MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP –
CANDIDATE EVALUATION CRITERIA

In appointing Scholars the selectors will look for candidates who have the potential to excel as scholars, as leaders and as contributors to improved UK-US understanding. Assessment will be based on academic merit, leadership potential and ambassadorial potential.

The selection criteria are divided into three equally weighted categories:

- Academic Merit
- Leadership Potential
- Ambassadorial Potential

ACADEMIC MERIT:

1. Quality of Programme of study.
Is the proposed programme coherent and well thought through? Does the candidate's writing give evidence of higher-order thinking skills and the ability to express thoughts clearly and without jargon?

2. Knowledge of Proposed Courses and Supervisors.
Has the candidate established the relevance of the proposed academic programme to his or her scholarly and career plans and, in the case of a research proposal, provided evidence of substantive engagement with the proposed supervisor(s)? Is there a compelling academic rationale for doing the work at a British university with Marshall support?

3. Evidence of Academic Background that is Strong and Relevant.
Does the transcript show evidence of high academic achievement? Does this coursework prepare the candidate for the planned field of study? Is there other evidence of high-level performance (e.g. merit scholarships, academic prizes, research results, artistic creations, publications)?

4. Quality and Breadth of Recommendations.
Are the recommendations excellent and from people who know the candidate and can make informed comparisons with many other students? Do the recommendations, taken together, provide specific and well-documented details about leadership and ambassadorial potential as well as academic excellence?

LEadership Potential:

1. Ability to Deliver Results.
Can the candidate demonstrate how he or she delivered results from a position of leadership—whether by organizing, mobilizing or inspiring others. This may have been through his/her intellectual or artistic contributions or in other ways. Is there evidence that the candidate initiated something and carried it through to an outcome? Is the candidate likely to attain a position of influence in his/her field of expertise?

2. Strength of Purpose.
Has the applicant demonstrated courage of conviction, persistence, and determination in the pursuit of his or her goals? Do the candidate’s extra-curricular activities indicate commitment?
3. Creativity.
Is there evidence of creativity and innovation in the candidate’s approach to answering questions or solving problems?

4. Self-Awareness
Is there evidence of a strong desire to contribute to society? Is the candidate aware of his or her role in particular activities and impact on other people? Can the candidate explain what changed as a result of his or her involvement in something?

AMBASSADORIAL POTENTIAL:

1. Knowledge of US/UK Relations.
Is there evidence that the candidate understands the general US/UK relationship, as well as specific aspects of this relationship that are pertinent to his or her field of study? Is the candidate aware of opportunities for on-going relationships with UK counterparts?

2. Evidence of Transferable Extra-curricular Activities.
What extracurricular activities has the candidate undertaken that could be put to use in the UK to meet the Marshall Scholarships’ objective of gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of contemporary Britain?

3. Interpersonal Skills and Ability to Engage with Others.
Does the candidate have a track record of proactively and enthusiastically building productive relationships with people outside his or her peer group, particularly when engaging with them in his/her field of expertise? Does the candidate appreciate the needs, motives and concerns of others?

4. Self-confidence and ability to Seize Opportunities.
How has the candidate responded to opportunities and what was the result?

From: http://www.marshallscholarship.org/applications/