates otherwise, all Scholars should expect to submit their Year 1, 1<sup>st</sup> choice applications by no later than 13 February 2026.**

## Personal information

Scholars are requested to inform the Secretariat about their marital status or if they intend to relocate to the UK with dependents. This includes if they are already married or plan to marry before taking up their Scholarship. Scholars will be expected to follow the gov.uk advice and guidance on applying for a dependant visa found [here](#).

Scholars who have a disability should complete the health and disability form in ASAMS, so the Secretariat can liaise with Disability Rights UK on behalf of the Scholar.

Scholars who have been convicted of a crime should notify the Secretariat by email at [prog.admin@marshallscholarship.org](mailto:prog.admin@marshallscholarship.org) as soon as possible.

Scholars are reminded that the Rules for [Two Year](#) candidates state that academic study proposals involving lengthy periods away from the university or outside the United Kingdom will not be accepted. In the event of questions, do get in touch.

## Rules, Policies & Scholar Handbook

Scholars are asked to read and observe the following rules and policies:

- [2026 Rules for Marshall Candidates](#)
- [MACC Policies](#) and the [Scholar Code of Conduct](#)
- Current [Scholar Handbook](#)
- [Privacy Notice](#) - please note that your details may be shared with current Scholars for networking purposes. If you would not like your details to be shared with current Scholars, please let us know.

## Accommodation

It is the responsibility of the Scholar to find accommodation in the UK. Scholars should seek advice about accommodation from the accommodation office at your relevant university or institution. Please note that the Commission cannot act as a guarantor under any circumstances.

The Accommodation Section in the current [Scholar Handbook](#) has more guidance. If you have any questions or are unsure who to contact, please email [prog.admin@marshallscholarship.org](mailto:prog.admin@marshallscholarship.org).

Where possible, scholars are encouraged to consider university or college provided accommodation, especially for their first year of award as this has been found to be administratively easier. This may include 'on campus' or 'in college' accommodation, which enables scholars to pay a flat fee for their rent and associated utilities. If off campus accommodation is preferred, scholars are asked to consult their university's student union or housing office. In many cases, these offices can review tenancy agreements to check the validity of the agreement, the reputation of the landlord and the terms presented within the document. In extremely rare cases, scholars have been the victim of accommodation fraud, which involves the exchange of money for non-existent accommodation. To protect against this, scholars are encouraged to review the following article which [details red flags](#) to look out for. More sophisticated scams may offer viewings under the guise of an actual letting agency. Scholars should call letting agencies and ask for the named agent if they have any concerns about whether the accommodation might be a scam.

## National Health Service

The UK has a free National Health Service to which all scholars will have access. For more information on the NHS, please refer to the Health and Wellbeing section beginning on page 33 in the current [Scholar Handbook](#). Scholars should be aware that the UK medical system will be different to the system in the US- not all medications available elsewhere will be available in the UK, and there may be waiting lists to access specialist medical services, including some mental health services or gender clinics. As noted in the Health and Disability form, Scholars are asked to consult any health needs with their healthcare provider in the US before travelling to the UK, including access to repeat prescriptions and continuity of existing care (This is especially important for Scholars with pre-existing health or mental health conditions). The Commission cannot provide any advice on medication; you must speak to a healthcare professional for tailored support.

The MACC cannot fund private healthcare or treatment. Where scholars are undergoing ongoing treatment in their home countries, they need to consider whether they can access treatment in the UK and may need to bring adequate medication for the year or make arrangements to secure additional medication during the year. Scholars can purchase insurance to access private medical care but need to check that policies will cover their medical conditions.

Your scholarship does not include any form of medical or travel insurance, and the MACC cannot cover the costs of private medical treatment or the purchase of medication. We recommend that you consider purchasing your own private medical insurance for your time in the UK if you think you might need it. The Commission does not have an in-house counselling service or a doctor who can offer consultations, but our team can signpost you to appropriate NHS or university services if required.

The NHS does not cover certain medical care. For more information on the services provided by the NHS, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/>.

