The Committee on Extramural Graduate Fellowships and Scholarships seeks to identify outstanding students and recent alumnae and inform them of the opportunity to apply for the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, and Churchill awards. The committee reviews applications of candidates and conducts interviews in order to decide which candidates will receive Wellesley College endorsement. Its members also work with Wellesley College nominees individually in order to help them perfect their applications.

The following describes committee procedures for the 2012-2013 scholarship competitions. Please read this carefully and comply with the date for submission of material. Questions regarding the fellowship and/or the procedures may be asked of Ellie Perkins, Director of Fellowship Programs [eperkins@wellesley.edu].

Fellowship Information Meeting, Tuesday, September 4, 2012, 7 pm, Jewett Auditorium

**September 5 to 11, 2012:** Candidates should consult this campus application material and review the individual fellowship Web sites in order to work on their essays. **Please note that only the information requested on this sheet should be prepared at this stage.** Official applications will only be used once nominees are endorsed by the committee. **It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that her material is complete.** Applicants with incomplete applications may not be considered.

**Tuesday, September 11, 2012, 12 noon:** The preliminary application material for the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell and Churchill is due online in MyCWS. The committee realizes that this timing may place a strain on the candidates; however, it is important that the committee conduct its interviews early in the fall in order to allow nominees enough time to prepare their final applications.

All candidates should submit the following online in MyCWS:

1. **Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Churchill Campus Application Form** (please see application instructions below on page 3)
2. **Double-spaced Personal Statement and other required essays.** See following pages and national fellowship Web sites for instructions. Statement should be approximately the required length (see descriptions on pages 4 and 5): **Churchill:** a two-page personal statement and a one-page program of study; **Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell and Churchill:** 1,000 word personal statement; In addition, **Marshall** requires a **Proposed Academic Program,** a short paragraph on why you chose to study in the UK and additional statements if you are choosing the one-year option.) Candidates should indicate which scholarship(s) they are seeking and write their name on every page. For guidance in writing these essays see: Writing Personal Statements Online.
3. **Resume** - or a list of your principal activities and accomplishments. You may submit additional material (such as a portfolio) if this seems appropriate.
4. **One confidential letter of reference and a list of additional recommenders.** Please note that only one reference is due with the preliminary application. It should be written by a member of the Wellesley faculty (but not a member of the committee) who is familiar with your work, and who may be consulted by phone if necessary. This reference should be confidential, should speak to your strength and ability as a candidate, and should comment specifically on your proposal. In addition, please include a list of potential recommenders. For the Churchill, this should be a list of 4 people; for the Rhodes, this should be a list of 5 to 8 people (including four who are qualified to comment on your academic work); for the Marshall, a list of 4; for the Mitchell, a list of 5 people (3 must be individuals with whom you have done academic work); Please print the Memo to Recommenders for Candidates Seeking Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell or Churchill Nomination (see below on page 6) and give copies to the writer of this reference and to your other listed potential recommenders. Refer to the guidelines for Requesting Faculty References on the CWS Web site and supply your recommenders with information that will be helpful to them in writing for you.
5. **A copy of your up-to-date Wellesley College transcript or grade report** (not the Web version) and copies of transcripts from any other institutions attended. If you attended another institution your junior year, your grades will not be entered on your Wellesley transcript - only course name and credits will be listed, and even this information may not be available in early September. Therefore, for the committee's initial consideration, please include a list of courses taken away from Wellesley and the grades you received. In addition, please list courses you are taking or propose to take senior year.

Members of the Committee will read all applications and invite those candidates to interview who submitted the most promising written material.
Friday, September 14, 2012, late afternoon: Each applicant will receive an emailed letter indicating whether or not she has been invited to interview for the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell or Churchill. Invited candidates must sign up for an interview at this time. Please note that if you do not sign up, you will miss your opportunity to interview with the committee and therefore will not be eligible to apply.

