Grinnell College
Global Fellowships and Awards
CENTER FOR CAREERS, LIFE, AND SERVICE

6/2/26 EDITED

Each year Grinnell College students and alumni vie favorably for nationally-competitive, merit-based fellowships, scholarships, and grants. The following awards require advising and nomination through Global Fellowships and Awards (GFA)*. GFA provides advising to all class years on these nomination-based awards, Grinnell College awards, and many other nationally competitive awards. Plan ahead! Research the opportunities and make an advising appointment as early as your first year.*

Beinecke Scholarship Program

- Award of $35,000 for exceptional ***third-year*** students planning to attend graduate school in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.
- Superior intellectual ability, scholastic achievement and personal promise.
- Documented history of receiving need-based financial aid during undergraduate years.
- U.S. citizenship or U.S. National from American Samoa or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands required.
- Grinnell can nominate one candidate; 16-20 selected nationally.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace-Gaither Junior Fellows

- ***Graduating seniors and graduates within the past academic year*** who have a serious interest in a career in international affairs.
- The recipients work in Washington, D.C. with senior fellows for one year receiving a monthly salary plus benefits and airfare.
- Very competitive, applicants should be of high academic quality.
- U.S. citizens and international students who can gain work authorization in the USA for a period of 12 months are eligible.
- Grinnell can nominate up to two candidates; 15-17 selected nationally.

Churchill Scholarship

- ***Graduating seniors or recent graduates*** who wish to pursue a one-year Masters degree in engineering, mathematics, or science at Churchill College at the University of Cambridge.
- Criteria for selection: exceptional academic talent and outstanding achievement; capacity to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the sciences, engineering, or mathematics by pursuing original, creative research at an advanced level; exceptional personal character with interesting “jagged edges.”
- U.S. citizenship required.
- Grinnell can nominate up to two candidates; 14 selected nationally.

Fulbright Grant

- Grants for ***graduating seniors and alumni*** for graduate study, research, and English teaching assistantships in over 140 countries.
- Designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.
- Criteria for selection: *academic merit or achievement; quality of written essays; personal qualities; language abilities (if required); research, teaching, tutoring, and other education-related experience based upon the project; community engagement.*
- Grant benefits vary by country and type of grant, yet they generally provide round-trip transportation to host country; maintenance/living costs for the academic year; supplemental health and accident coverage; and in some countries may support book and research allowance, tuition, language or orientation courses.
- U.S. citizenship required.
- All Grinnell College applications are reviewed, evaluated, and submitted for the national competition; over 1900 Americans are selected each year to participate.

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

- ***Second- and third-year*** students are eligible to apply for the $7,500 scholarship that goes toward current undergraduate study in mathematics, natural sciences, and engineering.
- Applicants must have a definitive plan for graduate study and a research career in mathematics, natural sciences, and engineering (students who plan to study medicine are eligible if they plan a research career rather than a career as a medical doctor).
- Selection criteria: very strong academic profile; coursework consistent to meet graduate school goals; research experience or well-developed research plan; all essay answers and letters of recommendation express commitment to a research career in the respective field.
- U.S. citizenship, resident alien, or U.S. national required.
- Grinnell can nominate up to four candidates; 450-460 selected nationally.

Marshall Scholarship

- ***Graduating seniors and graduates within the past two years*** may apply for this scholarship that is tenable at any British university; covers one year or two years of study in any discipline at the graduate level, leading to the award of a British university degree.
- A grade point average of not less than 3.7.
- Competition is extremely rigorous; candidates evaluated on academic merit, leadership potential, and ambassadorial potential. “Possessor of keen intellect and a broad outlook.”
- U.S. citizenship required.
- Grinnell can nominate up to 24 candidates; 40-50 scholars selected nationally.

McCall MacBain Scholarship

- ***Graduating seniors and alumni*** may apply for this scholarship to pursue a funded master's at McGill University while participating in an interdisciplinary leadership program.
- Candidates are evaluated on character, community engagement, leadership potential, entrepreneurial spirit, academic strengths, and intellectual curiosity.
- There are two tracks of candidacy: *Canadian Applicants* include Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and refugees, and *International Applicants* include any other citizenship or nationality.
- Grinnell can nominate any number of Canadian candidates and up to 3 International candidates; up to 30 McCall MacBain Scholarships and up to 100 finalist and regional awards will be offered to candidates who distinguish themselves during the interview process.