## General Application Guidance

Please follow this guidance when completing your application. As a reminder, the decision to accept a Scholar is with the University, and the Commission has no influence on the outcome of UK university applications. The Marshall Commission cannot, therefore, guarantee that a Marshall Scholar will be admitted to the university of their choice. The Marshall team will be available during this process, and we encourage Scholars to seek advice and guidance at the earliest opportunity (please note that the offices will be closed during the holiday period).

### **Name**

This must match your US passport **exactly**. If you have additional names that do not appear on your passport, please **do not** enter them. This is very important as the name you enter will be referenced on paperwork required for your visa and must therefore match your passport.

### **Date of Birth**

Please take care when you enter the day and month of your date of birth. In the UK we write day, then month, then year.

### **Address**

Please use the following address for your postal/correspondence address:

MACC c/o British Council  
1 Redman Place  
London E20 1JQ

For your home/permanent address, you should use your permanent address in the USA. This is usually your family home.

### **University Education**

You will need to enter details of your undergraduate degree and indicate when this will be (or was) awarded. You will also need to list any postgraduate programmes you have studied, even if you will not have been awarded the qualification before coming to the UK (for example, if you are currently studying at Law or Medical School and will be intermitting to take up your Marshall Scholarship).

### **Study Abroad**

Some applications require you to list any time spent on study abroad programmes. Make sure you list this separately if the application asks you to do so. You will usually need to enter the exact dates of your studies.

### **Personal Statement/Statement of Purpose**

In the UK, these are written more like academic proposals, with far less space devoted to extra-curricular activities or personal experiences. As a general guide you should focus on:

- Motivations for applying to the specific course and university
- Commitment to the subject
- Academic interests
- Educational experience
- Relevant work experience/extra-curricular activities
- Career aspirations and how the course will help you to achieve them

Admissions tutors are not looking for an interesting story. They instead want to see your passion for the subject, and your personal statement is your chance to demonstrate your suitability for the programme.

Pay close attention to word/character count.

## References

You should enter your referees' details on the application and let them know they will receive a reference request directly from the university. Make sure you ask their permission and ensure that they are aware of the deadline, especially for deadlines in December or the first week of January. It is vital that your references are submitted on time.

## Financial information

You will be considered a 'sponsored' student and can add the Marshall Scholarship details if needed. Please leave sections on finance blank. If you have to enter figures in order to get to the next section, you can enter some text or numbers as a placeholder. We will be confirming this with your university once you have received your offer.

## Proxy/Nominated third party

If you are given the option to add the details of a third party who can access your application, you should enter Marshall Programme Administrator, [prog.admin@marshallscholarship.org](mailto:prog.admin@marshallscholarship.org).

## Protected Characteristics

Some applications may ask about certain [protected characteristics](#), such as gender, religion or disability. You do not have to give this information if you do not want to. It will not affect your application, but some of it will help them support you better (for example, health and disability information), so we recommend you do indicate on your application if you have a health condition or disability, particularly if it could affect your studies.

## Submission

If your application requires a fee, we will reimburse you for the amount that is paid. You will need to complete a form with your details and provide a receipt of payment. We have application **fee waivers in place with LSE and UCL, so please do not pay these fees and let us know when you are ready to submit** so we can inform our contacts at the respective university. If you are unable to pay the application fee, please let us know and we can discuss an alternative arrangement.

Please ensure that you are aware of your application deadline (date and time) as applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered by most universities.

Please confirm (via the ASAMS platform) when you have successfully applied for your University course.

## University Application Guides

Most UK universities have guidance for completing their postgraduate applications – please see the links below. If you do not find an answer to your query, do contact their admissions team with any specific questions you might have.

- [Aberystwyth University](#)
- [Imperial College London](#)
- [King's College London](#)
- [London School of Economics and Political Science](#)
- [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine](#)
- [The School of Oriental and African Studies \(SOAS\)](#)
- [University of Cambridge](#)
- [University of East Anglia](#)
- [University of Edinburgh](#)
- [University of Glasgow](#)
- [University of Leeds](#)
- [University of Manchester](#)
- [University of Oxford](#)
- [University of St Andrews](#)