The Daniel M. Sachs Class of 1960 Scholarship
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Application Process

Q. My interests do not lie in politics, or even in the social sciences. Am I a suitable candidate for the Sachs?
A. Sachs Scholars have been drawn from a wide range of disciplines, including the physical sciences, engineering, humanities, and the arts. Anyone interested in public affairs, broadly defined, and in the potential application of their work to enhance the public welfare is a suitable candidate.

Q. I am interested in both the Sachs Global Scholarship and the Sachs Scholarship at Worcester College, Oxford. Can I apply for both?
A. No, you must specify in your letter of application in which one of the two ways you propose to use the Scholarship.

Q. How do I obtain an application form for the Sachs Scholarship?
A. There is no application form. You need only write a letter to the Sachs Selection Committee, setting out how you would propose to use the Scholarship, and why your proposal should command the interest of the Committee. Please read and follow carefully the instructions found on the Office of International Programs website regarding materials you are required to submit with your letter.

Q. Must I be an American citizen or permanent resident to apply for the Sachs Scholarship?
A. No, any graduating senior at Princeton University is eligible.

Q. I have other hopes for next year. Can I apply for the Scholarship, and defer it or decline it if I receive it?
A. Neither the Worcester Scholarship nor the Global Scholarship may be deferred. In the course of their interviews, candidates will be invited to confirm that they are prepared to accept the Scholarship if they are selected. Candidates for the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships may wish to note that the Sachs interviews generally occur after those awards are announced. Global Scholars will be expected to commence their proposed activity within six months of graduation.

Q. I graduated last spring. Am I eligible to apply?
A. No, only members of the current senior class are eligible.

Q. How many letters of recommendation may I submit?
A. You may submit up to three letters. Three letters will be added to your application file in the order they are received; subsequent letters will be discarded. Letters of recommendation are not required but, generally speaking, letters are helpful to the Committee in its efforts better to understand you and the context for your proposal.
Q. Must my letters of recommendation accompany my application?
A. Referees should send their letters directly to the Committee. The deadline for letters of recommendation is one week after the application deadline. Letters received later than this will be included where possible, but may not arrive in time to be considered. Referees should send signed letters in pdf format electronically.

Q. May I submit samples of my writing, artwork, music, etc. with my application?
A. You are welcome to submit small quantities of such material if it is relevant to your application. If you need to have the material returned, please so indicate and provide suitable return packaging. Please do not submit any valuable or irreplaceable material; while the Committee will endeavor to treat your material with care, it cannot be held responsible for loss or damage.

Q. How long should my proposal be?
A. There is no prescribed length. However, successful letters in the past have generally run to about 1,000 words, or two typed pages. Your proposal should address with some specificity what you propose to do, and why. If your written materials do not make a compelling case, you will not be invited for an interview. At the same time, bear in mind that each reader must read thirty or more application packages, and may be put off by an unnecessarily wordy proposal.

Q. Will you accept my application after the published application deadline?
A. No, applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Oxford Option

Q. I am applying for the Sachs Scholarship at Worcester College, Oxford. When should I submit an application to Oxford University and/or Worcester College?
A. If you are proposing to read for a graduate degree, you do not need to submit an application to Oxford prior to the conclusion of the Sachs selection process. If you are awarded the Scholarship, you will still have adequate time to apply to Oxford, and the Sachs Scholarship committee will assist you in submitting your application. The fact of having, or having not, already applied to Oxford will not affect your chances of receiving the Sachs Scholarship. However, the Oxford University deadline for applications for B.A. programs is much earlier; therefore, if you are proposing to read for a second B.A., you will need to make your application to Oxford independently, prior to the conclusion of the Sachs selection process.

Q. If selected as the Sachs Scholar, am I assured acceptance into the Oxford University graduate degree program of my choice?
A. No. The relevant departmental faculty controls admission to each graduate degree program, and some programs have many more applicants than places. If you are aiming to enter a highly selective program, you should indicate to the Selection Committee in your Sachs application whether another Oxford degree program would meet your interests should you fail to gain admission to your preferred program. If you aim to read for a second B.A., you should have no
difficult irrespective of the subject(s), but see the Q & A above about the early deadline for B.A. applications.

