

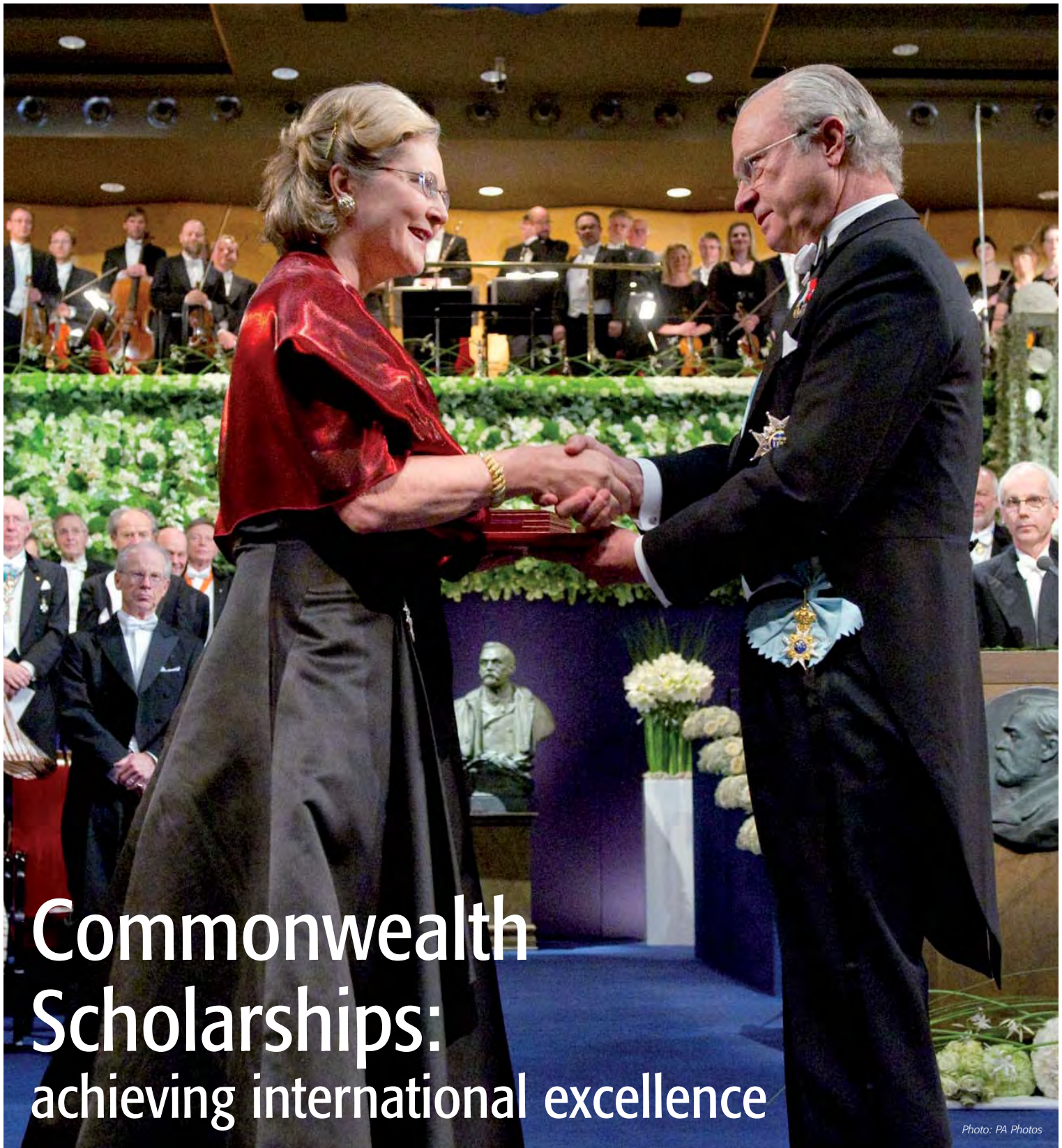


COMMONWEALTH  
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

Issue 12  
May 2010



Commonwealth  
Scholarships:  
achieving international excellence

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PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS WITH UK UNIVERSITIES · COUNTRY PROFILE – KENYA · NEWS ROUND-UP  
SCHOLARS' NEWS · ALUMNI IN ACTION · NETWORKS AND EVENTS

# THIS ISSUE EDITORIAL

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(Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge, 1973-1974) receives the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden (see page 8).

