Commonwealth Medical Fellowships

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 Medical Fellowships offered by the CSC for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries in 2016. These fellowships 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 MEDICAL FELLOWSHIPS

For mid-career medical and dental staff from developing countries to spend between three and six months at an approved UK university hospital, learning or improving a specific clinical skill.

Purpose: To provide mid-career medics and dentists with the opportunity to enhance their clinical skills, and to have catalytic effects on their workplaces.

Intended beneficiaries: Mid-career medics and dentists working in universities or affiliated teaching hospitals in developing Commonwealth countries.

Fellows are expected to participate in clinical practice during their fellowship, and to register with the General Medical Council (GMC)/General Dental Council (GDC). If your proposed programme does not require this registration, your application will be considered ineligible.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply for these fellowships, 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 employed by a hospital affiliated to a university
- Be nominated to the CSC by an eligible institution. For a full list of eligible institutions, visit http://bit.ly/cscuk-medical-fellowships
- Be available to start your fellowship in the UK on 1 October 2016
- Have qualified as a doctor or dentist between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2009, or before 1 October 2001
- Have met the English language requirements of the General Medical Council (GMC)/General Dental Council (GDC) by 15 April 2016. For more information on GMC requirements, visit www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/registration_applications/language_proficiency.asp. For more information on GDC requirements, visit www.gdc-uk.org/dentalprofessionals/ore/pages/before-you-apply.aspx

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

You must apply to one of the following nominating bodies in the first instance – the CSC does not accept direct applications for these fellowships:

- Selected universities/medical colleges that are invited to nominate members of staff at affiliated hospitals. For a full list of eligible institutions, visit http://bit.ly/cscuk-medical-fellowships

- In Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka, through the national University Grants Commission

- In Pakistan, through the Higher Education Commission

All applications must be made through your nominating body in your home country. Each nominating body is responsible for its own selection process. You must check with your nominating body for their specific advice and rules for applying, and for their own closing date for applications.

You must make your application using the CSC’s Electronic Application System (EAS) – information on how to use the EAS, including detailed guides, is available at bit.ly/cscuk-medical-fellowships

Your application must be submitted to and endorsed by one of the approved nominating bodies listed above. The CSC will not accept any applications that are not submitted via the EAS to a nominating body in your home country.

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

The CSC cannot accept nominations for these fellowships from other organisations or applications directly from individuals; such applications will not be acknowledged.

Universities that wish to be invited to nominate candidates for these fellowships should write to the Executive Secretary, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK, Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HF, UK.

SELECTION PROCESS

Each year, the CSC invites each nominating body to submit a specific number of nominations. The deadline for nominating bodies to submit nominations to the CSC is 17 December 2015.

The CSC invites around three times more nominations than fellowships available – therefore, nominated candidates are not guaranteed to be awarded a fellowship.

Each nominated 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

PLACEMENT

In your application, you are expected to identify one university hospital that you think is the most appropriate to host your fellowship, and to explain your reasons. You should also provide evidence of agreement to host your fellowship from your chosen university hospital. The CSC will make the final decision on institution of study, and reserves the right to overrule any preferences indicated by the candidate.
VALUE

Each fellowship 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)

- Research support grant, payable to your host university hospital

- Stipend (living allowance) at the rate of £1,580 per month, or £1,959 per month for those at universities in the London metropolitan area (rates quoted at 2015-2016 levels)

- Reimbursement of the fee for a single English language test and the fee for General Medical Council (GMC)/General Dental Council (GDC) registration

- Arrival allowance

- Study travel grant towards the costs of approved 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. The level of financial support provided through family allowances is under review and subject to change in both eligibility and rate

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

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A Commonwealth Medical Fellowship may not be held concurrently with any other award.

- 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 hospital)

- 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 hospital 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, with the intention of resuming/commencing the university appointment referenced in your application, 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 5 (Temporary Worker – Government Authorised Exchange) visa to come to the UK for your fellowship, you must meet all relevant immigration regulations set by UK Visas and Immigration. These regulations are subject to change at any time. You should check the GOV.UK website at www.gov.uk/visas-immigration 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 may participate in on-call rotas and receive payment for doing so during your award. Any such arrangement must be agreed between you and your host university hospital, without the involvement of the CSC.

- Your award may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct or attendance.

- 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](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.