Advice from Current Marshall and Fulbright Scholars

On June 8, 2016, two Marshall Scholars and one Fulbright Scholar answered questions about their application experiences. All three are currently studying at University College London (UCL).

Student Panel: Joanna Petrescu & Russell Beaumont (Marshall Scholars), Eleanor Burgess (Fulbright Scholar)

Q: How would you advise students to find the right program of study?
A: Look at the actual coursework that you’ll be doing, don’t just look for the name of the program.
A: Look for faculty who are doing the type of research you’re interested in doing and contact them. Ask your current PI/Advisor if you can mention their name, especially if they are well known in your field.
Q: What is different from your undergraduate studies?
A: You need to take more initiative to make connections with faculty.
A: There is a lot more reading and a lot more writing at a high level (i.e., higher quality).
A: You may have only one assessment at the end of the term (e.g., paper or exam), so you need to keep up with the work and develop a relationship with your professors, and meet with them if you are having any issues.
A: You learn a lot from other international students – offer different perspectives and experiences.

Q: What advice would you give to students interested in applying for the Marshall Scholarship?
A: Essays are important in how you piece things together, such as your background and what you want to study. It’s not just a linear process.
A: Look into potential programs of study early, especially if it’s a research based program. You will need to contact faculty, especially if you want to pursue a Ph.D.

Mary Denyer, Marshall Head of Scholarship Administration: It really matters what students want to do in Year 1 and Year 2. Year 1 is usually what is done. Year 2 may be different – students can talk to professors at UK institutions to make sure Year 2 is the best fit.