



FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

McNair Scholars



Be a Leader

Francis Marion University's prestigious **Robert E. McNair Scholarship** recognizes South Carolina students who have demonstrated both academic excellence and a strong desire for a life of public service. It is named after former South Carolina Governor Robert E. McNair, whose career serves as an exemplar for scholarship recipients.

The McNair Scholarship is FMU's most prestigious scholarship. Recipients receive a virtually cost-free education at one of the state's best public universities, gain

access to an array of experiences designed to broaden and enrich their lives, and join the ranks of McNair alumni, a growing band who are making their mark across South Carolina and beyond.

The McNair Scholarship is a competitive scholarship that identifies recipients through a comprehensive process. The selection criteria includes written essays, evaluation of a student's academic records, recommendations and in-person interviews.



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Study Abroad Opportunities for McNair Scholars

McNair Scholars spend time abroad in one of FMU's partner universities located in Canada, England, France, Germany and Ireland.

1. De Montfort University, Leicester, England
2. National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland
3. Fachhochschule Schmalkalden, Schmalkalden, Germany
4. Universität Trier, Trier, Germany
5. Universität Koblenz-Landau, Landau, Germany
6. University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, British Columbia, Canada
7. Université de Caen Basse-Normandie, Caen, France
8. Ecole Supérieure de Commerce Et Management (ESCEM School of Business & Management), Poitiers & Tours, France
9. University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada



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Benefits and Opportunities

McNair Scholars receive full tuition and housing fees to Francis Marion University, plus a book allowance, and a meal plan. The scholarship is renewable for the four years students attend Francis Marion University. Additional benefits and opportunities include:

- ◆ Travel abroad during spring break of freshman year
- ◆ Study abroad in one of FMU's student exchange programs
- ◆ Automatic admission to FMU's superb Honors program
- ◆ Opportunity to participate in the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City every spring
- ◆ Early class registration
- ◆ Housing in the Forest Villas Apartments, FMU's newest residential units
- ◆ Access to the McNair Scholars speaker series featuring distinguished speakers on politics, government, history and more
- ◆ Experiential learning opportunities outside the classroom
- ◆ Participation in public service activities in the local community

Application Process

Applications for the McNair Scholarship Program must be received by **December 1, 2016**. Finalists will be invited to interview in early January. Awards will be made in January for incoming freshmen enrolling at FMU during the 2017 fall semester. Applicants who are not selected will be considered for other FMU scholarships. Applications and scholarship information are available online at: www.fmarion.edu/fmuadmissions/scholarship.

Apply online at www.fmarion.edu/fmuadmissions/mcnair

McNair Contact

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Where Service Begins

Francis Marion University's McNair Scholars are selected, in large part, for their interest in a life of public service. Fulfilling that desire continues at FMU. Every McNair Scholar participates in volunteer public service work and completes a public service project while at FMU.

Volunteer Service

Volunteer opportunities for McNair Scholars have included the following on and off-campus activities:

On-Campus

FMU Diplomats and Ambassadors – Assist with student recruiting, conducting campus tours, meeting prospective students and attending designated off-campus events as representatives of FMU.

Student Marshals – Assist graduates during commencement ceremonies.

Student Organization Leadership – Direct the operations and activities of diverse student groups, including fraternities, sororities, honor societies and service-oriented organizations.

Off-Campus

Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Provide assistance for a variety of activities that support the Coalition's work and goals.

McLeod Health – Volunteer at the region's largest comprehensive medical center.

Florence County School Districts – Volunteer in and out of the classroom at local schools.

Science South – The Florence-based science education center offers McNair Scholars the chance to share their love of science and learning through volunteer activities associated with the facility's programming.

Personal Projects

Each McNair Scholar also designs and completes a personal service project. Recent service projects include:

- Golf Tournament – A Scholar organized a golf tournament, which raised approximately \$10,000 for the Durant Children's Center and Prevent Child Abuse America.
- Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault – A Scholar updated materials distributed by the Coalition and helped write and edit the organization's newsletter and grant proposals.
- After School Garage Band – A Scholar organized an after school garage band for a high school without a music program. Free guitar lessons were offered to interested students at this high school.
- Safe Kids – A Scholar worked with the McLeod Health Foundation's Safe Kids pilot project by the assembling and distributing of 5,000 medical kits to homes in the eleven counties McLeod serves.
- NASA Saturday – A Scholar assisted staff of a local children's science center in planning, teaching, and running demonstrations during "NASA Saturday" programs, an educational outreach program funded by a NASA grant.
- FMU Student Leadership Conference – A Scholar was instrumental in planning a Student Leadership Conference at FMU.

