

Commonwealth Scholarships

United Kingdom
Awards 2006



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

INTRODUCTION

Since their instigation in 1959, some 23,000 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 other Commonwealth countries in 2006-07. Separate programmes and prospectuses exist for the scholarships offered by distance learning and on a shared funding basis, for the short mid-career fellowships, both academic and professional, which are also offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, and for the Commonwealth Scholarships offered by other Commonwealth countries. Please visit the website of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) www.csfp-online.org for details of these programmes.

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 scholars, and for arranging travel, reception and other support services for them.

ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be Commonwealth citizens, refugees or British protected persons, permanently resident in a Commonwealth country other than the United Kingdom
- Hold, by 1st October 2006, a first degree of upper second class standard, or higher qualification
- Be available, by 1st October 2006 to commence their academic studies in the United Kingdom.

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.

WHAT TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIP ARE AVAILABLE?

This prospectus covers the following categories of award:

- 12-36 months support towards a full-time taught or doctoral postgraduate qualification
- 12 months 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. Study will not be towards a UK qualification
- Support for study towards an undergraduate degree in the United Kingdom for citizens of the Falkland Islands, Maldives, St Helena and the Seychelles
- Support for six months clinical training in medicine or dentistry for applicants with one year or more specialist training in their field.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

The main route to apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship is by nomination through the national Commonwealth Scholarship agency of the individual concerned, to which each candidate must apply in the first instance. A full list of Commonwealth Scholarship agency addresses can be obtained from the CSFP website.

Nominations, however, may also be made by invitation through the following channels:

- The Executive Head of a 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 International Co-operation Wing of the Ministry of Education and in Sri Lanka through the Secretary, Ministry of Tertiary Education and Training)
- Selected Non-Governmental Organisations or charitable bodies
- For split-site awards only, departments of UK universities known to have strong and established links with developing country universities.

A full list of universities and other organisations invited to nominate can be found on the CSFP website. Those wishing to be considered for inclusion in the list of universities and other organisations invited should contact the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF).

Applications must be submitted on the appropriate application forms, which are available from, and must be signed by, the nominating authorities listed above. Awards made by the Commission are subject to the ongoing endorsement of the nominating authority.

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

TENURE AND PLACEMENT

Awards are tenable at any approved UK university or higher education institution for a specific programme of study or research and are not restricted to particular subject areas. 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.

It is important that candidates make clear at the point of application the qualification for which they are applying, especially if they wish to be considered for a scholarship intended to lead to a doctoral degree. This will enable the Commission to consider the application in the correct category.

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 and courses (or supervisors for research degree applicants) 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 (particularly at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London) and candidates **must** take the necessary steps to secure admission to their preferred institutions in advance of any scholarship application to the Commission. Candidates in business, management, economics and other related fields should note that a number of university departments will require a candidate to demonstrate a valid GMAT or GRE score before an offer of admission can be made. 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. 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 2006 Commonwealth Scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom are required to arrive with the Commission no later than 31 December 2005. Most nominating authorities will have organised their own competitions in advance of this, with earlier deadlines 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
- For those candidates from the developing Commonwealth, the likely impact of the work on the development of the candidate's home country *or*
- For those candidates from the developed Commonwealth, demonstrated or potential leadership qualities.

VALUE OF AWARDS

Each scholarship provides:

- Student concessionary or other approved airfare to the United Kingdom and return on expiry of the scholarship (the cost of journeys made before final award confirmation will not normally be reimbursed, nor can fares be paid for a scholar's dependants)
- Approved tuition and examination fees
- A personal maintenance allowance at the rate of £689 per month (£854 per month for those studying at institutions in the London Metropolitan area)
- 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 doctoral scholars 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 awards. Scholars for whom fieldwork fares are provided to their home country shall not be entitled to a mid-term fare home
- For married scholars selected by the Commission for awards exceeding one academic year, a marriage allowance of £200 per month is payable provided that the husband and wife are residing together at the same address in the United Kingdom. It is not paid when a husband or wife of the scholar is also in receipt of an award. For such married couples accompanied by their children, a child allowance is payable at the rate of £116 per month for the first child, and £91 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 a contribution only 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 single parent, will receive an allowance in respect of the first accompanying child and child allowances for the second and third accompanying children.

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 scholarship, 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
- Scholars will be expected to take up the award from the date stated by the Commission in its formal offer of a scholarship
- Scholars will be required to sign an undertaking to return to their home country as soon as their award comes to an end

- 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
- A Commonwealth Scholarship covers fees, fares and personal maintenance. Similar awards may not be held concurrently
- The Commission reserves the right to publish the names of candidates provisionally selected for awards on the CSFP website. In applying for an award, the candidate gives consent for such publication in the event that her or his application is successful.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Commission may require candidates to undertake the IELTS English language test as a condition of eligibility. As a further condition of award, the Commission, or a host institution in the United Kingdom, may require a candidate to take particular English tests and/or training in English.

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 training 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.