

Commonwealth Academic Fellowships

United Kingdom Awards 2012

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



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

INTRODUCTION

Since their inception in 1959, some 26,500 individuals have benefited from the award of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships to pursue advanced academic study in other Commonwealth countries. About two thirds 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 Academic Fellowships offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries in 2012-2013. Separate programmes and prospectuses exist for the Commonwealth Scholarships, scholarships offered by distance learning and on a shared funding basis, and for short mid-career professional fellowships offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. Please visit the CSC website at 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

The secretariat of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), which is responsible for all matters concerning selection and academic studies. The British Council is responsible for payments to fellows, and for arranging travel, reception and other support services for them.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply for a Commonwealth Academic Fellowship, candidates should:

- Be Commonwealth citizens, refugees, or British protected persons
- Be permanently resident in a developing Commonwealth country
- Be available to commence their Fellowship in the United Kingdom on 1 October 2012. Any other start date will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances
- Have been employed for at least five years as an academic staff member of a university in a developing Commonwealth country
- Be in the employment of the nominating university

AND

- Hold a doctorate

OR

- In the fields of medicine and dentistry, have qualified as a doctor or dentist before 1 October 2002. Please see <http://bit.ly/cscuk-apply> for scholarship opportunities if you qualified after this date

The Commission wishes to promote equal opportunity, gender equity and cultural exchange. Applications are welcome from the many different races and origins that comprise the Commonwealth's rich variety of cultures, traditions and institutions.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Nominations for Commonwealth Academic Fellowships may be made by invitation through the following channels:

- The Executive Head of an eligible developing country university on whose staff 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
- The Executive Head of selected developing country research institutes on whose staff the applicant serves

A full list of universities/research institutes invited to nominate can be found on the CSC website. Those wishing to be considered for inclusion in the list of institutions invited should contact the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (c/o The Association of Commonwealth Universities, Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HF).

Applications must be submitted using the Commission's Electronic Application System (EAS), a link to which is available on our website at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-academic-fellowships>. All applications must be submitted to and endorsed by one of the approved nominating bodies detailed above. Please note that all Fellowship candidates must complete their application using the EAS by 7 December 2011.

The Commission regrets that it is unable to accept nominations from other organisations or applications directly from individuals, and that these cannot be acknowledged.

PURPOSE AND TENURE

Awards are tenable at any approved UK university or higher education institution. The purpose of the Academic Fellowships is to provide an opportunity for Fellows to network and update knowledge and skills related to their academic subject and responsibilities. A small number of awards may be granted for collaborative research which is already underway between a Fellow's employing institution and an institution in the UK. From 2012, awards are tenable for **three months**, except where a strong case can be made for a tenure of up to six months instead.

PLACEMENT

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. Applicants are, however, expected to identify up to three institutions that they consider appropriate to carry out the proposed study programme on the application form, and explain the reasons for their selection. This is important since the Commission will not change the institution 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. Candidates **must** provide, in their application, evidence of agreement from an academic to host their Fellowship, from at least their first choice institution.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations for 2012 Commonwealth Academic Fellowships tenable in the United Kingdom are required to arrive with the Commission no later than 21 December 2011, in electronic format. Universities and other nominating bodies will have organised their own competitions in advance of this, which will have earlier deadlines and local rules for application, which 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 Fellowships 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 Fellowship provides:

- Approved airfare to the United Kingdom and return on expiry of the Fellowship (the cost of journeys made before final award confirmation will not normally be reimbursed, nor can fares be paid for a Fellow's dependants)
- A research support grant fixed according to subject
- A personal maintenance allowance at the rate of £1411 per month (£1750 per month for those studying at institutions in the London Metropolitan area)
- A grant towards the expenses of preparing reports and other written work
- An initial arrival allowance, incorporating an initial clothing grant for Fellows from tropical countries
- A grant for expenses for approved travel within the United Kingdom or overseas
- Candidates should note that there is no marriage or child allowance available. A Fellow who is widowed, divorced or a lone parent and accompanied by children for whom she/he is legally responsible, will receive an allowance in respect of the first accompanying child and child allowances for the second and third accompanying children. The level of financial support given towards the costs of family maintenance in the UK is under review and is subject to change in terms of both eligibility and rate availability.

More information can be found about the terms and conditions of the Fellowships 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:

- 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 Fellowship, as soon as terms of admission to the university/institution have been agreed
- The Commission will require a medical report before an award can be confirmed
- Formal confirmation of an award will be issued when all conditions of the Notification of Award have been met
- Fellows will be expected to take up the award from the date stated by the Commission in its Notification of Award
- Fellows will be required to sign an undertaking to return to their home country as soon as their award comes to an end with a view to resuming or taking up the university appointment in connection with which they were nominated
- Fellows will be expected to reside in the United Kingdom throughout their award, and to seek prior approval for any proposed visits abroad
- Fellows may not undertake paid employment during their award
- A Commonwealth Academic Fellowship cannot be held concurrently with any other award
- 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
- All terms and conditions of award are subject to UK local law and practices
- All regulations concerning immigration and visas are set by the UK Border Agency. The Commission has no control over these; please note that they are subject to change

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants in medicine and dentistry whose programme requires them to practise clinically, or to work in a laboratory department reporting on samples from patients, must state how the skills acquired by the study programme will be put into practice post-award. Such applicants can be considered only if they are eligible for registration with the General Medical Council or the General Dental Council. Information about current conditions for registration can be obtained from the GMC and GDC websites: www.gmc-uk.org and www.gdc-uk.org

Please note that the GMC currently requires applicants for registration to obtain a minimum score of 7.0 in all categories of the academic IELTS test.



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