

Fellowships Program Information Sheet – Truman Scholarship

Updated: 11-08-21

	Brief description	More information
1. Award	Truman Scholars receive \$30,000 of funding for graduate school in fields relevant to careers in public service, broadly defined. Additionally, many programs contribute their own funding to support Truman Scholars. Awardees frequently go on apply for other prestigious awards.	https://www.truman.gov/ “Public service” is broadly defined (see para. above “The Nomination Procedure”) Additional Scholar Benefits (incl. matching scholarships)
2. Eligibility	US citizens and nationals who are current juniors in undergraduate study who have leadership experiences, a commitment to public service, a record of community service, and outstanding academic performance (GPA 3.7+).	Eligibility Many fields supported
3. Timing	Those interested in applying must demonstrate competitiveness and express interest no later than early fall semester of junior year. Applicants will be subject to internal deadlines. See next page for details of timing.	Important Dates Use of the award to fund graduate school may be deferred for up to four years after the completion of the undergraduate degree.
4. Selection Criteria	The Truman Scholarship targets students committed to becoming change agents and improving institutions that serve the public. These students are well-informed and conscientious, demonstrating a record of outstanding academics and community service. Additionally, recipients must commit to a career in public service for three of the seven years after receiving their graduate degree.	Selection Criteria Approximately 600 individuals are nominated each year by their colleges and universities. 55 to 65 Scholarships are awarded annually.
5. Smith Role	Each participating institution is allowed four nominations (and up to three additional who are transfer students). Therefore, those interested in applying must be aware of both the internal and externally competitive nature of this fellowship.	How to Become a Truman Scholar See next page for details of application process.
6. Fun fact(s)	The Truman Scholarship Foundation is particularly interested in supporting students who care more about making a difference than making a dollar. By subsidizing graduate studies, the Foundation hopes to ensure that economic circumstances need not deter students from changing the world.	Katie McGarry, 21, Ada is Smith’s latest Truman Scholar.
7. How to get started	Email mlamb@smith.edu or adausch@smith.edu to make an appointment with Dr. Margaret Lamb or Dr. Andrew Dausch on Handshake .	

Truman Scholarship Application Process

Application begins in the fall with application to be a Smith College nominee for the Truman

Qualified juniors need to follow these steps:

- Email Dr. Margaret Lamb or Dr. Andrew Dausch that you are interested in applying. They will register you on the Truman Scholarship website where you will be able to view the current year application for information only during the internal selection of nominees.
- Familiarize yourself with the “Application for Support” requirements. General details are available on the [Apply for a Fellowship](#) page of our website in the [Endorsements section](#). Specific instructions are linked from the [Seek Endorsements in Fall](#) tab (and [linked here](#)).
- The internal selection of 4-7 Smith College nominees requires completion of an [Application for Support](#) with answers to certain questions tailored to your fellowship choice (the [Information Sheet – Fall Application for Nomination](#) – specifies what is required for Truman Scholarship applicants).
- Please make sure that you discuss your interest in applying for the Truman Scholarship with your potential letter writers. **We will ask one listed recommender (you specify which one) for an informal recommendation due one week after you submit your Application for Support.**
- The deadline for completion of the Application for Support is listed in the [Overview of Deadlines Requiring Smith College Endorsement](#) (in AY2022, November 15, 2021).

Selection of Smith College nominees for the Truman

An ad hoc committee of faculty and staff will select Smith’s nominees from the pool of eligible juniors who have completed Applications for Support by the specified deadline.

- Applicants may be asked to meet with the committee for a short interview (in AY2022, during the week commencing December 6).
- Selection of nominees will be completed prior to the end of the fall semester.
- Selection criteria will be the same as for the external competition. The [selection criteria are outlined here](#) and note how the [Foundation explains who they are looking for in this statement](#). Note: It is useful to see how [these criteria are summarized](#) in the context of recommendation letter advice and requirements.

Preparation of external Truman Scholarship application

Once you have been confirmed as a Smith College nominee for the Truman Scholarship, it’s time to start the online application for the Truman Scholarship.

- There will be an internal deadline for the completion of the full application (in AY2022, January 10, 2022 is this internal deadline). This date will precede the external deadline for two reasons: to permit preparation of an institutional nomination letter and to create an opportunity for you to get a final round of feedback on the final draft of your whole application.
- We ask your letter writers to complete their letters of recommendation ahead of the external deadline for similar reasons (in AY2022, January 20, 2022 is this internal deadline).
- The Truman Scholarship [Important Dates](#) specifies the external application deadline for candidates and their letter writers (in AY2022, February 1, 2022), as well as the timetable for what happens following the submission of your application.