Wednesday, September 19: Interviews for the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell and Churchill will tentatively be held on Wednesday, September 19. These interviews will be similar in format to those of the actual Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell competition but will be approximately 15 minutes in length. They may include any number (or all) of the committee members. Candidates should be prepared to answer questions related to the material included in their essays, lists of activities, transcripts, and list of recommenders. While the description "stress interview" is not precisely apt, candidates should be aware that the interviews seek to challenge the applicants. They should also be aware that the committee will make its decision whether to endorse candidates based on the combination of the prepared written materials and the interview.

Thursday, September 20, 2012, after 12, noon: Candidates will receive an emailed letter indicating the final endorsement decisions for the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell and Churchill. Nominees will be assigned committee members with whom they will work on their final applications and should be prepared to meet with them immediately.

Churchill candidates must apply to Cambridge University by October 15, 2012
Final Churchill application must be completed by Tuesday, November 13, 2012
Final Marshall application must be completed by Friday, September 28, 2012
to be submitted online by the CWS October 1, 2012
Final Mitchell application must be submitted online October 2, 2012
Final Rhodes application must be submitted online October 3, 2012

For more information, click here for the:

Churchill  http://www.winstonchurchillfoundation.org
Rhodes  www.rhodesscholar.org
Marshall  http://www.marshallscholarship.org
Mitchell  http://www.us-irelandalliance.org

2012/2013 Committee on Extramural Graduate Fellowships and Scholarships

Barry Lydgate, Chair  French  x2439  Mary Kate McGowan  Philosophy  x3327
Rachid Aadnani  Middle Easters Studies  x2916  Paul MacDonald  Political Science  x3304
Angela Bahns  Psychology  x3560  Ellie Perkins  CWS  x2346
Susan Cohen  Senior Class Dean  x2325  Margery Sabin  English  x2626
Sharon Elkins  Religion  x2604  Mingwei Song  East Asian Lang & Lit  x3588
Beth Hennessey  Psychology  x3005  Yuichiro Suzuki  Biological Sciences  x3100
Edward Hobbs  Religion  x2610  Marcia Thomas  Biological Sciences  x3125
Courtney Lannert  Physics  x3193  Lauri Wardell  Physics  x3324
Heping Liu  Art  x3371  Wesley Watters  Astronomy  x2170
Instructions for Mitchell Scholarship on-campus application in MyCWS

* This instruction is provided as technical guidance for the MyCWS Mitchell Scholarship on-campus application process. For other Mitchell Scholarship information, please go to the beginning of the packet.

All application materials need to be uploaded and submitted in MyCWS to On Campus Interview Schedule - Mitchell Campus Application 2012-2013 (ID 713) on or before 12 noon on Tuesday, September 11, 2012.

1. The Mitchell Campus Application Form can be downloaded as a fillable PDF form [here](#) or from MyCWS Resource Library – located in the “Fellowship Resources” folder → “Mitchell”.

2. Please complete this application form, save it and upload to MyCWS. Note: The application form must be completed using a PC with the latest version of Adobe Reader due to tech support reasons.

3. Please upload all required documents into your account in MyCWS (My Account → My Documents).
   - Completed Mitchell Campus Application Form – Upload in “Applications” category
   - Personal Statement (double-spaced and numbered with your name on each page) – Upload in “Writing Samples #1” category
   - Resume, or a list of additional activities and accomplishments (number all pages) – Upload in “Resume” category
   - A scanned copy of your up-to-date transcript or grade report (not the Web version). If you have more than one transcript, please combine them into one file – Upload in “Transcripts” category. Note: File format: PDF, File size limit: 1MB

4. After all required documents are uploaded, they must be submitted in MyCWS to On Campus Interview Schedule 713 - Mitchell Campus Application 2012-2013 (Search Keyword – Mitchell).

5. Make sure the correct documents are selected for uploading and SUBMIT your application.

6. Please remember to have your reference letter emailed to FellowshipReference@wellesley.edu. Note: The subject line must state: Mitchell, applicant’s last name, first name

Note: Please email cwshire@wellesley.edu for any technical issues.
Essay instructions for the Churchill, Rhodes, Marshall and Mitchell essays  
(Adapted from the scholarship web sites)

Churchill Scholarship

Proposed Program of Study – The most important task for you as an applicant is to make your own case for the program you are choosing based upon your previous research and study. The Foundation does not seek particular answers, does not privilege one approach over another, and does not favor one discipline or field over another. It is essential that you present a coherent and personal rationale for your program of study.

