



Churchill Scholarship Application Guide

This application guide is provided by [FWD: Scholars](#) (FWD:S). FWD:S is a volunteer-led organization that seeks to pay forward our knowledge about competitive scholarship experiences. We aim to empower our peers through resources and support to pursue their academic and professional goals. Our ultimate aim is to better reflect the underrepresented identities among us.

To meet these goals, we work to increase the availability of scholarship application resources and match applicants to recent scholarship recipients for mentorship. We recognize that privilege of all kinds must be acknowledged and used to create a more equal and just world.

The FWD:S team is made up of students and alumni recipients of competitive scholarships—many of whom come from underrepresented backgrounds themselves—who are all eager to provide resources and support to prospective applicants. We want to use our privilege and insight to help students to chase their dreams at the undergraduate and graduate levels, both domestically and internationally.

Interested in mentorship? If you'd like to be paired with an alum of this scholarship to support your application process, fill out our [mentorship matching survey](#).

Interested in volunteering with us? If you'd like to help us support prospective applicants, take our [volunteer survey](#).

Partnerships: FWD:S is eager to form mutually beneficial relationships with organizations and individuals who share our commitment to diversifying higher education. If you're interested in partnering with FWD:S, please contact us at fwdscholars@gmail.com.

Have questions about FWD:S and its services? Send us an email at fwdscholars@gmail.com. You can also follow FWD:S on social media for updates on our program and more scholarship tips, tricks, and guides:

- [@fwd_scholars on Instagram](#)
- [@FWDscholars on Twitter](#)
- [FWD: Scholars on LinkedIn](#)
- www.fwdscholars.org

Steal this guide! This guide is licensed under the [CC BY-SA 2.0](#) license, so you can share it all you want—all you have to do is attribute it to: © 2023 [FWD: Scholars](#). This guide has been adapted from its original version, which was created by Dear Future Colleague.

Last updated: 13 April 2021

Prepared by:

Vinay Ayyappan (Churchill Scholar '20)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[MESSAGE FROM THE GUIDE CREATORS](#)

[DISCLAIMER](#)

[ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP](#)

[Description of Scholarship](#)

[Churchill College](#)

[Scholarship Benefits](#)

[Scholarship Requirements](#)

[Application Deadlines](#)

[Further Information](#)

[APPLYING](#)

[Essay Advice](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

[Process](#)



MESSAGE FROM THE GUIDE CREATORS

Hey there! We are a group of alumni and current scholars hoping to help you apply for the Churchill Scholarship. This guide is intended to help inform you about the application process, from the perspective of those who have been through it. We're so excited you're considering applying - and we're rooting for you!

DISCLAIMER

We think the perspectives of students who have actually been through the application process are far too often left out of resources offered to scholarship applicants. However, because this guide is from the perspective of current scholars/alumni, it provides only a partial view of the application process. It's important to keep in mind that these were our experiences and the suggestions that we found helpful, but they are not universal truths about how the program selects scholars. Also, while we do our best to keep this guide current, we can't guarantee that everything remains 100% accurate - please check the [Churchill Scholarship website](#) or reach out to the [program's director](#) if you have questions.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

Description of Scholarship

The Churchill Scholarship funds fifteen American students' study at the University of Cambridge that seeks to recognize and advance achievement in science, engineering, and mathematics. Selected students may subsequently pursue a 1-year master's degree at Cambridge, where they are based in Churchill College, one of the 31 constituent "colleges" that make up Cambridge, and which is prominently oriented around science and technology. Churchill Scholarships are open to applications from up to two nominated students from 110 eligible universities. The scholarship covers all University and College fees and provides a living allowance to students during their time at Cambridge, along with \$1,500 for travel to and from the UK. Students needing to travel or perform special research may also receive a \$2,000 special research grant. One Churchill Scholar, a Kanders Churchill Scholar, is funded to pursue studies in science policy.

Churchill College

The University of Cambridge comprises 31 constituent colleges, each with its own set of affiliated students, housing, etc. These organize admissions, tuition, etc - essentially every aspect of student life except for coursework and grading. Churchill College in particular is a 42-acre campus that houses the 385 postgraduates and 256 fellows who will be members of your community at Cambridge. The college has existed since 1960 and serves as a memorial to

Steal this guide! This guide is licensed under the [CC BY-SA 2.0](#) license, so you can share it all you want—all you have to do is attribute it to: © 2023 [FWD: Scholars](#). This guide has been adapted from its original version, which was created by Dear Future Colleague.

Winston Churchill. 70% of the college's students are studying some STEM related subject, underscoring the college's emphasis on the sciences.

Scholarship Benefits

Award benefits: <https://www.churchillscholarship.org/award.html>

The award benefits are as follows.

