Competitive Scholarships that Do Not Require Institutional Nomination

Here is a list of prestigious scholarships that do not require institutional nomination. This means that you can apply for these scholarships yourself. Of course, the Honors College will be glad to provide support and guidance regarding your application.

Churchill Scholarship

Overview: The Churchill Scholarship provides funding to American students for a year of master’s study in science, mathematics, and engineering at the University of Cambridge, based at Churchill College. The Scholarship was set up at the request of Sir Winston Churchill in order to fulfil his vision of US-UK scientific exchange with the goal of advancing science and technology on both sides of the Atlantic, helping to ensure our future prosperity and security.

Eligibility: Eligibility requirements include being a US citizen in their senior year or students who recently graduated from a participating university.

Selection Criteria: Applicants should demonstrate outstanding academic achievement in STEM courses, proven talent in research, and impressive personal qualities.

Deadlines: The national deadline is generally in late October.

Gates Cambridge Scholarship

Overview: The Gates Cambridge Scholarship offers approximately 80 full-cost scholarships to outstanding applicants from countries outside the UK to pursue a full-time postgraduate degree in any subject available at the University of Cambridge.

Eligibility: Eligible students include individuals who are citizens of any country outside of the UK, applying to pursue a full-time residential program at the University of Cambridge (e.g., PhD, MSC/MLitt, a select one-year postgraduate course).

Selection Criteria: These scholarships are awarded on the following criteria: intellectual ability, justification for the choice of degree, and a commitment to improving the lives of others and leadership capacity.

Deadlines: The national deadline is generally early October.

NIH Oxford Cambridge Scholars Program

Overview: The NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program is an accelerated, individualized doctoral training program for outstanding science students committed to biomedical research careers. The program is based on the British system, in which students perform doctoral research without required formal courses other than those students choose to take in relationship to their own interests. The Scholarship provides tuition and stipend support for the duration of the program, which is approximately four years, to conduct self-derived and self-driven doctoral research in NIH and UK laboratories and earn a DPhil or PhD from Oxford or Cambridge.

Eligibility: Eligible students include individuals who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Selection Criteria: Successful applicants have high academic achievement with significant research experience, often have coauthored manuscripts in scientific journals, and receive outstanding letters of recommendation.

Deadlines: The national deadline is generally in early December.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Overview: The GRFP provides up to three years of support for graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant academic achievements in science and engineering
research within over 100 subdisciplines, including social sciences and psychology as well as hard sciences.

**Eligibility:** Eligible students include individuals who are U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents who intend to enroll or be enrolled full-time in a research-based graduate degree program in an eligible Field of Study in STEM or STEM education.

**Selection Criteria:** The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions.

**Deadlines:** The national deadline is generally mid- to late October.

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**UK Summer Institute (Fulbright)**

**Overview:** The Fulbright UK Summer Institutes are 3-4-week programs for US undergraduate students who get the opportunity to explore the culture, heritage and history of the UK while experiencing higher education at a UK university. Depending on the Institute, students will have the opportunity to study alongside leading academics and professionals. Participants develop knowledge in specific fields; experience cultural and social events; visit UK cultural sites and areas of scenic beauty; receive credit to transfer to their home institution; meet people from different backgrounds and cultures; and become an ambassador for studying in the UK, for the Fulbright Commission, and their host institutions. The Institute covers return US-UK airfare, tuition and fees at the host institution, accommodations, and in some cases, a small daily allowance for meals.

**Eligibility:** Eligibility includes being a US citizen with a US passport, being over 18 years of age at the start of the program, being a freshman or sophomore enrolled in a college or university, having a minimum GPA of 3.7, and having at least two years of undergraduate study left to complete after returning from the institute.

**Selection Criteria:** Strong preference is given to students with little to no travel experience outside the US, and applicants who have spent more than four weeks outside the US in the last five years would not be eligible.

**Deadlines:** The national deadline is in February.