

# Commonwealth Scholarships

for Master's and PhD study  
for developing Commonwealth  
country citizens

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## United Kingdom Awards 2015

This prospectus and a link to the Electronic Application System (EAS) are available  
on our website: <http://bit.ly/cscuk-scholarships-developing-cw>



COMMONWEALTH  
SCHOLARSHIPS

## INTRODUCTION

Since their inception in 1959, nearly 30,000 individuals have benefited from the award of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships to pursue advanced academic study in other Commonwealth countries. About three quarters of awards have been tenable in the United Kingdom. The vast majority of award holders have returned to make a significant contribution to their home countries, in many cases at the highest level, making the award scheme one of the largest and most prestigious in the world.

This prospectus describes the Commonwealth Scholarships offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC) for Master's and PhD study for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries in 2015-2016. Separate prospectuses exist for the CSC's other programmes, including Shared Scholarships, Split-site Scholarships, Distance Learning Scholarships, Academic Fellowships, Medical Fellowships, and Professional Fellowships. Please visit the CSC website at [www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk) for details of these programmes. For information on Commonwealth Scholarships offered by other Commonwealth countries, please visit the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) website at [www.csfp-online.org](http://www.csfp-online.org)

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's Secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), which is responsible for all matters concerning selection, academic studies, and evaluation. The British Council is responsible for supporting award holders in their home countries before and after their awards.

## ELIGIBILITY

To apply for the awards covered in this prospectus, candidates should:

- Be Commonwealth citizens, refugees, or British protected persons
- Be permanently resident in a developing Commonwealth country (a full list is available at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-developing-cw-countries>)
- Be available to commence their academic studies in the United Kingdom by the start of the UK academic year in September/October 2015
- Hold, by October 2015, a first degree of upper second class Honours standard (or above); or a second class degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification, which will normally be a Master's degree

The Commission wishes to promote equal opportunity, gender equity and cultural exchange. Applications are encouraged from a diverse range of candidates.

## WHAT TYPES OF AWARD ARE AVAILABLE AND HOW CAN I APPLY?

The Commission invites the nomination of candidates for Commonwealth Scholarships from a number of sources. These are described below. Candidates may choose any of these 'nominating routes' for any category of award. Candidates must apply locally in the first instance. **The Commission does not accept direct applications.**

### For the following categories of award...

- 12 months' support towards completion of a **full-time** taught postgraduate qualification at an eligible UK institution. Please note that the Commission offers awards for one-year Master's programmes only, and does not fund MBAs
- Up to 36 months' support towards completion of a **full-time** doctoral postgraduate qualification at an eligible UK institution

### ... nominations are invited through the following channels

- The candidate's national Commonwealth Scholarship agency. This is the main route of application and a full list of Commonwealth Scholarship agency addresses can be obtained from the CSC website
- The Executive Head of an eligible developing country university on the staff of which the applicant serves. In the case of Bangladesh and India, nominations are made through the University Grants Commission; in Pakistan, through the Higher Education Commission; and in Sri Lanka, through the Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education
- Selected non-governmental organisations and charitable bodies

Candidates can apply to study at Master's or doctoral level at UK institutions with which the Commission has a part funding agreement. A list of institutions that have agreed to offer part funded Scholarships in 2015-2016 is available at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-uk-universities>. Agreement to part fund Scholarships is at the discretion of individual institutions.

### In addition, the Commission offers:

- Support for study towards an undergraduate degree in the United Kingdom for citizens of the Falkland Islands, Maldives, St Helena and the Seychelles. Nomination is through the national Commonwealth Scholarship agency

A full list of universities and other organisations invited to nominate can be found on the CSC website. Those wishing to be considered for inclusion in the list of universities and other organisations invited should contact the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HF).

Applications must be submitted using the Commission's Electronic Application System (EAS), which is available on our website by following the appropriate links at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-apply>. All applications must be submitted to and endorsed by one of the approved nominating bodies detailed previously. Please note that all Scholarship candidates must submit their application using the EAS by 3 December 2014.

Awards made by the Commission are subject to the ongoing endorsement of the nominating body. The Commission regrets that it is unable to accept nominations from other organisations or applications directly from individuals, and that these cannot be acknowledged.

## TENURE AND PLACEMENT

Awards are tenable at any approved UK university or higher education institution with whom the Commission has a part funding agreement (i.e. those on the list mentioned previously) for a specific programme of study or research and are not restricted to particular subject areas. Awards are to obtain one degree and funding will not be extended to enable candidates to complete an additional or higher qualification than that for which the selection was made. Scholarships are made in respect of **full-time** study only and no other courses of study may be undertaken at the same time.

It is important that candidates make clear at the point of application the qualification for which they are applying. This will enable the Commission to consider the application in the correct category.

The final decision on institution of study will be made by the Commission, which reserves the right to overrule any preferences expressed by the candidate at the application stage. The Commission will consider the suitability of the course and its value for money when considering any overrule. Tuition fees for at least the current academic year are published on university websites. Applicants are, however, expected to identify at least one and up to three institutions and courses (or supervisors for research degree applicants) that they consider most appropriate on the application form, and explain the reasons for their selection. This is important since the Commission will not change the institution or course for which the candidate has been provisionally selected after the Commission's selection committee has met, unless exceptional information becomes available that could not have been foreseen at the time of application. **Many courses have strict admission deadlines and candidates must take the necessary steps to secure admission to their preferred institutions in advance of any Scholarship application to the Commission.** Please note that applicants for doctoral study must provide a statement of support from at least one of the UK institutions to which they are applying, in order for their application to be eligible. Candidates in business, management, economics and other related fields should note that a number of university departments will require a candidate to demonstrate a valid GMAT or GRE score before an offer of admission can be made. Candidates should check admission requirements carefully at the time of application.

