Preparing to Apply for Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships

1. Research the different scholarship and fellowship opportunities on the OFUR website. Determine which awards match your academic and/or professional interests, and ensure that you meet the criteria for selection.

2. Once you have identified the fellowships you would like to apply for, complete the fellowship application form in full at http://ofur-app.rice.edu/application/

3. Pursue academic excellence in challenging courses. Select courses of interest that will provide you with the knowledge and skills you need to pursue your interests and understand the world more broadly. The substance of your resume supersedes the number of majors.

4. Establish relationships with your professors, your academic advisors, and others who can help you on and off campus. If they do not know you, they cannot write effective letters of recommendation, nor will they be able to discuss their interactions and experiences with you.

5. Get involved in extra-curricular activities and leadership opportunities both on and off campus. Select activities that are fun and interesting to you. Do not pad your resume by joining random clubs; pick those that are meaningful to you. Be an active participant and make a substantive contribution to the organization or activity.
   - Visit the Student Activities Website at http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~stact/ to get ideas or find groups to join.
   - Visit the Center for Civic Engagement website at http://cce.rice.edu/ to get ideas regarding community-based activities, including research through OFUR, service through the CIC, and leadership opportunities and mentoring through Leadership Rice.

6. Get hands on experience in your field or area of interest via community service, internships, or undergraduate research.
   - Visit the Community Involvement Center Website at http://www.cic.rice.edu to see what types of service activities are available.
   - Visit the Center for Career Development Website at ccd.rice.edu to find out more information regarding internships and other professional opportunities.
   - Visit the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduate (NSF REUs) site at http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm

7. Expand your knowledge of the world.
   - Read news and editorials in order to understand domestic and global issues from a variety of perspectives.