Rhodes Scholarship

- ***Graduating seniors and alumni*** may apply for this scholarship that is tenable at the University of Oxford, normally held for two years with a process for third year renewal, in pursuit of a master's degree, bachelor's degree or doctorate degree.
- A grade point average of not less than 3.7.
- Proven intellectual and academic achievement of a high standard, show integrity of character, interest in and respect for fellow beings, moral force of character and instincts to lead, and energy to use their talents to the fullest.
- There are twenty-four constituencies for the Rhodes Scholarship with unique processes and deadlines for specific countries or regions.
    - U.S. citizenship, or lawful U.S. permanent resident status required for the **United States of America Rhodes Scholars constituency**. Applicants can be between the ages of 18 and 24. 32 U.S. scholars selected nationally.

Harry S. Truman Scholarship

- A merit-based scholarship for ***third-year*** level college students who plan to pursue careers in public service, ***note at Grinnell the campus process to select nominees occurs in spring of second year,*** with nominee submission in February of third year.
- Scholars receive up to $30,000 for graduate or professional school, participate in leadership development activities, and have special opportunities for internships and employment with the federal government and other public service fields.
- Basis of selection will include: *extensive record of public and community service; commitment to a career in the public sector; wish to influence public policies; have outstanding leadership potential; and possess intellectual strength and analytical abilities.*
- The foundation defines public service as employment in government at any level, uniformed services, public-interest organizations, non-governmental research and/or educational organizations, public and private schools, and public service-oriented nonprofit organizations.
- Preference for the student to be in the upper quarter of their class.
- U.S. citizenship or U.S. national from American Samoa or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at the time the Scholarship is conferred.
- Grinnell can nominate up to four candidates; 60 to 65 are selected nationally.

Udall Scholarship

- $7,500 merit-based scholarships awarded to outstanding ***second- and third-year college students*** who:
    - Have demonstrated commitment to careers related to the environment; or
    - Have demonstrated commitment to careers related to tribal public policy or Native American health care and are Native American or Alaska Native.
- Must have a college grade point average of at least a "B" or the equivalent.
- Outstanding potential for success and leadership within their chosen career field.
- U.S. citizenship, U.S. national, or permanent resident required.
- Grinnell can nominate up to four candidates in the environmental category, and up to four in the tribal public policy or Native American health care category; up to 65 are selected nationally for the scholarship.

The U.S.-Ireland Alliance Scholarship

- ***Graduating seniors and alumni*** may apply for this scholarship that is tenable at seven universities in the Republic of Ireland, two institutes in Dublin, and two universities in Northern Ireland for one year of academic study (tuition, housing, living expenses, and travel stipend).
- Must have demonstrated record of academic excellence, leadership, and sustained commitment to service; with personal characteristics of honesty, integrity, fairness, and unselfish service to others which indicate a potential for future leadership and contribution to society.
- U.S. citizenship is required; applicants can be between the ages of 18 and 30.
- 12 scholars selected nationally.

Thomas J. Watson Fellowship

- Award of $40,000 to enable ***graduating seniors*** of "unusual promise" to engage in a year of independent and purposeful exploration and travel—in international settings new to them—to enhance their capacity for resourcefulness, imagination, openness, and leadership and to foster their humane and effective participation in the world community.
- Applicants must demonstrate leadership, resourcefulness, imagination or vision, independence, integrity, responsibility and emotional maturity, and courage.
- The project should be personally significant, imaginative, and feasible.
- Project may not involve formal study at a foreign university or formal engagement with a company or organization, as the experience should be pursued with great independence and adaptability.
- Recipients are self-sufficient and must not return to the United States or their home country during their journey.
- Proposals cannot include travel to a place a person has already been for an extended period of time; or countries that are U.S. State Department level 3 or 4 (or areas within countries listed as "Do Not Travel" and "Reconsider Travel"), or Treasury Embargo, or designated CDC level 3.
- All graduating seniors in December or May of the given academic year are eligible.
- Grinnell can nominate up to four candidates; up to 40 selected nationally.