Please note that where the Commission selects a candidate who will have already started their PhD study by the time of their selection, their Scholarship will commence at the start of the next academic year (i.e. in September/October following the selection) and will end after the Scholar has been registered for their PhD for 36 months, in line with the Commission's policy on PhD length. Agreement on part funding in these circumstances is at the discretion of the institution, and candidates should check with the institution(s) at which they wish to study before applying for a Scholarship.

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations for 2015 Commonwealth Scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom are required to arrive with the Commission no later than 17 December 2014 in electronic format. All nominating authorities will have organised their own competitions in advance of this, with earlier deadlines and local rules for application, that you are strongly advised to check.

In order to ensure a competitive process in the United Kingdom, the Commission normally seeks approximately three times more nominations than there are Scholarships available. Following this deadline, each nomination is first considered by a member of the Commission's panel of advisers with expertise in the subject area concerned and then by the Commission's selection committee in competition with other applicants.

Applications are considered according to the following selection criteria:

- Academic merit of the candidate
- The quality of the proposal
- The likely impact of the work on the development of the candidate's home country

## VALUE OF AWARDS

Each Scholarship provides:

- Student concessionary or other approved airfare to the United Kingdom and return on expiry of the Scholarship (the cost of journeys made before final award confirmation will not normally be reimbursed, nor can fares be paid for a Scholar's dependants)
- Approved tuition and examination fees
- A personal maintenance allowance at the rate of £977 per month (£1,208 per month for those studying at institutions in the London Metropolitan area) – rates quoted at 2014-2015 levels
- A grant towards the expenses of preparing a thesis or dissertation, where applicable
- An initial arrival allowance, including visa reimbursement where applicable
- A grant for expenses for approved study travel within the United Kingdom or overseas
- A contribution towards fieldwork costs for those Scholars undertaking doctoral studies for whom a case has been made for fieldwork outside the United Kingdom. This shall not normally exceed one economy class return airfare to the fieldwork location
- A paid mid-term fare to their home country for Scholars on three year doctoral awards. Scholars for whom fieldwork fares are provided to their home country shall not be entitled to a mid-term fare home, nor Scholars who have claimed (or intend to claim) spouse or child allowances for more than 12 months during their award
- For Scholars selected by the Commission for awards exceeding 18 months, a spouse allowance of £220 per month is payable provided that the Scholar and spouse are residing together at the same address in the United Kingdom. It is not paid when the spouse is also in receipt of an award. For Scholars accompanied by their spouse and children, a child allowance is payable at the rate of £138 per month for the first child, and £108 per month for the second and third child under the age of 16, provided they are residing with their parents. The Commission's spouse and family allowances represent only a contribution towards the costs of family maintenance in the

UK and Scholars should expect and be able to supplement these allowances to support family members who choose to come to the UK.

Irrespective of the length of the award, a Scholar who is widowed, divorced or a lone parent will receive an allowance in respect of the first accompanying child and child allowances for the second and third accompanying children

More information can be found about the terms and conditions of the Scholarships in the Handbook for Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, available on the CSC website.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Applicants should be aware of the following general conditions:

- The Commission reserves the right to publish the names of candidates provisionally selected for awards on the CSC website. By applying for an award, the candidate gives consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful
- Candidates will be notified of their provisional selection by the Commission: that is, selection for award subject to the Commission agreeing the terms of admission to the university/institution
- Candidates will be given a formal Notification of Award – the offer of a Scholarship – as soon as terms of admission to the university/institution have been agreed
- Formal confirmation of the award will be issued when all conditions of the Notification of Award have been met
- Scholars will be expected to take up the award from the date stated by the Commission in its Notification of Award
- A Commonwealth Scholarship covers fees, fares and personal maintenance. Similar awards may not be held concurrently
- Scholars will be expected to reside in the United Kingdom throughout their award, and to seek prior approval for any proposed visits abroad
- Scholars may not undertake paid employment during their award without prior consent
- The Commission will require a medical report before an award can be confirmed
- Scholars will be required to sign an undertaking to return to their home country as soon as their award comes to an end

- The Commission will only consider requests to extend leave to remain in the UK post-award for those wishing to move from Master's to PhD study. Strict conditions will apply
- The Commission will therefore be unable to provide any letter of support which might be required by an award holder to stay on to work or undertake postdoctoral study in the UK
- All terms and conditions of award are subject to UK local law and practices, and are subject to change by the Commission
- All regulations concerning immigration and visas are set by the UK immigration authority. The Commission has no control over these; please note that they are subject to change
- Candidates from Commonwealth countries which require a Tier 4 visa to come to the UK for study may be required to take an approved English language test and/or be screened for tuberculosis in order to obtain their visa. The regulations on this could change at any point. You are advised to check the UK Visas and Immigration website at [www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/study-visas](http://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/study-visas) for updates
- In line with the UK Bribery Act which came into effect on 1 July 2011, it is Commission policy that any candidate convicted of bribery will be banned from reapplying for a Commonwealth Scholarship for a period of up to five years
- A Scholarship may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress, or attendance

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Commission may require candidates to undertake the academic IELTS English language test as a condition of eligibility. It is the candidate's responsibility to check with their nominating agency whether this requirement applies to them. An IELTS test will be considered valid only if taken after 1 October 2014 and before 6 March 2015. Candidates must achieve an overall score of 6.5 with no less than 5.5 in each band. As a further condition of award, the Commission, or a host institution in the United Kingdom, may require a candidate to provide evidence of a particular level of English language proficiency.



Commonwealth Scholarship  
Commission in the UK

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[www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk)