THE WINSTON CHURCHILL FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED STATES

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions for the Scholarship Application of the Winston Churchill Foundation of the United States are effective March 2011. The application, the instructions, and the form for the letter of recommendation supersede all earlier versions.

The next application deadlines for the Churchill Scholarship are

   Tuesday, November 8, 2011
   Tuesday, November 13, 2012
   Tuesday, November 12, 2013
   Tuesday, November 11, 2014

These are the dates by which the application must be received by email at the office of the Foundation.

Please note that each institution participating in the Churchill Scholarship Program sets its own internal deadline for its local review of the Churchill Scholarship application and nomination of candidates. Please be sure to check with your Scholarship Advisor the procedures and campus deadline for review of applications for the Churchill Scholarship.

PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING FOR THE CHURCHILL SCHOLARSHIP

WHICH DEPARTMENT AND WHICH FIELD OF STUDY? It will become immediately clear to you, when you examine the offerings at the University of Cambridge, that departments and fields are organized very differently from those in the United States. For example, what is studied in a Department of Biology in the States can be studied in more than seven departments at Cambridge. It will, therefore, behoove you to study the Web sites of many different departments with considerable care.

The extraordinarily rich offerings of graduate programs at the University of Cambridge change with some regularity. At the time of this revision, here is a list of programs for the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and the Master of Advanced Study (MASt) that are eligible for support with the Churchill Scholarship; the few remaining Certificates of Post Graduate Study (CPGS) are also eligible:

   Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (Part III of the Mathematical Tripos)
Astronomy (observational - Applicants interested in Astrophysics should consider application to the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.)

Biochemistry

Clinical Biochemistry

Biological Anthropological Science

Applied Biological Anthropology

Archeological Science

Biological Science (Babraham Institute)

Bioscience Enterprise

Advanced Chemical Engineering

Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology

Chemistry

Cognition and Brain Science

Computational Biology (within the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics)

Advanced Computer Science (a program that has replaced the Computer Speech, Text and Internet Technology program)

Earth Sciences (includes the following: Climate Change and Earth-Ocean Atmosphere Systems; Geodynamics, Geophysics and Tectonics; Mineral Sciences; Palaeobiology; Petrology: Igneous, Metamorphic and Volcanic Studies)

Engineering (See the many different fields and modules.)

Environmental Science

Epidemiology

Genetics

Medical Genetics
Geographical Research (only GIS and Remote Sensing and not the programs in the social sciences)

Human Evolutionary Studies

Material Sciences (a new Master of Advanced Study)

Theoretical (Pure) Mathematics (Part III of the Mathematical Tripos)

Micro- and Nanotechnology Enterprise

Molecular Biology

Oncology

Pathology

Pharmacology

Physics (experimental - Applicants interested in Theoretical Physics should apply to the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.)

Physiology, Development and Neuroscience

Clinical Neuroscience

Plant Sciences

Polar Studies

Experimental Psychology

Public Health

Statistical Science (within the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics)

Systems Biology

Translational Medicine and Therapeutics

Veterinary Medicine

Zoology
Please note that this list is not exclusive: you might well discover another MPhil or other degree program that might be appropriate for you.

Hybrid programs like Bioscience Enterprise, Micro- and Nanotechnology Enterprise, and Public Health are eligible, but the Foundation will find competitive only applications that emphasize the scientific elements of these programs.

Please be aware that the Foundation does not accept application for the MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development or other policy-focused programs.

Please be sure to get in touch with the Foundation if you have any questions about departments and fields of study by emailing info@winstonchurchillfoundation.org or by calling 212-752-3200.

Application to the University of Cambridge. Applicants must apply separately for admission to the University of Cambridge no later than mid-October; the Foundation has chosen the same deadline for the Cambridge application as the Gates Scholarship in order to facilitate the process for applicants. The University of Cambridge and the Gates Trust have not yet established the precise date at the time of this revision: it is customarily in the middle of October. The various departments at the University of Cambridge have rolling admissions. By applying early qualified applicants have a better chance of a securing a place. Moreover, they will have been accepted to Cambridge by the time their applications for the Churchill scholarship are reviewed.

