Commonwealth Scholarships for developed Commonwealth country citizens
(The Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Malta, New Zealand, and Singapore)

Prospectus 2014
Introduction

Since their inception in 1959, some 27,500 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 Scholarships offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom for citizens of developed Commonwealth countries in 2014-2015. Separate programmes and prospectuses exist for the scholarships offered for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries, as well as those by distance learning and on a shared funding basis, and for short mid-career fellowships, both academic and professional, 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 Commonwealth Scholarship Commission’s Secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), which is responsible for all matters concerning these scholarships.

Eligibility

To apply for the awards covered in this prospectus, candidates should:

- Be Commonwealth citizens, refugees, or British protected persons
- Be permanently resident in one of the following countries: The Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Malta, New Zealand, or Singapore
- Be available to commence their academic studies in the United Kingdom by the start of the UK academic year in September/October 2014
- Hold, by October 2014, a first degree of upper second class Honours standard (or above); or a second class degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification, which will normally be a Master’s degree

The Commission wishes to promote equal opportunity, gender equity and cultural exchange. Applications are encouraged from a diverse range of candidates.

What types of award are available and how can I apply?

The Commission invites the nomination of candidates for Commonwealth Scholarships for developed Commonwealth country citizens as described below. Candidates must apply locally in the first instance. The Commission does not accept direct applications.

For the following categories of award...

- 36 months’ support towards completion of a full-time doctoral postgraduate qualification at an eligible UK institution
- 12 months’ non-degree study in the United Kingdom on a Split-Site basis to aid the completion of a doctoral degree undertaken at a university in the candidate’s home country

...nominations are invited through the following channel

- The candidate’s national Commonwealth Scholarship agency. This is the main route of application and a full list of Commonwealth Scholarship agency addresses can be obtained from the CSC website

Please note that candidates from developed Commonwealth countries can only apply for doctoral or split-site study at a UK institution with which the Commission has a joint funding agreement. Agreements to joint fund scholarships will be negotiated individually for selected candidates.

Applications must be submitted using the Commission’s Electronic Application System (EAS), which is available on our website by following the appropriate links at http://bit.ly/cscuk-apply. All applications must be submitted to and endorsed by the nominating body. Please note that all Scholarship candidates must complete their application using the EAS by 3 December 2013.

Awards made by the Commission are subject to the ongoing endorsement of the nominating body. The Commission regrets that it is unable to accept nominations from other organisations or applications directly from individuals, and that these cannot be acknowledged.

Tenure and placement

Awards are to obtain one degree and funding will not be extended to enable candidates to complete an additional or higher qualification than that for which the selection was made. Scholarships are made in respect of full-time study only and no other courses of study may be undertaken at the same time.

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. The Commission will consider the suitability of the course and its value for money when considering any overrule. Tuition fees for at least the current academic year are published on university websites. Applicants are, however, expected to identify at least one and up to three institutions and research supervisors that they consider most appropriate on the application form, and explain the reasons for their selection. This is important since the Commission will not change the institution or course 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. Many courses have strict admission deadlines and candidates...
must take the necessary steps to secure admission to their preferred institutions in advance of any Scholarship application to the Commission. Please note that applicants must provide a statement of support from at least one of the UK institutions to which they are applying, in order for their application to be eligible. Candidates should check admission requirements carefully at the time of application.

Applications for 12 months’ study in the United Kingdom on a split-site basis must be made in the context of a departmental/institutional link with a UK university already in operation or currently under negotiation and must include a letter of invitation from the proposed UK host department. Candidates will have the option of one full 12-month period of study or two six-month periods with a period not greater than 12 months elapsing between each term. Those candidates who have not yet commenced their home PhD at the time of application will be eligible to spend a maximum of six months in the UK in the first year of their studies.

The selection process

Nominations for 2014 Commonwealth Scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom are required to arrive with the Commission no later than 17 December 2013 in electronic format. All nominating authorities will have organised their own competitions in advance of this, with earlier deadlines and local rules for application, that 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 Scholarships 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 potential of the candidate to lead in the pursuit of global excellence in research and knowledge

Value of awards

Each Scholarship provides:

- A grant towards the expenses of preparing a thesis or dissertation, where applicable
- An initial arrival allowance, incorporating an initial clothing grant for Scholars from tropical countries
- A grant for expenses for approved travel within the United Kingdom or overseas
- A grant towards fieldwork costs for those Scholars undertaking doctoral studies for whom a case has been made for fieldwork outside the United Kingdom. This shall not normally exceed one economy class return airfare to the fieldwork location
- A paid mid-term fare to their home country for Scholars on three year doctoral awards. Scholars for whom fieldwork fares are provided to their home country shall not be entitled to a mid-term fare home, nor Scholars who have claimed (or intend to claim) spouse or child allowances for more than 12 months during their award
- For Scholars selected by the Commission for awards exceeding 18 months, a spouse allowance of £220 per month is payable provided that the Scholar and spouse are residing together at the same address in the United Kingdom. It is not paid when the spouse is also in receipt of an award. For Scholars accompanied by their spouse and children, a child allowance is payable at the rate of £138 per month for the first child, and £108 per month for the second and third child under the age of 16, provided they are residing with their parents. The Commission’s spouse and family allowances represent only a contribution towards the costs of family maintenance in the UK and Scholars should expect and be able to supplement these allowances to support family members who choose to come to the UK.

Irrespective of the length of the award, a Scholar who is widowed, divorced or a lone parent will receive an allowance in respect of the first accompanying child and child allowances for the second and third accompanying children.

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

- 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
- 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 Scholarship – as soon as terms of admission to the university/institution have been agreed

- Formal confirmation of the award will be issued when all conditions of the Notification of Award have been met

- Scholars will be expected to take up the award from the date stated by the Commission in its Notification of Award

- A Commonwealth Scholarship covers fees, fares and personal maintenance. Similar awards may not be held concurrently

- Scholars will be expected to reside in the United Kingdom throughout their award, and to seek prior approval for any proposed visits abroad

- Scholars may not undertake paid employment during their award without prior consent

- The Commission will require a medical report before an award can be confirmed

- Scholars will be required to sign an undertaking to return to their home country as soon as their award comes to an end

- The Commission will be unable to provide any letter of support which might be required by an award holder to stay on to work in the UK

- All terms and conditions of award are subject to UK local law and practices, and are subject to change by the Commission

- All regulations concerning immigration and visas are set by the UK immigration authority. The Commission has no control over these; please note that they are subject to change

- Candidates from Commonwealth countries which require a Tier 4 visa to come to the UK for study may be required to take an approved English language test and/or be screened for tuberculosis in order to obtain their visa. The regulations on this could change at any point. You are advised to check the UK immigration authority website at www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk for updates

- In line with the UK Bribery Act which came into effect on 1 July 2011, it is Commission policy that any candidate convicted of bribery will be banned from reapplying for a Commonwealth Scholarship for a period of up to five years

- A Scholarship may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress, or attendance