**Pre-Application Form**

**2025 PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS CAMPSUS COMPETITION FOR GRADUATE STUDIES/RESEARCH IN THE UK**

**Purpose:** To compete for selection, advisement, and USF’s endorsement for the Rhodes, Marshall, Gates Cambridge scholarships, to pursue graduate studies in the United Kingdom comprising England, Scotland, and Wales beginning Fall of 2026.

**Notification to candidates shortlisted for campus interviews: April 17th**

**Interviews: April 26th, 2025, In-person. Note, April 26th is a Saturday.**

***Required Documents*** **GPA > =3.85**

Respond to all fields below.

**CV/Resume**: You must submit a 2-page resume/ or CV detailing academic, leadership, and extracurricular activities WITH this form. Visual and performing artists should submit a portfolio. Please do not submit an abbreviated 1-page resume created for jobs. The committee needs to know more about you.

Transcript: Please submit an unofficial Transcript.

**Who should fill this form?**

* Rising Seniors (graduating December 2025 or May 2026) who are interested in graduate studies and have the potential to be leaders in their respective fields.
* Minimum GPA for Marshall and Gates-Cambridge Scholarships is 3.85/4.00. Aspirants for the Rhodes Scholarships to Oxford should have a minimum GPA of 3.9. No Exceptions can be made on the GPA requirement.
* Publications and presentations are expected for STEM majors. For Humanities majors, publications, and presentations are strongly preferred. For Marshall Scholarship applicants, the publications requirement cannot be relaxed.

The completed pre-application should be emailed to onsnominations@usf.edu by 04.15.2024, at 11:59 PM

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| Name:  | Major(s) and Minor(s) | Cumulative undergraduate or Graduate GPA: Year in College (by Date of Graduation):  |
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| --- | --- | --- |
| Research Area(s) | Research Topic(s) | Research Advisers/Mentors |
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| Leadership/Civic Engagement Area(s) | Activity  | Duration and Impact (briefly) |
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| Award you wish to be considered for[[1]](#footnote-1) | Intended Program(s) of Study |
| **The Marshall Scholarship** (supports 2-year master’s programs; or **two** consecutive 1-year master’s programs; or a 3-year PhD in the UK)Please list both programs for 2, 1-year programs |  |
| **The Rhodes Scholarship** (supports 2-to 3-years in consecutive master’s programs, or a DPhil at the University of Oxford)  |  |
| **The Gates Cambridge Scholarship** (Supports 2-year MPhil research degrees, or a PhD; ***Prefers***PhD candidates) |  |

**Please limit essay responses to 250 words, except for questions 1, 2, and 8**

1. Write a six-word novel about yourself.
2. **We want to know you**: In 500 words or less, tell us your story; your intellectual motivations and activities you (are) engaged in, and what they say about you.
3. Why do you want to pursue graduate studies? What is your highest ambition? What impact would receiving a prestigious award have on your goals and your purpose?
4. Why does/will studying your subject in the UK matter? (In your response describe how and why UK excels in your areas of interest. A critically guided **web search-and-discovery on courses and universities will be necessary to answer this question.)**
5. Briefly describe the program(s) you chose (university, research groups, potential advisers etc.), **giving reasons**. These choices are not final. Should you be selected, we will discuss your fit and preparation for your programs at the advising sessions.
6. Summarize all previous, or ongoing research experience(s) explaining the meaning of the projects and your role in each. Do not use this essay to list your publications and presentations. Use your CV/Resume to detail them.
7. Describe a specific example of your ongoing, or past leadership activity. Address(**A)** what situation, while working with people, or a social/ political condition, caused you to respond to a need for leadership; **(B)** what steps did you take/are you taking? **(C)** what was/is the outcome/impact/projected impact of your leadership in tangible/measurable terms?
8. List 4 to 8 (8 for Rhodes only) potential recommenders. Include their professional titles and affiliations. Indicate how they know you, and for how long. At least one of these referees must be able to speak to your personal qualities and assess your leadership abilities/potential. The list of references you provide here is **not final** and is subject to approval/vetting by ONS advisers. Choose academic references, including research advisers who can attest to your academic qualities. Choose leadership references who know you, and can speak to your personal qualities and ethos.
1. While we do not expect you to have extensive knowledge of these scholarships, we expect that you will research universities and country-specific details as much as possible [↑](#footnote-ref-1)