You may apply to Cambridge online (with supporting documents sent separately) or on paper. The directions for the Cambridge application are not pellucid, so you are urged to read those instructions with great care.

The University’s Web site http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/gradstud/admissions/ provides all requirements, details, and deadlines. Please note that different departments sometimes have different regulations; for example, not all applications should be sent to the Board of Graduate Studies (BGS).

On the Cambridge application applicants for the Churchill Scholarship must indicate Churchill College as their first choice in Section A(4) “College membership.” The Churchill Scholarship is not tenable at any other Cambridge college. In Section B(3) they should indicate that they are applying for a Churchill Scholarship from the Winston Churchill Foundation of the United States: indicate “Yes” as tenable at the University of Cambridge; leave blank the section “Awarded”; indicate one (1) year for Tenure; indicate March of the appropriate year for Date; and indicate £25,000-£28,000 as the value of the scholarship.

MPhil or PhD? The Winston Churchill Foundation of the United States provides support for only a one-year degree, namely the Masters of Philosophy, Masters of Advanced Study in Mathematics, etc. (On rare occasions, the Foundation allows post facto that the one year supported by a Churchill Scholarship count as the first year of a PhD program.) If you wish to apply for an MPhil under a Churchill Scholarship and for a doctorate under another scholarship,
the University of Cambridge requires you to submit two separate applications. The problem is that you will be accepted to only one degree program and might then not be eligible for a Churchill Scholarship. In other words, if you wish to have a Churchill Scholarship, you should apply solely for a one-year degree.

THE CHURCHILL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION. The Churchill Application Form is available online. First, you must register on the Foundation’s Web at http://churchill.usapplications.org/. You can then prepare the application in stages and save your work. You should fill out the form, print it, review it carefully, sign it, and submit it to the appropriate individual or committee responsible for reviewing the application and for nominating no more than two students for consideration from your institution. Until you click the Submit button, a large watermark DRAFT will appear on the application. Please note that the online application is an administrative convenience for the Churchill Foundation: it allows the Foundation to gather and analyze data about the applications, create mailing lists, and to prepare review materials for the Screening Committee. Both the online application and the paper copy with supplemental materials (see below) are required. Scholarship advisors do not have access to the online application.

The online application has been revised. Please read these directions, which are presented in the order of the application, carefully.

Please affix one passport-size photograph with clear tape or glue to the hard copy of the application. Do not staple or clip on. Some applicants have been able to copy and paste digital photographs into the online application, and that procedure is acceptable.

Please provide the full, correct mailing address at your college or university. Yes, that request does sound rather obvious, but every year the Foundation’s mail to applicants gets returned because of an incomplete or incorrect address.

Please list the first and last names of both your parents (mother first, father second) or of your guardian(s).

The section on Education should include all institutions of higher education you have attended, including summer school and study abroad programs. Be sure to provide official transcripts for all the programs you list. For summer school and study abroad programs, list the institution, give the month(s) and year(s), leave the space for degree empty, and briefly list the courses for Other.

For the Program of Study at Cambridge, please follow the usage of the Cambridge Web site. To save space, do not use the words “Department of...” If a department has a long name (e.g., the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics), use the department’s commonly recognized acronym (DAMTP), and then for the field state Part III Applied, Statistical Science, or Computational Biology. For the Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience, “Physiology” alone will suffice. For a large department like Engineering, list Engineering for the department and area for the field of study (e.g., Photonic Systems, Aerodynamics, Fluid Dynamics, etc.). You will have ample opportunity in the section on your Proposed Program of Study to provide any other necessary details.
For the four sections Publications and Presentations, Non-Academic Interests, Career Plans, and Previous Foreign Travel, please list only the most significant and limit yourself to the space provided. Do not include information from your high school career.

Publications and Presentations – You are not required to have research publications, though many applicants do; there have been many highly successful Churchill Scholars who have not yet published an article by the time of their application.

