



Commonwealth Scholarships for PhD and split-site (PhD) study

For developed Commonwealth country citizens
(Australia, The Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam,
Canada, Cyprus, Malta, and New Zealand)

2017 terms and conditions

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 34,000 individuals have benefited – 26,000 of them have held awards funded by the UK government, managed by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC). 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.

This document outlines the terms and conditions of Commonwealth Scholarships for PhD and split-site (PhD) study in the UK offered by the CSC for citizens of developed Commonwealth countries in 2017. These scholarships are funded by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), with the aim of 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.acu.ac.uk/about-csfp

COMMONWEALTH PhD SCHOLARSHIPS

Up to 36 months' support towards completion of a three-year full-time doctoral postgraduate qualification at an eligible UK university.

Purpose: To support world-class research and scholarship, and to contribute to UK higher education and research by attracting high-calibre international candidates and encouraging links and collaboration.

Intended beneficiaries: High-quality graduates who have the potential to become influential leaders, teachers, or researchers in their home countries, and whose proposed research topic has been described to the satisfaction of the selection committee as having a focus on innovation and leadership, for the benefit of wider society.

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 high-calibre 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 topic has been described to the satisfaction of the selection committee as having a focus on innovation and leadership, for the benefit of wider society.

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 citizen of or refugee in Australia, The Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Malta, or New Zealand, and be permanently resident in one of these countries
- Be available to start your academic studies in the UK by the start of the UK academic year in September/October 2017
- By October 2017, 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)
- If you are applying for split-site (PhD) study, be registered for a PhD at a university in your home country

If you have already started your PhD study at a UK university, you are not eligible to apply for these scholarships.

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

HOW TO APPLY

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

Scholarships are tenable only at UK universities with which the CSC has a joint funding agreement. Joint funding agreements will be negotiated individually for selected candidates. You should make this clear to your chosen universities.

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-developed-cw>.

All applications must be submitted by **23:59 (GMT) on 21 March 2017** at the latest.

You must provide the following supporting documentation to be received by the CSC by **23:59 (GMT) on 21 March 2017**:

- Academic transcripts
- Unconditional offer(s) from your chosen university/universities (a conditional offer with **only** a financial condition is acceptable)
- Proof that you are a citizen of a developed Commonwealth country: a copy of your passport or birth certificate

You must provide the following supporting documentation to be received by the CSC by **16.00 (BST) on 28 March 2017**:

- References from at least two individuals
- If you are applying for PhD study, supporting statement from a proposed supervisor in the UK from at least one of the universities named on your application form
- If you are applying for split-site (PhD) study, supporting statements from both your home **and** your prospective UK supervisors

If this documentation is not provided by the dates specified above, your application will be considered ineligible.

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

SELECTION PROCESS

Each candidate's application will be considered 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 of the candidate to lead in the pursuit of global excellence in research and knowledge

TENURE AND PLACEMENT

Awards are tenable at any approved UK university or higher education institution for a specific programme of study or 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 award will be tenable only at a UK university with which the CSC has a joint funding agreement. Under a joint funding agreement, the CSC will fund two years of a three-year PhD and the host university will fund one year. Joint funding agreements will be negotiated individually for selected candidates. For split-site (PhD) study, the CSC will fund the one-year award.

In your application, you are expected to identify at least one but preferably three universities and supervisors that you think are the most appropriate for your research, and to explain your reasons. This is important because the CSC will not change the university or course 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.

You must take the necessary steps to secure admission to your preferred universities in advance of your scholarship application. Many courses have strict admission deadlines. You should check admission requirements carefully when applying.

If you are applying for PhD study, you must provide a supporting statement from a named supervisor from at least one of the UK universities to which you are applying. Applications without any statements will be considered ineligible. You are strongly advised to provide a supporting statement from a supervisor at your first choice university. If you do not, the CSC reserves the right to select you for placement at another university for which you have provided a supporting statement.

If you are applying for split-site (PhD) study, your application must be made in the context of a **departmental/institutional** link with a UK university **already in operation** or **currently under negotiation**. It is very important that your home country supervisor and your proposed UK supervisor provide supporting statements that highlight **current institutional collaboration**. Applications without **both** statements will be considered ineligible.

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 six-month 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 £1,043 per month, or £1,279 per month for those at universities in the London metropolitan area
- 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
- Fieldwork grant towards the cost of fieldwork undertaken overseas (usually the cost of one economy class return airfare to your fieldwork location)

- Paid mid-term visit (airfare) to your home country (unless you have claimed (or intend to claim) spouse and/or child allowances during your scholarship, or have received a return airfare to your home country for fieldwork)
- If your scholarship is at least 18 months long, the following family allowances:
 - Spouse allowance of £224 per month if you and your spouse are living together at the same address in the UK (unless your spouse is also in receipt of a scholarship)
 - Child allowance of £224 per month for the first child, and £110 per month for the second and third child under the age of 16, if you are accompanied by your spouse and children and they are living with you at the same address in the UK
- If you are widowed, divorced, or a single parent (irrespective of the length of your scholarship), child allowance of £448 per month for the first child, and £110 per month for the second and third child under the age of 16, if you are accompanied by your children and they are living with you at the same address in the UK

The CSC's family allowances are intended to be only a contribution towards the cost of maintaining your family in the UK. The true costs are likely to be considerably higher, and you must be able to supplement these allowances in order to support any family members who come to the UK with you.

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

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A Commonwealth 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.

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



**Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK**

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