- **Funding:**
 - Coverage of University and College fees (~\$40,000)
 - Living allowance of ~£11,000-15,000 depending on the length of the master's program (9-12 months)
 - Up to \$1,500 for travel to and from the United Kingdom, and reimbursement of application fees for a UK visa and health surcharge (>\$500)
 - Possible Special Research Grant of \$2,000
- **Extracurricular activities:**
 - Special seminars on science communications and policy that provide an opportunity to hone presentation and leadership skills
- **Miscellaneous:**
 - Opportunity to tour the Churchill War Rooms and to meet trustees of the Churchill Foundation

Scholarship Requirements

Award requirements: <https://www.churchillscholarship.org/eligibility.html>

The Churchill Scholarship has the following eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must be born or naturalized citizens.
- Upon taking up the Churchill Scholarship, scholars must hold a bachelor's degree (or equivalent). Scholars cannot have obtained a doctorate.
- Applicants must be seniors enrolled in one of the 110 institutions participating in the Scholarship Program (listed in the above link).
- Following selection, scholars commit to completion of a program of study to which they are admitted at Cambridge.
- Scholars must submit two reports describing their work - one in January and one after completing their academic program.

Application Deadlines

In order to apply, students must be nominated by their university. Each has its own nomination deadline, but **students must be nominated by early November of the application year**. Students fill out separate applications, one for Cambridge and one for the scholarship itself. Students are **Steal this guide!** This guide is licensed under the [CC BY-SA 2.0](#) license, so you can share it all you want—all you have to do is attribute it to: © 2023 [FWD: Scholars](#). This guide has been adapted from its original version, which was created by Dear Future Colleague.

generally recommended to apply to Cambridge by **early October**, since the university does have rolling admissions.

Further Information

Churchill Scholarship website: <https://www.churchillscholarship.org/>

Foundation contact email: info@churchillscholarship.org

Foundation contact phone: (212) 752-3200

APPLYING

The application consists of a set of essays that must be submitted via the Scholarship's online portal (for which you can create a login/profile via the website linked above).

Essay Advice

The Churchill Scholarship is unique in that it is a little bit less oriented towards distinguishing experiences and/or personal qualities and much more towards prior research experiences and achievement. As such, while you certainly want your essays to be accessible to readers (usually scientists themselves, selected from a panel of Churchill Scholarship alumni), you do also really want to show your scientific rigor and technical proficiency. Broadly, the essays ask you (1) what your future career plans are; (2) what your proposed program of study (i.e., your degree) will be, and why you are choosing it; and (3) a personal statement.

- (1) Future career plans:** Ultimately, the whole point of this essay is to really make it “obvious” how your time in Cambridge will bridge your undergraduate experiences and your career aspirations. You want this essay to line up really well with the program of study you propose in essay #2 and the personal history you provide in #3. It's also important to really underscore the broader impact of your future career plans. If you are interested in mathematics, how do you ultimately think that the things you do as a mathematician will function to impact the world overall? Really focus on providing a clear vision of what your goal is, and making your progression toward that goal feel very natural (i.e., embedded throughout this write-up should be subtle hints about why Cambridge and your proposed degree are a critical stepping stone).
- (2) Proposed program of study:** This is a slightly longer essay where you explain what you will be doing at Cambridge and how your research experiences as an undergraduate situate you well to pursue it. It's very, very important to explain here just why Cambridge is the best (or only) place to study what you plan to study, and why the academic program in particular is unique. The essay is a little bit longer, so you do also have an opportunity to describe extracurricular, though ideally science-related (e.g., scientific communication), activities you would like to engage in.

- (3) **Personal statement:** This is an opportunity to really be creative and show whatever “jagged edges” that make you unique. The key distinction is that these shouldn’t be painted as divorced from your scientific and research life. In other words, how have your life and your science really interacted to bring you to where you are today? And again, since this is a personal statement, it should bring everything together, so it might be a good idea to reference Cambridge and your career goals as you also explain how the next step along your path should include a Churchill.

Miscellaneous

The Churchill is also unique in that, if you are applying for a thesis-based degree (which would include a mentored research experience), it asks for evidence of correspondence between you and your prospective research adviser. If the Churchill is of interest to you, it would be immensely advantageous to start building a relationship with one (or multiple) PI’s at Cambridge as early as you can. It’s a great boost in terms of scholarship, but it certainly also helps as you try to build a network and your own personal identity/“brand” as a researcher.

Process

After submitting your application, Dr. Michael Morse, who runs the Scholarship, reaches out to each applicant confirming receipt of their application. Students are encouraged to submit updates along the way if they have any. In mid-January, students are typically notified if they have received the scholarship. Those who have received it get an email asking to schedule an “interview” - which is not, in fact, an interview. Rather, it’s just a brief conversation with Dr. Morse, where he informally asks you about your program of study and your interests before congratulating you and explaining some scholarship details.

CONNECT WITH FORMER SCHOLARS

Have questions about the Churchill Scholarship in general? Fill out the survey on [this page](#) of the FWD:S website, and we can try to connect you with a current scholar or alum who can answer them!

Have questions about the specific contents of this document? Reach out to us at fwdscholars@gmail.com.

Have questions about FWD:S and its services? Send us an email at fwdscholars@gmail.com. You can also follow FWD:S on social media for updates on our program and for more scholarship tips, tricks, and guides:

- [@fwd_scholars on Instagram](#)
- [@FWDscholars on Twitter](#)
- [@FWD: Scholars on LinkedIn](#)

Steal this guide! This guide is licensed under the [CC BY-SA 2.0](#) license, so you can share it all you want—all you have to do is attribute it to: © 2023 [FWD: Scholars](#). This guide has been adapted from its original version, which was created by Dear Future Colleague.

- www.fwdscholars.org