

The George J. Mitchell Scholarships

The US-Ireland Alliance has established the George J. Mitchell Scholarships to educate future American leaders about the island of Ireland and to provide tomorrow's leaders with an understanding about, an interest in, and an affinity with, the island from which 44 million Americans claim descent.

The George J. Mitchell Scholarships were established in 1998. The first group of Mitchell Scholars began their studies in Ireland and Northern Ireland in fall 2000. Scholars are eligible to attend institutions of higher learning in Ireland, including the seven universities in the Republic of Ireland and the two universities in Northern Ireland, for one academic year of graduate study. As institutional balance will be a factor, an applicant's likelihood of being selected is increased if the applicant expresses a willingness to attend more than one of the eligible institutions.

Prospective Scholars apply directly to the US-Ireland Alliance which administers the Mitchell Scholarship program. A preliminary elimination will be made on the basis of credentials. A selection committee will determine—based on the students' academic transcripts, a brief essay prepared by the applicants, and from references of the applicants—which remaining applicants will be invited to Washington, D.C. for an interview before the final selection committee. The US-Ireland Alliance will pay round-trip transportation, within the U.S., for applicants invited to interview. No applicant can be selected for a Mitchell Scholarship who has not been interviewed by the selection committee. Deferment of the Scholarship is not allowed.

Eligibility:

- U.S. citizens
- Aged eighteen or over but not yet thirty on October 1 in the year of application
- They must also have academic standing sufficient to assure completion of a Bachelor's degree before they begin study under the Mitchell Scholarship

Criteria:

Prospective Scholars must have a demonstrated record of:

- intellectual distinction
- leadership
- extra-curricular activity
- honesty
- integrity
- fairness
- unselfish service to others

There are no restrictions as to academic field of study although the proposed course of study must be available at the university elected by the applicant and the applicant's undergraduate program must provide sufficient basis for study in the proposed field.

Award:

The Scholarship committee will seek places at the universities on the successful applicants' behalf. Election to a Mitchell Scholarship is formally confirmed by the Mitchell Scholarship selection committee after the Scholar-elect has been accepted by the university. Scholars are required to be full-time students for the duration of their academic year of study.

The universities participating in the Mitchell Scholarships are generously contributing tuition and room for the Scholar. In addition, each Scholar will receive a stipend of \$11,000 to cover other necessary expenses for the term of study. This stipend will be paid in two equal parts directly to the scholar. The US-

Ireland Alliance will assist successful applicants with their traveling expenses to and from Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Usit Now, Ireland's leading travel service for students, will contribute a IRE750 travel stipend to each Mitchell Scholar. It is envisaged that the Mitchell Scholars will use the stipend not only to explore the island of Ireland but also to develop an understanding of the relationship between Ireland and Britain as well as Ireland's relationship with Europe.

The tenure of a Mitchell Scholarship is dependent upon the maintenance of a standard of work and conduct, which, in the opinion of the US-Ireland Alliance, justifies the Scholarship. Tenure of other awards in conjunction with a Mitchell Scholarship is not permitted without prior consultation with the US-Ireland Alliance.

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