Fellowships Program Information Sheet – Spring Application for Nomination, Endorsement, and Support

Updated: March 13, 2019

All principal fellowships requiring nomination or endorsement are listed [here](#), together with the main benefits of each fellowship. Where nomination or endorsement is required, we work with others on campus to make selections and provide campus support for our endorsed candidates.

Our review and selection process serves two purposes: we nominate or endorse only candidates who meet the selection criteria of the awards; and we help candidates understand their competitiveness for the awards and the preparation process for making strong applications. Smith will nominate or endorse candidates who demonstrate that they can be competitive applicants for particular awards, understand that the odds are long for actually receiving an award, and are eager to learn from the application process itself.

Where no endorsement is requirement, but application requirements are similar and competition is intense (the principal awards in this category are also listed [here](#)), we offer advising to well qualified candidates.

Talk with your advisers before you make the application for nomination. Explain and explore how a fellowship application fits within your broader plans. In particular, make sure that the person you ask for a recommendation knows why you want to apply and what you hope the fellowship will permit you to do. Strong support from your advisers and mentors is a feature of competitive fellowship applicants.

We ask current students and recent alumnae to apply for nomination, endorsement, and support for the awards listed below.

Spring Application for Smith Nomination, Endorsement, and Support:

External applications for the following awards will be required from late spring to early fall 2019. The competitiveness of the awards demands thoughtful preparation of carefully planned and executed applications. To help you understand what we mean by “competitive,” the data listed in red below are the approximate percentage of awards to applications.

All awards listed are open to US citizens. Individuals with other nationalities may apply for Rhodes, Gates Cambridge, and Knight-Hennessy.

**UK graduate fellowships requiring nomination or endorsement**

- **Churchill** – STEM juniors and seniors apply for nomination (2 max.) – [foundation weblink](#) – [information sheet](#) – ~14%
- **Marshall** – juniors, seniors, and recent alums apply for endorsement – [foundation weblink](#) – [information sheet](#) – ~5%
- **Mitchell** – juniors apply for endorsement – [foundation weblink](#) – [information sheet](#) – ~4%
  
  Note: Endorsement letters are required only for current students. Recent graduates are encouraged to engage in the endorsement process as the first step in kicking off application preparation and advising.

- **Rhodes** – juniors, seniors, and recent alums apply for endorsement – [foundation weblink](#) – [information sheet](#) – ~4%

**Special Note re Fulbright Postgraduate Study Awards**

– if your UK graduate fellowship interests might be pursued via a Fulbright Graduate Degree Grant (1 year), juniors and seniors are encouraged to talk with Don Andrew, Director, Smith College Fulbright Program about application, endorsement, and support – [UK Fulbright weblink](#) – [US Fulbright Student Program](#) (UK awards) – [Smith Fulbright Fast Track Program](#) – roughly 5% all UK competitions, but % varies award to award

**UK graduate fellowship of comparable competitiveness**

- **Gates Cambridge (open to all nationalities except UK)** – juniors and seniors encouraged to apply for support – [foundation weblink](#) – [information sheet](#) – ~4% (US applicants), ~2% (applicants)

  Note: Endorsement is not required. Interested juniors and seniors are encouraged to engage in the endorsement process
as the first step in kicking off application preparation and advising. Knight-Hennessy does not permit recent alumnae beyond application year graduates to be endorsed; our support is available.

Stanford University graduate school applicants

Knight-Hennessy (optional endorsement) – foundation weblink – information sheet -- 2% (global applicants) --juniors and seniors may apply for optional endorsement – program weblink – information sheet

Note: Under Knight-Hennessy Program rules, endorsement letters are an option only for current students or just graduated applicants. Other alumnae may apply but without an endorsement.

Apply Here: https://smithcollege.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9zU9udsJm2oHkJ

Here’s what the application involves:

**All questions** – Example of email applicant gets – Example of email recommender gets

**Interview:**
Please note that you may be invited to meet members of a nomination and endorsement committee for a short interview. Further information about interview arrangements (by Zoom meeting or via InterviewStream for candidates off-campus) will be provided by email.

**Special instructions:**

- **Churchill, Gates Cambridge (STEM fields)** – Use the research prompt to provide a summary of your research presentations and publications (including those in ms.). In addition, attach as your “additional materials” (Q6.5 in the application for nomination), a 2pp pdf summary of your research: 1p summary of your most significant research to date (include details of what the research is/was, why it is significant, what you did, what you learned), followed by a 1p statement of the research you would like to pursue at Cambridge.

- **Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, Gates Cambridge (non-STEM fields), Knight-Hennessy** – Attach as your “additional materials” (Q6.5 in the application for nomination) in pdf format: a 1p summary of one particular piece of work (meaning, for example, research, writing, painting, production, or performance) that demonstrates your readiness for the graduate study that will be integral to your fellowship application(s), followed by a 1p summary of one path you can imagine taking to reach your career goals.

**Deadlines:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellowship</th>
<th>Express intention to apply by</th>
<th>Formal application for Smith support by</th>
<th>Confirmation of support</th>
<th>Internal deadline for complete application</th>
<th>Deadline for letters of recommendation [# letters required]</th>
<th>External deadline (all require formal College nomination or endorsement letter)</th>
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The red deadlines are the most important ones for you to work to. For nomination/endorsement by the College we have to do a final review and complete nomination letters or endorsements. Letters require consultation with faculty and administrators after they have reviewed the complete application – the candidate’s formal application and letters of recommendation. This last block of work is why internal deadlines fall well ahead of external deadlines.

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Smith College Fellowships Program