In addition to naming the Program and Department for the research degree for which you are applying, you should describe in detail what you would like to accomplish during your year. Please provide whatever information you have about laboratory placement, including the name of the professor who runs the lab. While your plan will necessarily be detailed and even technical, it should be comprehensible to a highly educated reader in another scientific field, especially since it is not possible to represent every area of the sciences, engineering, and mathematics on the Screening Committee. You are very strongly urged to make contact with a proposed laboratory directory well before submitting your application for the Churchill Scholarship. (Indeed, every Churchill Scholar in the past few years has already secured laboratory placement before applying.) If possible, include a letter of invitation to join a laboratory (a copy of an email message is sufficient) in the hard copy of your application. The Foundation strongly suggests early contact so that you can determine whether there is the appropriate fit of interests between you and the laboratory director and whether a place might be available for you in the laboratory. Spring of junior year is not too soon to identify a laboratory director.

Applicants in Pure and Applied Mathematics should indicate their close familiarity with the department’s extraordinarily rich offerings, suggest which courses they wish to take, and describe the rationale for that selection (e.g., strike out in new directions, seek a new perspective on previous work, deepen one’s knowledge of a certain field, etc.). You will not need to submit a letter from the Department.

Personal Statement – The Personal Statement is arguably the most important part of your application: it is what distinguishes you from all the other exceptional applicants for the Churchill Scholarship. The Foundation does not prescribe what you should include in this statement. It can be an intellectual auto-biography in which you have the opportunity to describe the development of your academic interests, the importance of research for you, someone whose work has influenced you, or some other crucial aspect of your work in the sciences, engineering, or mathematics. The Personal Statement should not re-peat the information in the Proposed Plan of Study. While the Personal Statement is primarily about your intellectual passions, do not hesitate to discuss other work and activities that provide a picture of who you are and who you want to be. In your statement you need not describe or praise the University of Cambridge or Churchill College, which members of the Screening Committee know well, nor is it advisable to assert that you are an ideal candidate for the Churchill Scholarship.

To state the obvious, readers do not appreciate solecisms, misspellings, and other signs of carelessness; please proofread your application with extreme care.
**Marshall Scholarship**

**Personal Statement** - A short statement (NOT MORE THAN 1000 WORDS), describing your academic and other interests and pursuits.

**Proposed Academic Programme** - A short statement describing your proposed academic programme, giving reasons for your choice of course and preferred university. Those hoping to read for a research degree should give an outline proposal of the research they wish to undertake. If any postgraduate study has already been undertaken, state briefly the field, and list any theses or dissertations written or published (500 words).

**Marshall Scholarship continued –**

**Choosing the UK**
A 500 word statement describing your reasons for wishing to live and study in the UK and how you think this will benefit you in the future. You should also think about how you will demonstrate your commitment to the UK through volunteer and extracurricular activities. In addition you should demonstrate how you will meet the Marshall Scholarships’ objective of gaining an understanding and appreciation of contemporary Britain.

**If you are choosing the one-year option,** the following two statements must be completed as well:

- **Post Scholarship Plan**
  You should describe your immediate plans upon completion of your Marshall Scholarship and why one year spent undertaking a degree in the UK would enhance these plans. As well as describing plans for employment or further study, you should indicate how you would develop ongoing connections with the UK, through their UK institution or some other contacts they propose to make while in the UK. In addition you should demonstrate how they intend to fulfill the Marshall Scholarships’ objective of becoming ambassadors/representatives for the USA in the UK and vice versa thus strengthening British American understanding (500 word limit)

- **Brief Statement on future Career Aims**
  You should briefly comment on your future career aims (100 word limit)

**Mitchell Scholarship**

**Personal Statement** - Describe your field of interest and justification for the proposed study in Ireland or Northern Ireland. Selection committee members will place special emphasis on this essay and will examine it for clues to your character, commitment and interests. This is an important opportunity for you to convey a sense of passion, your individual personality and intellectual drive. A well-written essay should provide valuable insight into your motivation and rationale for the proposed graduate study program that is not communicated in the rest of the application. The statement cannot exceed 1,000 words and should be written clearly and thoughtfully. Although the online application system will accept documents in many formats, it is recommended that you use Word to format the essay. You must certify on the online application that this essay is your own work.