Meet a McNair Scholar

Aiyanna Johnson

Junior

Columbia, SC

Why FMU? I came to FMU because of its top-notch nursing program. Many people told me about the great nursing program at FMU, so I knew if I decided to become a nurse, I would go to FMU. When I was on campus for the McNair Scholar interview, I knew FMU was the place for me no matter what major I decided. I was impressed that my interviewers all asked questions about things I had written in my McNair application. I knew then that the faculty members would want to get to know me. That was important to me.

Study Abroad. I studied at University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, for a semester.

Service Project. I am in the early stages of preparing my service project. I plan to focus on childhood obesity. I want to promote ways for children and youth to stay healthy and show them it is ok to have fun getting fit. Through this approach, they'll develop healthy habits at a young age, which will serve them well throughout their lives.

Where do you go from here? After graduating next year, I plan to pursue the Master of Science in Nursing at FMU and become a nurse practitioner. I am really interested in working in pediatrics or women's health.

Advice for the "next" McNair generation? McNair Scholars should take advantage of all resources and opportunities given through the Scholarship, not just the free tuition and study abroad experience. Take time to get to know the other McNair scholars and learn from the upperclassmen. Since the number of McNair Scholars on campus is small, the group becomes like a family. Take advantage of that.



Aiyannah Johnson



The late Gov. Robert E. McNair

McNair Scholarship Criteria

Candidates for the Robert E. McNair Scholarship at Francis Marion University must meet the following criteria:

- ◆ Be a full-time South Carolina resident
- ◆ Be a high school senior
- ◆ Be admitted to FMU prior to the December 1 McNair deadline
- ◆ Maintain a high school cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- ◆ Have a combined SAT score (critical reading and math) of 1100 or higher (or equivalent on the redesigned SAT) or a 24 or higher ACT score
- ◆ Possess a demonstrated interest in public service
- ◆ Deliver a completed McNair application and all additional required materials (essays, two letters of recommendation) to the Director of the Robert E. McNair Center by **December 1, 2016**.

Robert Evander McNair

Robert E. McNair served as Governor of South Carolina from 1965 to 1971. He was a progressive pro-education governor with an illustrious background. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was awarded a Bronze Star for his service. A native of Cades, in Williamsburg County, South Carolina, McNair earned his law degree and founded a successful law practice in Columbia, S.C. Prior to becoming governor, he served in the S.C. House of Representatives and later was elected lieutenant governor. McNair was elevated to the governor's office in 1965 when his predecessor resigned to become a U.S. Senator. McNair was re-elected to the governorship in 1966. While governor, he signed the legislation creating Francis Marion College in 1970. The University awarded him an honorary doctoral degree in 2005. A classroom building on the FMU campus is also named in his honor.

The Robert E. McNair Center

The Robert E. McNair Center for Research and Service provides a collaborative setting for academic and outreach initiatives that strengthen ties between the University and the greater community.

The Center supports a number of outreach programs at Francis Marion which include:

- ◆ International Studies Program - an exchange program that gives students the opportunity to study abroad in one of our international locations.
- ◆ Model United Nations Program - a national program that builds political awareness and diplomatic skills.
- ◆ The Governor Robert E. McNair Scholarship Program - a prestigious four-year, full scholarship to Francis Marion created to encourage public service.
- ◆ The Governor Robert E. McNair Research Grants Program - a program that supports FMU faculty research focusing on the human needs of South Carolinians.



Our Name Says Leadership

Francis Marion University is named in honor of South Carolina's Revolutionary War hero, General Francis Marion. Marion was a pioneer in what is now known as "guerrilla warfare." His acumen in that field earned him the nickname "The Swamp Fox" because of his wily use of terrain and local knowledge in his campaign against the British in South Carolina's low country – the very area that today is home to the university that bears his name.

Founded in 1970, Francis Marion University is one of thirteen state-supported universities and one of six comprehensive institutions in South Carolina. FMU prides itself on providing a strong liberal arts education for its 4,000 students.

The University offers professional schools in business, education and health sciences, as well as graduate programs in business, education, nursing, physician assistant studies, and psychology. The campus is situated on over 400 wooded acres and is known as one of the most scenic college campuses in the state.

**General Francis Marion
Statue, on the FMU campus.**



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Francis Marion University follows all federal and state laws banning discrimination in public institutions of higher learning. Francis Marion adheres to all Title IX policies, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or any other protected category under applicable local, state, or federal law. General questions regarding Title IX can be directed to the Office of Civil Rights (www.ed.gov/ocr). Specific questions may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator (titleixcoordinator@fmarion.edu).