



Commonwealth Split-site (PhD) Scholarships

2016 prospectus

INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) is one of the largest and most prestigious scholarship schemes for international study in the world. Since it was established in 1959, around 30,000 individuals have benefited – 25,000 of them have held awards funded by the UK government, managed by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC).

This prospectus describes the Commonwealth Split-site (PhD) Scholarships offered by the CSC for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries in 2016. These scholarships are funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), with the aim of contributing to the UK's international development aims and wider overseas interests, supporting excellence in UK higher education, and sustaining the principles of the Commonwealth.

For information about the other scholarships and fellowships offered by the CSC, visit www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk. For information about Commonwealth Scholarships offered by other Commonwealth countries, visit www.csfp-online.org

The CSC'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.

COMMONWEALTH SPLIT-SITE (PhD) SCHOLARSHIPS

Up to 12 months' support for study at an eligible UK university as part of a PhD being undertaken in your home country, under the joint supervision of home country and UK academics.

Purpose: To widen access to UK equipment and expertise for quality doctoral candidates from Commonwealth countries, and to contribute to UK and Commonwealth higher education and research through collaboration and partnerships.

Intended beneficiaries: High-quality graduates who have the potential to become influential leaders, teachers, or researchers in their home countries, and whose proposed research has a developmental and leadership focus.

Your final qualification will be awarded by your home country university (not the UK university). The scholarship does not support your period of study at your home country university.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply for these scholarships, you must:

- Be a Commonwealth citizen, refugee, or British protected person
- Be permanently resident in a developing Commonwealth country. For a full list of eligible countries, visit <http://bit.ly/cscuk-developing-cw-countries>
- Be registered for a PhD at a university in your home country
- Be available to start your academic studies in the UK by the start of the UK academic year in September/October 2016
- By October 2016, hold a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) honours standard, or a second class degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification (usually a Master's degree)

The CSC promotes equal opportunity, gender equity, and cultural exchange. Applications are encouraged from a diverse range of candidates.

HOW TO APPLY

You should apply to study at a UK university with which the CSC has a part funding agreement. Part funding agreements are at the discretion of individual universities. For a list of universities that have already agreed to part fund Commonwealth Scholarships, visit <http://bit.ly/cscuk-uk-universities>

All subject areas are eligible – although you should note that the CSC's selection criteria give priority to applications that demonstrate the strongest relevance to development.

You must make your application **directly to the CSC** using the CSC's Electronic Application System (EAS) – information on how to use the EAS, including detailed guides, is available at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-scholarships-developing-cw>.

All applications must be submitted by **19 November 2015** at the latest.

You are not required to apply via a nominating body for these scholarships.

SELECTION PROCESS

Once received by the CSC, each candidate's application is first considered by a member of the CSC's panel of advisers with expertise in the subject area concerned, and then by the CSC's selection committee in competition with other candidates.

Applications are considered according to the following selection criteria:

- Academic merit of the candidate
- Quality of the proposal
- Potential impact of the work on the development of the candidate's home country

TENURE AND PLACEMENT

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

Your application must be made in the context of a **departmental/institutional link** with a UK university **already in operation or currently under negotiation**. Both your home country supervisor and your proposed UK supervisor must provide supporting statements that highlight current institutional collaboration. Applications without both statements will be considered ineligible.

The CSC will not change the university of a provisionally selected candidate after the point of selection, unless exceptional information becomes available that could not have been foreseen at the time of application. The CSC will make the final decision on institution of study, and reserves the right to overrule any preferences indicated by the candidate. The CSC will consider the suitability of the course and its value for money when deciding on any overrule. Tuition fees for at least the current academic year are available on university websites.

The 12-month period of study in the UK supported by the scholarship can be taken at any stage during your PhD study, providing this is justified in your study plan. It can be divided into two or more periods, with no more than 12 months elapsing between each award term. If you have not already started your PhD at the time of your application, you will be eligible to spend a maximum of six months in the UK in your first year of study.

VALUE

Each scholarship provides:

- Approved airfare from your home country to the UK and return at the end of your award (the CSC will not reimburse the cost of fares for dependants, nor usually the cost of journeys made before your award is finally confirmed)
- Approved tuition and examination fees
- Stipend (living allowance) at the rate of £1,034 per month, or £1,268 per month for those at universities in the London metropolitan area (rates quoted at 2015-2016 levels)
- Thesis grant towards the cost of preparing a thesis or dissertation, where applicable
- Warm clothing allowance
- Study travel grant towards the costs of study-related travel within the UK or overseas
- If you are widowed, divorced, or a single parent, child allowance of £444 per month for the first child, and £109 per month for the second and third child under the age of 16, if you are accompanied by your children and solely legally responsible for them

For more information, see the Handbook for Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, available at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-handbook-forms>

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A Commonwealth Split-site (PhD) Scholarship covers fees, fares, and personal maintenance. Other scholarships, awards, or bursaries that cover the same costs may not be held concurrently.
- If your application is successful, the CSC will notify you that you have been provisionally selected (selected for an award subject to the CSC agreeing your terms of admission to the university)
- The CSC reserves the right to publish the names of provisionally selected candidates on the CSC website. By applying for an award, you are giving your consent for your details to be published in this way if your application is successful.
- When terms of admission to the university have been agreed, the CSC will send you a Notification of Award (formal offer of a scholarship).
- When all conditions of the Notification of Award have been met, the CSC will send you a formal Confirmation of Award.
- You will be required to submit a medical report before your Confirmation of Award can be issued.
- You will be required to sign an undertaking to return to your home country as soon as possible after the end of your award.
- You are expected to start your award on the date stated in your Notification of Award.
- If you require a Tier 4 visa to come to the UK to study, you may be required to take an approved English language test and/or be screened for tuberculosis for your visa application. These regulations are subject to change at any time. You should check the GOV.UK website at www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa for updated information.
- All UK immigration regulations are set by UK Visas and Immigration and are subject to change. The CSC has no control over these regulations.
- You are expected to reside in the UK throughout your award, and to seek approval from the CSC in advance for any overseas travel.
- You must not undertake paid employment during your award without approval from the CSC in advance.

- The CSC cannot provide a letter of support for you to remain in the UK after your award to work or undertake postdoctoral study.
- Your award may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress, or attendance, or if your registration is suspended or terminated by your university for any reason.
- In line with the UK Bribery Act 2010, any applicant convicted of bribery will be banned from reapplying for a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship for a period of up to five years.
- The CSC is committed to administering and managing its scholarships and fellowships in a fair and transparent manner. For more information, see the CSC anti-fraud policy and procedure at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-anti-fraud-policy>
- All terms and conditions of award are subject to UK local law and practices, and are subject to change by the CSC.

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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

You may be required to take the academic IELTS English language test as a condition of eligibility. If this is the case, you will be notified by the CSC shortly after the closing date for applications. An IELTS test will be considered valid only if it is taken after 1 October 2015 and before 6 March 2016. You must achieve an overall score of 6.5, with no less than 5.5 in each band.

As a further condition of award, you may be required, by the CSC or your university, to provide evidence of a particular level of English language proficiency.



**Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK**

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