**Rhodes Scholarship**

**Personal Statement** - Describe your academic and other interests. This statement should describe the specific area of proposed study and your reasons for wishing to study at Oxford, and it must conclude with the following statement: “I certify that this essay is my own work”. This personal essay must not exceed 1,000 words in length, and should be written in as simple and direct a manner as possible. It should be set in a typeface no smaller than 10 points. Selection Committees will place special emphasis on this personal essay [statement], and it may be forwarded to Oxford colleges to which Rhodes Scholars-elect apply for admission.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Committees may, in their discretion, reject any Personal Statement which fails to meet these requirements.
Committee on Extramural Graduate Fellowships and Scholarships
Memo to Recommenders for Candidates Seeking Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, and Churchill Nomination

The committee has prepared this information sheet for faculty members who are interested in supporting Wellesley College seniors and alumnae applying for one or more of the awards we consider. It is our hope that by explaining our committee requirements and deadlines we can make the process easier for all concerned. Although some students begin their applications months ahead, it is not uncommon for a student to decide to apply days before the college deadline either because she has been encouraged to do so by others or because she finally realizes that she would be a strong candidate. We regret the pressure this places on everyone involved, but this continues to occur each year, in spite of meetings held months or years ahead, notices posted and information mailed to seniors’ homes.

We hope you will understand that our campus deadlines are driven by the final 2012 deadlines imposed by the national scholarship organizations which this year are: October 1 (Marshall), October 2 (Mitchell), October 3 (Rhodes), November 13 (Churchill). If our committee is to read and evaluate the applications we receive for these awards (last year there were 11), we need to receive them well before those deadlines. After reviewing preliminary applications, we meet to decide on a short list of approximately one-third of the applicants, interview those candidates, and then meet a second time to determine the college nominees. Much has to be completed by the final week of September to allow time for advising nominees concerning application strategies and extensive essay revisions. The committee must also draft and perfect an institutional letter of nomination for each nominee and most of these letters must be reviewed and signed by President Bottomly in time to meet a deadline as early as October 1st.

For you, the recommender, this process may involve writing two letters: the first for a student’s preliminary application to the committee, due this year on September 11 for Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell and Churchill. The second a more formal letter of reference to be sent a week later to the appropriate national committee if she is selected as a college nominee. Your preliminary letter is most helpful if it is written with both the fellowship in question and the candidate’s proposal in mind. In order to best support your student, you need to know her and her work well and she should provide a resume to acquaint you with her other activities. We hope you will be willing to write at length about her strengths for the fellowship because the length and detail of letters provide the most persuasive support. However, this preliminary letter will be read only by your colleagues and can be an informal assessment. If your student is applying for two or more fellowships, feel free to discuss each fellowship proposal separately in the same letter. Please email your letters to: FellowshipReference@wellesley.edu

The subject line must state: Scholarship name, applicant’s last name, first name.

If your student is nominated, the committee must draft a careful, comprehensive, and persuasive nomination letter. In order to prepare this, it is essential that we have a copy or draft of your final letter as soon as possible to help us get a sense of each of our candidates. We want to be able to quote from the faculty letters in order to create as compelling a nomination letter as possible.

Finally, we cannot impress upon you strongly enough the importance of meeting the final national scholarship deadline. For some of these awards, one missing reference can end a student’s candidacy, regardless of what additional material she may have presented to the national committee on time. This is always the case for the Mitchell Scholarship and often true for various regional Rhodes and Marshall committees.

We hope that this explanation of the process and the temporal constraints under which the committee functions will help you understand what might otherwise appear to be unduly demanding requests for these letters. Your letters of reference are of crucial importance to the campus committee and to the national committees in making it possible to evaluate a candidate’s potential and intellectual strengths. We greatly value your assistance and appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

USEFUL RESOURCE: “Writing Recommendation Letters Online” an online handbook by Joe Schall: https://www.e-education.psu.edu/writingpersonalstatementsonline/.