

MOUNT HOLYOKE<sup>™</sup>  
**CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
Phone 413-538-2080 / Fax 413-538-2081

**GEORGE J. MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIPS**  
*For study in Ireland*

(George J. Mitchell Scholarship web site: <http://www.us-irelandalliance.org/scholarships.html>)  
We encourage all applicants to visit this website for more detailed information about the program

Applications for the George J. Mitchell Scholarship must be submitted electronically through the website at <http://us-irelandalliance.org/mitchellscholarships/>. If you wish to apply, must first contact Kimberly Parent, Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School in the Career Development Center to discuss your plans.

**TYPE:** Nomination by Mount Holyoke College is required for current seniors, but not for alumnae. Mount Holyoke may nominate an unlimited number of candidates for this award. Apply as senior or alum.

**PURPOSE:** The George J. Mitchell Scholarship is a national competitive fellowship sponsored by the US-Ireland Alliance. The Mitchell Scholarship, named to honor the former U.S. Senator's pivotal contribution to the Northern Ireland peace process, is designed to introduce and connect generations of future American leaders to the island of Ireland, while recognizing and fostering intellectual achievement, leadership, and a commitment to public service and community. Twelve Mitchell Scholars between the ages of 18 and 30 are chosen annually for one year of postgraduate study in any discipline offered by institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Applicants are judged on three criteria: academic excellence, leadership, and a sustained commitment to service and community.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Basic eligibility requirements are:

- U.S. citizenship at the time of application
- 18 or over but not yet thirty on October 1 in the year of application
- Must have academic standing sufficient to assure completion of a Bachelor's degree before they begin study under the Mitchell Scholarship
- Students in all fields of study and of all ethnic backgrounds are eligible to apply

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** Selection is based on a demonstrated record of intellectual distinction, outstanding record of leadership and extra-curricular activity, as well as the personal characteristics of honesty, integrity, fairness and unselfish service to others that indicate a potential for future leadership and contribution to society. There are no restrictions as to academic field of study though 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. While there are no minimum GPA requirements, most successful candidates have a GPA of 3.75 or above.

**AWARDS:** The Mitchell Scholarship provides tuition, housing and living expenses stipend for one year only. Because an institutional balance is a factor in the selection process, applicants should indicate multiple preferences. The applicant is responsible for researching and listing at least three and up to five specific proposed graduate programs at universities in Ireland and/or Northern Ireland. **It is essential that applicants list at least three different Irish/Northern Ireland university choices.** Listing only one or two university choices may significantly weaken an applicant's candidacy. It is important that applicants spend sufficient time examining the various programs at the different Irish/Northern Ireland universities in order to determine which programs they are most interested in and qualified for. Applicants also must have sufficient undergraduate preparation for each proposed graduate program. Roughly 30 semi-finalists are selected, some of whom will be invited to Washington, DC for interviews. Approximately 20 finalists will be brought to Washington, DC for interviews by the Selection Committee and final interviews will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE, LAMINATE OR BIND ANY PART OF THE APPLICATION FORM OR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, AS THEY WILL BE COPIED FOR REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE ON FELLOWSHIPS!**

**NOMINATION PROCESS & DEADLINES:**

**Friday, September 19, 2008**

Submit the following documents to Kimberly Parent, Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School in the Career Development Center.

- A completed and signed copy of the Mitchell **application form (5 sections)**
- **Draft of a thousand-word (not to exceed) essay** (the applicant should devote careful thought to the essay, which should describe the applicant's field of interest and the justification for the applicant's study in Ireland or Northern Ireland. **Selection committee members will place special emphasis on the personal statement.**
- A **photocopy of your birth certificate or passport** (driver's license is not acceptable)
- **Official transcripts from each institution attended, including study abroad** (note: MHC unofficial transcripts may be submitted to the Committee on Fellowships for the interview, however if nominated, official transcripts will be required for final application submission). Transcripts are to be sent directly to the CDC.
- **Five letters of recommendation, sent directly to Kimberly Parent, Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School, in a signed, sealed envelope. Exactly 5 letters are required; three of which must be from persons with whom you've done academic work. Recommenders will also need to submit their letters of recommendation online (see "Online Application Process").**

**Wednesday, September 24 - Friday, September 26, 2008**

The Committee on Fellowships interviews candidates. Students will be notified shortly after the interview whether the Committee has decided to support their candidacy.

#### **ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS:**

- Applications must be submitted electronically through the website at <http://us-irelandalliance.org/mitchellscholarships/>. To create an account, fill in the information requested. An email will be sent to you confirming your registration. Once an account is created, the applicant can save and return to the application to add or amend all responses up until the application is submitted. **Applicants are encouraged to begin their applications well in advance of the nomination deadline.** Please follow all formatting instructions for the essay.
- All applicants are required to provide **exactly five letters of recommendation** utilizing the online recommendation system contained within the online application. No fewer than three recommenders should be persons under whom the applicant has done academic work at a college or university. Applicants register recommenders online and must provide the email address of the recommender. Once registered, each recommender will receive an email with a login user name and password in order to submit the recommendation online. Applicants should follow up with the recommenders to make sure the email instructions have been received and should also contact Kimberly Parent, Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School, to ensure that the letters have been submitted successfully online. Urge your recommenders to submit the final online versions of their recommendation letters as soon as you are notified of your MHC nomination for the award. Failure to submit the online letters on time will disqualify the application.

#### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS – TO BE MAILED BY THE APPLICANT TO THE US-IRELAND ALLIANCE:**

**Monday, October 6, 2008**

Once nominated, each nominee must submit the online application, consisting of Personal Information; Education and Employment; Registration of Recommenders/Institutional Endorser; Awards and Activities; and Personal Statement no later than midnight (EDT) on Monday, October 6, 2008. Each applicant must submit by mail, the following supporting documents: **ONE** photocopy of the applicant's birth certificate, passport or documented evidence of U.S. citizenship; **TEN** passport-size photos of unmounted head and shoulders photograph of the applicant with the applicant's signature on the back of each photo; and **TEN** copies of the applicant's college transcript. **The ORIGINAL transcript must be certified by the Registrar or other responsible college official. The other NINE copies may be photocopies. If an applicant has attended more than one college or university, all transcripts must be submitted. These documents must be received no later than Monday, October 6, 2008 and mailed to: US-Ireland Alliance, George J. Mitchell Scholarship Program, 2800 Clarendon Boulevard, #502 West, Arlington, VA 22201.**

*Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that each portion of the application, including letters of recommendation, is received by the appropriate deadline.* If you will be requesting transcripts from other institutions or letters of recommendation from outside the College (particularly outside the U.S.), please do so immediately, as these materials can take several weeks to reach us. If you anticipate a problem meeting a particular deadline or have any questions concerning your application, please contact Kimberly Parent, Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School, at (413) 538-2080.