Grinnell College Awards – *administered and advised by Global Fellowships and Awards*

Frederick Baumann Essay Prize

- The currently $3,000 prize is awarded to the student who writes the best essay on the general topic of "Ideas and Society," taking an interdisciplinary and historical approach.
- All Grinnell College students may apply.
- For the purposes of this contest, the essay is defined as a prose discourse on a well-defined subject that presents in a stimulating, entertaining, and informative way the personal view of the author.
- The prize distinguishes the dynamic classroom contributions of Frederick Baumann, professor of history at Grinnell from 1927 to 1954.
- Funded by David '51 and Audrey Lowe '52 Hammer.
- The prize is awarded each spring if, in the opinion of the judges, there is an entry of prize-winning caliber.

Celina Karp Biniaz Model of Resilience Award

- Established by Celina Karp Biniaz '52, this Grinnell College award is to honor her courageously hopeful life and legacy.
- The award is established with two key intentions: 1) To aid students like her who had to overcome obstacles to obtain their education; and 2) To recognize and support such students who wish to pursue careers teaching young people OR working for organizations or governmental entities whose core mission focuses on the education and welfare of young people.
- Open to graduating seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence and the above intentions.
- First award granted in May 2022.

Elsie M. Stouffer, class of 1924, Fellowship

- This Grinnell Award provides funding for graduate study leading to a career in public service in Latin America and/or Latin American communities.
- *****All Grinnell College senior women who are fluent in Spanish, French, or Portuguese and who are committed to a career in public service in Latin America may apply. *******please note that eligibility requirements are under review for the 2026-2027 application cycle.*
- Public service work may include non-profit, government, education, health, and other sectors.
- The graduate school plan must correspond with the intended public service field.
- The graduate study does not need to be undertaken immediately following graduation.
- One fellowship award is granted each year through an early spring semester application process.

Developing a Competitive Profile

- Develop relationships with faculty, staff, administrators, and fellow students.
- Involve yourself in undergraduate research activities.
- Inquire about professional conferences that you can attend or be a student presenter.
- Make time for public service and volunteerism in areas that you care about.
- Participate in "meaningful" co-curricular activities.
- Seek out leadership positions and active membership.
- Engage in summer learning experiences.
- Practice your communication skills.
- Seek opportunities to publish your writing.
- Learn a foreign language and/or expand upon your high school foreign language skills.
- Participate in study abroad or an off-campus study program, if it fits with your academic schedule.
- Keep current on world events and issues.
- Expand your knowledge of the world, enrich your perspectives on people, places, and events.
- Take an invested interest in developing your cultural competency.
- Attend information sessions, guest speakers, and online webinars for the fellowships, scholarships, grants, and other awards you are interested in.
- Engage with and learn from past fellowship applicants and recipients.
- Strive for academic excellence, maintaining a strong GPA.
- Create a master resume to document your education, honors, and experiences.
- Develop a vision for your future and your place in the world.

For Advising on Nomination-Based Fellowships/Scholarships and Grinnell College Awards:

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To make an appointment, login to Handshake and select "Schedule A New Appointment" from the Appointments section in the Career Center dropdown menu. Category: Global Fellowships and Awards. Appointment type choose either 'Getting Started with GFA' for new advisees or 'Fellowship Advising for Inquiries, Applicants, and Nominees' for return advisees.

For additional information, go to **career.grinnell.edu** and select Global Fellowships and Awards.

