



## Working with professionals from developing Commonwealth countries

Commonwealth Professional Fellowships

Could your organisation get involved?



## Key Features

**Commonwealth Professional Fellowships** enable organisations in the UK to host visits from mid-career professionals from developing Commonwealth countries whose work is valuable to development in their home country. Supported by the **Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC)**, these professional development programmes are designed to have a catalytic effect by enhancing skills that will be subsequently applied in developing Commonwealth countries.

The CSC, together with the Scottish Government, also offers **Commonwealth Saltire Professional Fellowships** in the area of climate change. These Fellowships are open to Scottish organisations which are able to identify a Fellow/Fellows who have the ability to influence progress towards minimising the impact of climate change in their home country.

- Commonwealth Professional Fellowships aim to benefit the Fellow, the UK host organisation, and the Fellow's home employer and country.
- Applications are invited from organisations in the UK willing to set up a programme and host a Commonwealth Professional Fellow/Fellows.
- Organisations wishing to apply are required to set up a suitable programme and identify the Fellow(s) themselves. A programme can include time spent within the organisation itself, learning from colleagues in a structured manner, as well as time spent at other organisations in the UK and at conferences and a limited time on short courses. *Please note that Commonwealth Professional Fellows cannot undertake an academic programme of any kind during their Fellowship.*
- Funding is available for programmes of between one and six months, though the typical duration is three months.
- Applications are sought for programmes within the broadly defined fields of:
  - agriculture/fisheries/forestry
  - economic growth
  - education
  - engineering/science/technology
  - environment
  - governance
  - public health
  - climate change
- Organisations can apply to host up to six Fellows at a time.
- Fellows must be Commonwealth citizens, refugees or British protected persons and must be permanently resident in a developing Commonwealth country.
- Fellows must have at least five years' relevant work experience.
- A Commonwealth Professional Fellowship covers living expenses for the Fellow as well as a return airfare to the UK. It also provides £800 funding support to the host organisation, with an additional budget of up to £3,000 available for attendance at conferences and short courses and other eligible costs.
- Programmes must have demonstrable development impact in the Fellow's home country.

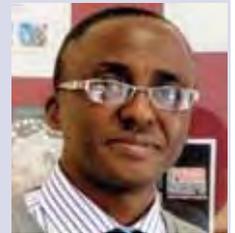
# Why apply for a Com

## Benefit to the Fellow

Commonwealth Professional Fellows have the chance to learn new skills, gain knowledge, and make contacts within UK organisations, all of which they maintain and develop after their return home and share with colleagues and the wider community.

*My Commonwealth Professional Fellowship has been one of the most enriching and rewarding moments in my academic and professional career. It has empowered me for future challenges and has prepared me to make more informed and relevant contributions to the development of my home country.*

**Dr Olusola Babatunde Opeibi,**  
2010 Commonwealth  
Professional Fellow from Nigeria,  
Centre for the Study of Democracy,  
University of Westminster



**Habibu Suluo**, from Tanzania, held a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship at **Fulcrum Maritime Systems**, a company which supplies vessel tracking and vessel management systems. He found his Fellowship to be a very positive experience, as the programme organised by the host company was focused on providing him with training and experiences relevant to his home employer, which will open new doors for both on his return.

*The successful outcome of my Fellowship is that it enhanced my competence to design, deliver and sustain information literacy, an area still developing in India. In June 2011, I plan to start a course on 'Information Literacy: Tools for Research' at my home institute which will benefit our students, many of whom are socially disadvantaged with rural backgrounds and limited skills in how to access research.*

**Dr Satish Kanamadi**, 2010 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from India, London School of Economics and Political Science



**Peter Odhengo**, Principal Compliance Officer at the **National Environment Management Agency** in Kenya, carries out water sampling activities at a wastewater treatment facility during his 2007 Commonwealth Professional Fellowship at the **Environment Agency**

# Commonwealth Professional Fellowship?

## Benefit to the host organisation

Commonwealth Professional Fellowships give the host organisation a chance to share good practice with professionals from developing Commonwealth countries working in their field. The Fellowships allow organisations to develop either existing links with Fellows and their home employers or new links for future joint working, as well as providing other employees with exposure to international perspectives on their work.

**Mott MacDonald**, a leading international engineering, management and development consultancy, has hosted two Commonwealth Professional Fellowships, and considers the benefits to its own company to include a better understanding of the issues and problems faced in developing countries and the chance to strengthen ties with a client. Both parties benefit, as the Fellows, from Uganda, have gained from the opportunity to learn more about bridge management and from the great depth of specialist knowledge available from Mott MacDonald.



