



GEORGE J. MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

<https://www.us-irelandalliance.org/mitchellscholarship>

WCU Representative: Dr. Ingrid Bego (ibego@wcu.edu)

OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

Offers an opportunity to study abroad in Ireland after graduation

The George J. Mitchell Scholarship Program is a national scholarship sponsored by the US-Ireland Alliance that aims to connect the future leaders of America to the island of Ireland. Up to twelve Mitchell Scholars between the ages of 18 and 30 are chosen annually for one academic year of postgraduate study. The program includes tuition, accommodation, and a stipend for living expenses and travel.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Dual citizens are eligible to apply providing they meet all other requirements.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, but no older than 30, on the date the application is due.
- Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Degrees from international accredited universities can be accepted if all other conditions are met.

- Married applicants or those with a partner are eligible, but no allowance will be made for the expenses of the applicant's spouse, partner, or dependents.
- Applicants must be in good health. Those selected as Scholars are required to submit medical history and examination forms.
- Applicants who have already been selected as Mitchell scholars are not eligible to reapply for another year abroad.
- Applicants who are not Irish-American or studying something related to Ireland are still eligible to apply.

HOW TO APPLY

All application materials must be submitted through the online application by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on September 28, 2023. The applicant is solely responsible for submitting their application and ensuring that all four letters of recommendation and the endorsement (required for undergraduate students only) are submitted by the deadline.

If you are an undergraduate student, please note that your college or university's deadline for institutional endorsements will be earlier than the Mitchell Scholarship application deadline (in some cases, much earlier). Please contact your campus fellowship advisor for these details before starting the application process. Graduate students and applicants in possession of an undergraduate degree at the time of the application deadline do NOT submit an institutional endorsement.

Please note: A fellowship advisor may only review your application if you send them a READ-ONLY version through the application system before you submit it. Once you submit your application, it cannot be un-submitted or viewed by you or your advisor.

Completing the Application

You can save your work as you go and return to the application later to complete it. You do not have to complete the sections in any particular order. Save your work regularly as web browsers may time out. Use the "Check my Work" button in each section to see if you've missed any required fields. Please be sure to note the maximum length allowed in each field. You will have a final opportunity to review your application at the Review and Submit tab.

After Submitting Your Application

Once you submit your application, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. After submission, you will only have access to the application status page, where you can monitor your recommendation and endorsement letter submissions. Prior to submitting your application, ensure the availability of your recommenders, as you will be able to send reminder e-mails to recommenders from the status page, but you will no longer be able to change a recommender.

Video Interview

You will receive an email from the Irish company Modern Hire about the required video interview less than 12 hours after the application deadline. You will receive this email only if you've submitted a complete application.

The video interview is another way for us to get to know the applicant. Mitchell Scholars will be ambassadors of the Mitchell Scholarship and the United States while abroad. We want to see how candidates express themselves in a spontaneous manner. We expect that candidates will respect the integrity of this process by not sharing the interview questions with others.

To complete the video interview, you must have a good internet connection, a quiet place to record the interview, and a computer equipped with a camera and microphone. The interview will take less than 10 minutes. You will have the opportunity to answer practice questions. Once you start the real interview, you will not be able to pause or take a break. You will see four questions written in text on your screen, and you will respond orally to them in the time allotted. Your responses will be recorded.

Materials Needed to Complete the Application (not including the four letters of recommendation or the endorsement, if applicable)

- Passport-style photo (JPG, PNG, PDF)
- All transcripts scanned into a single PDF (please block out your Social Security number if visible). This should include any undergraduate and graduate work you have completed. Unofficial transcripts are sufficient for the initial

application. Finalists will be required to provide official transcripts prior to their final interview.

- Personal statement (1,000 words maximum). The personal statement is your opportunity to express your goals and passion(s) and address why the Mitchell Scholarship and studying in Ireland and/or Northern Ireland makes sense for your future.
- A scan of your signature (JPG, PNG, PDF).

Applicants selected as finalists will be asked to provide:

- Proof of US Citizenship – See a list of acceptable documents to prove U.S. Citizenship
- Official copies of all transcripts in a sealed envelope or through a secure electronic system directly from the applicant's registrar.

FOR RECOMMENDERS

Important Tips

- Applicants are judged on three criteria:
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - A sustained commitment to community and public service
- Financial need is not a factor in the selections process.
- An unsuccessful candidate can reapply, but must submit a completely new application.
- The university academic year runs from September to June, and is typically divided into three terms.
- The US-Ireland Alliance expects Mitchell Scholars to become active members of their non-profit organization, alumni scholar community, and remained connected to the island of Ireland.
- Applicants do not have to apply directly for admission to a university program in Ireland or Northern Ireland in order to become a Mitchell Scholar.
- Mitchell Scholars are permitted to work during the academic year.