Non-Academic Interests – List only the activities that are most important to you, ranging from hobbies, organizations, sports, music, etc., so that the Foundation has a broader picture of you beyond your research and study.

Future Career Plans – Briefly describe your vocational aspirations: pursuing a PhD, an MD, or an MD-PhD degree, working at a research institute, teaching in a research university and training graduate students, teaching in a liberal arts college, etc. The Foundation and the Screening Committee do not expect you to have the remainder of your life mapped out! The Foundation is not seeking specific answers in this section and, as elsewhere, wants you to suggest what you wish to do.

Previous Foreign Travel – Having traveled or not having traveled internationally is neither an advantage nor a disadvantage. The Foundation wishes to have a fuller picture of your background. Please be brief in stating the reason: e.g., vacation, family visit, internship, study abroad, etc.

Other Fellowships, etc. – Please use common acronyms like NSF, NDSEG, etc. or short names like Gates, Hertz, Marshall, etc.

Graduate Programs – Please do not leave this section blank. While you might not know precisely where you will be applying for graduate or medical school as you complete the application for the Churchill Scholarship, the readers of your application will be interested to know which programs you are considering. If you are a Finalist for the Churchill Scholarship, it is likely that you will be asked to discuss your choice of graduate schools. Please use the following abbreviated format, since full listing will not fit: university, department, degree.

Berkeley, Mathematics, PhD
Harvard, Biological Chemistry, PhD
Princeton, Physics, PhD
Stanford, Biophysics, PhD
WashU, MD/PhD

Do not hesitate to save space by using commonly recognized acronyms or abbreviations: UCSD, Caltech, JHU, MIT, etc.

Letters of Reference – The Foundation requests four academic recommendations from teachers, laboratory directors, and others with whom you have pursued your research and studies and who
know your work well. If you list an NSF REU, internship, or other similar research experience in your application, it is expected that you will ask at least one director to write on your behalf. Please do not request recommendations from teachers in fields not related to your research in science, engineering, or mathematics (e.g., history of science, economics, literature, or philosophy), and please do not submit personal recommendations (e.g., from clergy, directors of charitable organizations, etc.).

It will be useful for you to share your resume and even a draft of your Research Plan and Personal Statement with those who will write your recommendations. You should be sure to inform them what the Churchill Scholarship is so that they can write an appropriate letter on your behalf. The cover sheet for the Scholarship Recommendation is available in pdf format on the Foundation’s Web site. Those who write your recommendations should send their letters directly to your Scholarship Advisor in a stamped, addressed envelope that you have provided.

The online application has been programmed so that you can upload the four following word processed documents from your computer directly into your application:

- Scholarships, Prizes, Awards, and Other Distinctions (no more than 1 page)
- Research/Employment Experience (no more than 1 page)
- Proposed Program of Study Essay (no more than 1 page)
- Personal Statement (no more than 2 pages)

The four uploaded documents must strictly follow the following guidelines for formatting:

1. They may be only in DOC, DOCX, or PDF format.
2. They should have 1 inch margins on all four sides.
3. They should be single-spaced, except for paragraph and section breaks.
4. You must use Times New Roman font, no smaller than 11 pt and no larger than 12 pt.
5. Every page should include a heading in the upper left corner with your name, your home institution, and the title of the section:

   Clementine Churchill
   University of Wonders
   Proposed Program of Study

Scholarships, Prizes, Awards, and Other Distinctions – If a scholarship or award is nationally known (e.g., the Beckman, the Goldwater, Phi Beta Kappa, etc.), list just the award and the date (month and year) of the award. If a scholarship or award is local to your college or university or is not otherwise well known, please list the award and the date of the award and very briefly describe the reason for the award (e.g., junior with the highest GPA, Chemistry major with the highest GPA, outstanding physics student in the sophomore class, best essay in the sciences, best undergraduate engineering project, etc.). Do not list awards from high school.
Research/Employment Experience – Please use the following format to describe your research experience and internships:

June-August, 2008 - NSF REU - Prof. Louise Smith, Department of Physics, ABC University - brief description of your work.

Summer 2009 - independent study on Lie algebra using XYZ’s textbook.

Do not hesitate to include research or study that you have done on your own outside of formal programs.

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. Some recent Churchill Scholars have chosen to continue without interruption the research they have been doing as undergraduates, while others have moved into closely related or lateral fields. Still others have ventured into new areas of research in order to expand the breadth of their research. The Foundation does not seek certain 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!

In the past applicants in Engineering did not have to identify a research director, but the more detail you can provide about what you wish to accomplish the stronger your case will be. If you have been in touch with an advisor about your research, please provide a copy of relevant documentation.

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.)

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 autobiography 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. 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.

Application Submission – Do not submit the application for the Churchill Scholarship electronically until you have been officially nominated by your college or university. If you mistakenly submit your application before it is complete or before you have been nominated, please email the Foundation at info@winstonchurchillfoundation.org, and the submission will be deleted. Your saved application will not be deleted, only the submission.

All questions, programmatic and technical, should be directed only to the Foundation (212-752-3200 or info@winstonchurchillfoundation.org).

After your application has been reviewed and endorsed locally, your Scholarship Advisor will email a pdf copy of the full endorsed application to the Executive Director of the Foundation ppatriakis@winstonchurchillfoundation.org.

A full application consists of the following materials, all of which – except for the GRE scores – must be submitted through the Campus Representative to the Churchill Foundation at your institution:

- One (1) completed and signed Churchill Scholarship Application Form with one passport-sized photograph attached and with the documents in the order of the online application.
- The institutional letter of nomination.
- Four (4) letters of reference.
- A letter of interest or commitment from a director of a laboratory at Cambridge, if available and if relevant.
• One (1) official transcript from each institution you have attended. If a transcript from a foreign institution lists grades that are not explained or translated into the American grading system, please attach an explanation. The transcript(s) should be also sent directly to your campus Churchill Foundation Representative. Campus Representatives may open sealed transcripts for inclusion in the application.

• Graduate Record Examination Scores on the General Test – Please have your GRE scores sent directly to the Foundation; select a test date so that the Churchill Foundation receives the scores no later than the end of December. The Institution Code List number for the Winston Churchill Foundation is 3922. Scores on the GRE taken in the past two years are acceptable. The Foundation accepts MCAT scores in place of the GRE; please include a photocopy with the paper copy of the application or mail it to the Foundation under separate cover.

THE REVIEW PROCESS. Applications for the Churchill Scholarship are reviewed by an ad hoc Screening Committee composed of former Churchill Scholars, who are, for the most part, academic scientists. The Committee, which convenes early in January, usually includes a mathematician, a physicist, an engineer, two people in different areas of biology, biochemistry, etc., and a fifth scientist according to the range of applications. All members of the Committee read all the applications. The Committee’s grades are averaged, reviewed, argued about, and sometimes modified. The Committee then ranks the top twenty to twenty-five applicants, who will be named as Finalists. The Foundation has no quotas or goals of any kind related to academic fields, applicant institution, or any other demographic feature.

The week after the meeting of the Screening Committee the Foundation’s Executive Director will interview all Finalists by telephone, and awards will be offered as soon as possible after --- and sometimes during --- the interviews.

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION LOOKING FOR? Applicants often ask, “What is the Foundation looking for?” There is no magic formula. Since almost all of the applicants for the Churchill Scholarship are outstanding students, the factors that make an applicant salient are a certain intellectual spark, a commitment to making a serious contribution to your field of inquiry, the promise of intellectual leadership in your chosen field, a very well crafted application, and less easily defined personal qualities that suggest you will benefit from a year in Cambridge and that Churchill College and the University of Cambridge will benefit from your presence there. Please be aware that the prestigious UK scholarships are not interchangeable and that the Churchill Scholarship, like the others, has its own criteria and goals. Rest assured that the Churchill Foundation seeks to review every application with the same seriousness and the same care that you have put into preparing your application.

Once again, should you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch with the Foundation by emailing info@winstonchurchillfoundation.org or by calling 212-752-3200. Thank you for your interest in the Churchill Scholarship. Good luck!

(revised 3/11)