Reflecting On A Fellowship Opportunity | Preparing An Application

1. *Start Early! It is never too early to begin an application.*
2. *Schedule an advising meeting with the fellowship adviser.*
3. *Review the specific selection criteria and application requirements of the particular fellowship, scholarship, grant, or other award for which you are interested. Each is unique and has a unique application process.*
    a. *List the goals of the fellowship/scholarship/grant to which you are interested, as described by the foundation.*
    b. *List the characteristics of a successful candidate, as described by the foundation.*
    c. *Reflect on how your experiences and aspirations fit with the award.*
    d. *Talk it over with the fellowship advisor, faculty, past recipients, and others -- to obtain guidance and continue reflection.*
4. *Begin journaling your thoughts and ideas:*
    a. *What fires you up, gets you excited, and/or ignites your passion?*
    b. *What are your life goals?*
    c. *What do you want to discover or gain from this fellowship experience?*
    d. *What fellowship ideas do you have?*
    e. *How does your passion, life goals, and the fellowship award connect?*
    f. *Reflect on your education, values, and strengths towards this fellowship.*
    g. *Begin to narrow down your ideas based upon your self-reflection and advice from others.*
    h. *Develop your action plan to apply.*
5. *Determine the project, proposal or essay idea that you are passionate about, qualified for, and relevant towards your academic/extracurricular experiences and the fellowship for which you plan to apply.*
6. *Request letters of recommendation, transcripts, and other materials required for the application.*
7. *Research and more research of the topic area and in many cases the location for which you plan to complete this fellowship/scholarship.*
8. *Make an outline, mindmap, or free write to begin the writing process.*
9. *Begin the first of many drafts of your application materials - proposal, personal statement, and short answer essays. A typical application will take 5-10 drafts.*
10. *Continue to engage in conversations with the fellowship advisor and faculty mentors, in support of your fellowship application.*
11. *Meet all deadlines.*

How to Ask for Letters of Recommendation

1. Ask someone who knows you well and who will be able to discuss in specific detail what distinguishes you for the specific fellowship.
2. Ask well in advance of the deadline. It is suggested to ask at minimum six weeks before a deadline, yet eight to twelve weeks, even a semester or more before needed is encouraged. And then continue to communicate with them and provide information described below at the appropriate time.
3. Ask: "Do you feel you know me *(or my academic record, my leadership qualities, etc.)* well enough to write a strong letter of recommendation for the *(name)* fellowship? My plan for this fellowship award is to *(insert information about the fellowship and your central thesis or objective)*." You have now given the recommender the opportunity to clearly understand what you are pursuing and to either say yes or decline gracefully. This inquiry is best asked in person, yet may be done via phone or email – if you already have an established relationship with the potential recommender. If the answer is "no," don't push.
4. Schedule an appointment with your recommenders to discuss the fellowship, selection criteria, timeframe for submission, your most recent and commendable activities, and to suggest what each recommender might emphasize. You may want to let your recommenders know who your other recommenders are, so that they can write letters that complement, rather than repeat, one another.
5. Through this process, in meetings or emails, you should provide to your recommenders:
    a. The official description of the criteria the recommender's letter should address, the deadline by which the letter is due, and how it needs to be submitted or to whom it needs to be sent to. Supplement this description with your own suggestions as to what you would like your recommender to emphasize.
    b. Any coversheets or official recommendation forms that should accompany the letter. Be sure to complete any section that pertains to you: name, address to which the letter should be sent, etc. Each fellowship is different. Make sure you have waived your right to access under the Family Rights and Privacy Act. Selection committees often fail to take non-restricted letters seriously.
    c. A current résumé / CV or a list of your activities and honors and a cover letter. Be sure to include internships or work/research experience, community service, conference papers/presentations, other creative or leadership experiences.
    d. Any pertinent reminders about the work you have done for this professor that will help you highlight what makes you a strong candidate; past papers or exams are especially helpful.
    e. A copy of the 'best draft' of your personal statement, project proposal, and/or course of study proposal, or other descriptive information from the application (information about career plans, foreign travel experience, or non-academic interests is sometimes requested). Discuss with your recommender the timeframe for which you will provide these "best drafts" – as 1 to 1.5 weeks before the campus deadline may be appropriate, yet other recommenders may need them two or more weeks before the campus deadline.
    f. A copy of your transcript. This can be an unofficial copy with the intention to give your recommender an overview of your academic program to-date as well as your grades. If your grades are not what you think they should be, be prepared to identify any extenuating circumstances (e.g. family, other responsibilities, number/level of courses).
    g. Make sure they address the letter to the "(Name of Fellowship or Scholarship) Review Committee."
6. Important to remember: Some letters of recommendation for global fellowships and awards are submitted through an application portal while others come directly to the Grinnell fellowship adviser for review by the campus faculty nomination committee. Please be aware and inform your recommenders of any special requirements related to your fellowship application, and let them know they can contact the fellowship adviser with questions.
7. If nominated by Grinnell College, there may be additional instructions and requirements for your recommenders.
8. Keep in touch with your recommenders through your application process. Update them on your progress.
9. Share the outcome with your recommenders by stopping at their office or making a personal phone call, and send them a thank you note to express your appreciation for their time and effort.