**Jonathan Tugume**, 2010 Commonwealth Professional Fellow at Mott MacDonald

*It has been a privilege to offer a placement under the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship scheme to two incredible women from Nigeria, Abiola and Deborah, who stayed with us for three months. They are founder members of **Women and Child Watch Initiatives**, working with some of the most vulnerable women and children in Kwara State, Nigeria. Following a presentation to Haven board members, consideration is being given to a more formal partnership arrangement for the future; without the Fellowship, this link would not have been possible.*

Kath Rees, Chief Executive, **The Haven Wolverhampton**



**Harriette Smith** (2006 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from St Lucia, St Lucia Diabetes Project) tends to a patient. The **St Lucia Diabetes Project** has hosted several Commonwealth Professional Fellows, who have undertaken placements in the field of diabetes care at several London teaching hospitals. It considers the Fellowships to be a wonderful opportunity for the enhancement of diabetes care in St Lucia

The **Environment Agency** for England and Wales, a UK public body, has hosted a number of Commonwealth Professional Fellows and has found it an invaluable experience. It has not only seen benefits to the individual Fellows, their organisations and environment, but also gained valuable insights which have helped the organisation improve how it manages the environment in England and Wales. The Fellowships have been instrumental in developing long-term partnerships and networks, so it can continue sharing and learning.

*It was of immeasurable benefit to us to work with such an eloquent and passionate educator from one of our target countries. Dr Udom [Commonwealth Professional Fellow at the World Council of Optometry] was able to ensure that the educational needs of optometrists in Africa were taken into account in the planning of two future editions of the **Community Eye Health Journal**, and has agreed to act as a consultant in the development of a special refractive error and low vision series, aimed at optometrists, which will appear in our journal from early 2012.*

Elmien Wolvaardt Ellison, Editor, **Community Eye Health Journal**

**Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**, one of the UK's largest NHS trusts, hosted its second Commonwealth Professional Fellow in 2010. The trust reports that the Fellowship was an incredible success on a number of levels, as it raised awareness of international health links across the organisation and the northeast of England, through presentations, interviews in the local press and even a short interview on local TV news. Through interaction with colleagues in the surgical department, the Fellow highlighted the challenges faced in his home country to deliver healthcare services in a resource-poor economy, and his professional bearing and ability to adapt to new cultural surroundings encouraged UK colleagues to be more open and receptive to engagement with international visitors.



**Dr Salum Kondo**, Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Tanzania, and Liam Horgan, Consultant Surgeon at **Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

*The Fellowship was the first opportunity our team had ever had to work with one of our counterparts from an overseas parliament. It gave us a new perspective on our own working methods, as well as a unique insight into the conditions and constraints faced by staff working in some developing country parliaments, which has enabled us to better understand how we can find mutually beneficial ways of collaborating with those parliaments in future.*

Dr Chandrika Nath, Parliamentary Scientific Adviser, **Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology**

## Benefit to home employer

By granting employees leave to undertake Commonwealth Professional Fellowships, home employers anticipate that Fellows will return with new skills, knowledge and contacts to apply and share within the organisation. Employers can begin to benefit even while their Fellows are in the UK, as many share their experiences through blogs and email updates.

*The Butabika Link is about to embark on the first phase of an anti-violence project at Butabika Hospital in Uganda – the existence of the project relates strongly to the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship scheme. Essentially, most of the Fellows who have come to the East London NHS Foundation Trust during the last five years have received training in the management and prevention of actual and potential aggression. They were so impressed with the training and its potential application in Uganda that we created a project to train the trainer in Uganda. 15 staff will be trained in January 2011, to train their colleagues during the rest of the year. So, on behalf of the Link, thanks to the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship Scheme for being the catalyst for this work.*

Cerdic Hall, Global Health Partnerships Co-ordinator and Butabika Link Co-ordinator, East London NHS Foundation Trust



Dr Shamprasad Pujar, Deputy Librarian at the *Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research* in India, holds a session during his 2008 Commonwealth Professional Fellowship at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex



Shireen Dooreemeah, a 2005 Commonwealth Professional Fellow at the League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers, with a class of children in Mauritius



Ruth Lugwisha participates in river sampling activities during her 2007 Commonwealth Professional Fellowship at the Environment Agency. Ruth is Principal Environmental Management Officer at the *National Environment Management Council* in Tanzania

*The Commonwealth Professional Fellowship scheme has substantially supported important training and development of Tanzanian surgeons to enable them to obtain the skills and knowledge necessary to become the first trainers of laparoscopic surgery within Tanzania.*

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,  
on the benefits of the scheme to  
*Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre*, Tanzania

## How to apply

Further information about Commonwealth Professional Fellowships – including the Prospectus, with full terms and conditions – and details of how to apply are available at:

[www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/professional\\_fellowships.asp](http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/professional_fellowships.asp)

If you have any queries or would like to discuss the scheme, please contact Deborah Bennett at [deborah.bennett@cscuk.org.uk](mailto:deborah.bennett@cscuk.org.uk) or on +44 (0)20 7380 6749



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