How to Apply

If you have a GPA of 3.5+, you should consider applying for prestigious *fellowships and scholarships; these are highly competitive opportunities where awards are based on excellence and outstanding merit. Many of these opportunities are for study at top-level internationally recognized institutions such as Oxford and Cambridge universities in the United Kingdom. Many of these scholarships and fellowships offer generous funding support to successful candidates; additionally, the costs of study in the UK and Europe are generally much lower than in the US.

What an Application Requires

In addition to outstanding academic performance, you will need to develop strong evidence of independent intellectual and creative work; the Honors thesis is an example of such substantial self-initiated work.

You will also need to show consistent involvement in service activities and outstanding leadership roles; the many service organizations and the annual Common Experience program offer opportunities to engage in both leadership and service activities.

Plan ahead in completing your program of study; foreign institutions might required a foreign language proficiency beyond university requirements.

Strong, detailed letters of recommendation from faculty members are essential; every semester make an effort to engage and get to know at least one faculty member.

Several fellowships and scholarships require official endorsement from Texas State; to secure a university endorsement, you will need to work with the Honors Fellowship and Scholarship Advisor.

The Honors Fellowship and Scholarship Advisor is available to assist any Texas State student in applying for the several meritorious fellowships and scholarships. The application process is similar for most competitions: figure out what you want to do, prepare your fellowship application, and submit it by the application deadline. Where university endorsements are required, the deadline is earlier to allow for university review of your application.

Application Format

Every opportunity has its own application format; most require online submission. Selection committees generally require:

- a transcript and extracurricular activities record (resume)
- two or more letters of recommendation
- a personal essay
- a project proposal or plan of study
- an interview (for initially selected applicants)

The components of the application should complement each other without repetition. The application should fit together to provide a convincing and unique picture of your strengths, interests, and achievements.
Your application will be compared to hundreds of others. It will likely be read by several groups of people during the selection process. To ensure that you are conveying the impressions you intend, get critiques from a variety of people as you assemble your application package. A strong and outstanding application will be unique, impressive, and appealing to broad range of people.

**Advice and Guidance**
Many people at Texas State are available to help you put together an effective application package.

- For specific information on the Fulbright Program, see [http://www.modlang.txstate.edu/student/fulbright.html](http://www.modlang.txstate.edu/student/fulbright.html). Dr. Valentina Glajar, the Fulbright representative, can give you information on current Fulbright programs and fellowship opportunities.
- The Honors Fellowship and Scholarship Advisor, Professor John Hood can offer application strategy tips, mock interviews, mentoring, and guidance throughout the application process.
- Faculty members can do more than write letters of recommendation. They can help you develop your career interest and give you advice on which graduate programs and fellowships to target. Ask faculty members to review your application materials and to critique your fellowship essays.
- Instructors in your major and minor programs of study at Texas State can help you refine your proposed plans of study, and can assist you in selecting institutions. For help with writing skills as you prepare your essays, letters, and other written materials, consult the Texas State Writing Center or SLAC.
- Use the Alkek Library and the internet to research institutions, programs, and foundations that fund fellowships and scholarships. As you begin the application process, check the websites for the institutions and programs to which you are applying.

*The terms “fellowship” and “scholarship” are often used interchangeably. According to the Internal Revenue Service, a fellowship is to benefit “an individual to aid in the pursuit of study or research” and a scholarship is to benefit “a student at an educational institution to aid in the pursuit of studies”. Thus “fellowship” is a broader term that includes both study and research, while “scholarship” is a narrower term that requires enrollment in a degree program at an educational institution and covers only study. To avoid repetitious wording, we use “fellowship” when referring to broader categories that include both study and research. If study in a degree program is the objective, substitute “scholarship” for “fellowship” as you read our descriptions.*

For more information, contact:
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