Q. May I use the Sachs Scholarship to attend an Oxford college other than Worcester College?
A. Worcester is an outstanding college, in terms of its faculty, academic reputation, facilities and student life. (Many consider it one of Oxford’s most beautiful colleges.) At Worcester, as at other Oxford colleges, graduate students may draw as required on faculty and other resources located elsewhere in the University. Worcester has agreed to admit all Sachs Scholars regardless of their chosen fields of study. Moreover, only under the Sachs Scholarship at Worcester College will the Scholar receive two years of financial support. Candidates may apply for the Sachs Global Scholarship for support at another Oxford college for one-year programs not offered at Worcester College. However, in selecting a Sachs Global Scholar, the Committee will give preference to proposals not connected to Oxford.

Sachs Global Scholarship

Q. I wish to attend a course at a foreign institution. Do I have to gain admission to the course before the Sachs Scholar is selected?
A. No, but it is helpful to your application if you can show that you are easily qualified for the program or, better still, that program faculty have expressed interest in working with you. Depending on deadlines and your alternate plans, you may wish to submit an application for the course prior to the Sachs selection.

Q. Can I propose a two-year project or course at a foreign institution?
A. Yes. You may propose to hold the Scholarship for one year, for two years, or for anything in between. You may also apply for one year with an option to extend for up to one additional, consecutive year subject to specified conditions, such as admission to a particular degree program. All proposals are equally welcome, regardless of duration, and will be judged according to the same criteria.

Q. Can I propose an independent project, not associated with a foreign university?
A. The Selection Committee encourages proposals for independent projects abroad. Candidates proposing independent projects must describe in detail what they plan to do, and demonstrate the project’s feasibility, in terms of access to required situations, people and other resources, and in terms of budget.

Q. What should be in the budget?
A. The Scholarship stipend will be set in accordance with anticipated needs. For formal study at a university or other institution, the Scholarship will cover tuition, research expenses, living expenses, and travel. You should include a budget for these amounts in your proposal. Most universities provide estimates for reasonable living expenses. For independent projects, the Scholarship will fund research expenses, living expenses, and travel at a rate of up to $45,000 per year. You should provide a budget with estimates for anticipated costs in your proposal.
Q. Can I combine two different one year projects, such as a year of independent study and a year at a foreign university, or one year in each of two different foreign universities or locations?
A. Yes, all combinations will be considered, provided that they form part of a single, coherent plan for personal development. In cases where the feasibility or desirability of the plan for the second year is uncertain, candidates are encouraged to apply for one year together with the option to extend the Scholarship subject to specified conditions. For example, if the idea is to spend the first year conducting independent research, with a view to determining whether to pursue a one-year university program in the subsequent year, the proposal may ask for one year of support together with an option for an additional year, subject to admission to an appropriate program.

Q. Can I propose to return to a country or institution where I have already been?
A. There is no requirement that the proposed experience be wholly new. However, you should endeavor to explain how the return experience will ‘enlarge [your] view of the world,’ and not be simply a repetition, however rewarding.

Q. Can I propose to engage in aid or charitable work abroad?
A. The Scholarship is intended as an investment in the development of the Scholar as someone who it is hoped will, over his or her lifetime, make a significant and lasting contribution. Therefore, your work proposal will be evaluated on that basis, in terms of its potential impact on your development, and not on its intrinsic humanitarian merit.

Selection Process

Q. How is the Sachs Scholar selected from among the applicants?
A. Four or more readers, drawn from among former Sachs Scholars and advisors to the Scholarship, carefully review all applications and supporting materials. The readers select a sub-set applicants to be interviewed by a Selection Committee, similarly composed of five to seven former Scholars and advisors. Applicants will be advised in November by e-mail whether they have been invited to interview, and when and where they should appear. Interviews will take place on the Princeton campus in late November/early December on a Friday and Saturday (see the announcement for exact dates). Candidates will be notified of the final outcome within a few days following the interviews.

Q. I cannot be on campus during the interview weekend. Can I meet the Selection Committee at some other time?
A. Unfortunately, no. The Selection Committee comes together only during the interview weekend. A candidate who, for whatever reason, is unable to meet the Committee at that time will not be eligible to receive the Scholarship.

Q. I will be on campus during the interview weekend, but I have certain obligations that would prevent me from meeting the Committee at certain times. Can I be accommodated?
A. To the extent feasible, interview times will be assigned to accommodate conflicts. Candidates facing conflicts must inform the Committee in writing of the potential conflict PRIOR TO the issuance of interview invitations.
Other Information

Q. How do I ask a question not addressed in these FAQ?
A. You should feel free to e-mail Matthew Stewart at matthewx1@princeton.edu with any questions. Please review the instructions in the Office of International Programs website beforehand, to be sure the answer to your question does not already appear.