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### Commonwealth Scholarships News

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UK universities are truly international organisations, with students and staff from practically every country in the world. International students report high levels of satisfaction with their experience of studying in the UK – over 80% of students say that they are satisfied with their time here. Conversely, the international dimension provides UK universities with vital academic, cultural and economic benefits that contribute to the quality and success of our universities.

The close relationship between the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and UK universities is therefore very welcome, as evidenced through the development of jointly funded awards with UK universities.

International activities are core work for universities and, in coming years, are likely to increase in importance. UK universities have very successful partnerships with many universities around the world with whom they collaborate to develop new knowledge and to exchange existing understanding, as well as to support the thousands of individual academic-to-academic connections.

Scholarships are a vital part of UK universities' international work, and many UK universities have been carefully reviewing and building their scholarship provision in recent years to ensure that there are opportunities for students from many countries to study in many different subject areas. It is vital for the UK to continue to be able to attract highly-talented students, and scholarships are a key part of the 'offer' to international students.

Scholarships take a number of different forms. In an era of increasingly limited resources for every organisation, it often makes sense for partnerships to develop to provide funding for scholarships. There are therefore many partnerships in operation across UK universities to provide scholarships, involving foundations, trusts, businesses and individuals.

Commonwealth Scholarships are a critically important partnership for UK universities, with a significant range of awards developed in close consultation with institutions. It is precisely this range that makes the awards attractive to students who are becoming increasingly discerning in identifying the appropriate course for them.

The first 50 years of the scheme have successfully enabled thousands of Commonwealth citizens to study in other Commonwealth countries, including many in the UK. We know, because of both our own alumni work and that undertaken by the CSC, that many Commonwealth Scholars have gone on to hold key positions in government, business, academia and civil society around the world. These alumni provide tangible evidence of the impact that educational opportunities can have on people's lives, with the scholarships enabling many to take up opportunities that would otherwise have been denied because of limited means.

### Nicola Dandridge

Chief Executive, Universities UK



**Nicola Dandridge**

Chief Executive, Universities UK

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# NEWS ROUND-UP

## NEW REPORT DEMONSTRATES ALUMNI IMPACT ON HEALTH



The CSC's Evaluation and Monitoring Programme has published its fifth report, assessing the impact of alumni in the health sector. The report, based on survey responses from over 2,000 former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, found that 38% could cite their work as having a direct impact on health. Likewise, many of those studying in health fields could also cite impact in other key areas such as agriculture, environment and governance. The report, *Evaluating Commonwealth Scholarships in the United Kingdom: Assessing impact in the health sector* is available at [www.cscuk.org.uk/docs/Assessing\\_impact\\_health.pdf](http://www.cscuk.org.uk/docs/Assessing_impact_health.pdf)

## ALUMNI IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO JOIN COMMONWEALTH DAY CELEBRATIONS



**Commonwealth Day display** at the University of the West Indies

Commonwealth Day celebrations in Trinidad and Tobago on 8 March 2010 were held at the Centre for Language Learning at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St Augustine, with an opening address from Professor C Sankat, Principal of UWI. Later, HE Mr Malay Mishra, Indian High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, spoke about India's role and contribution to the Commonwealth. The day also featured a display on satellite farming by former

Commonwealth Scholars, headed by Dr Aweeda Newaj-Fyzul (Commonwealth Split-site Scholar, PhD in Fish Disease and Pathology, UWI St Augustine and Heriot-Watt University, 2005-2006).

## NEW COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS IN SINGAPORE

Two Commonwealth Scholarships are available at the National University of Singapore at its Graduate School of Integrative Sciences and Engineering (NGS). The two awards, for PhD study, are open to citizens of any Commonwealth country. For more information, visit

[www.nus.edu.sg/ngs/scholarships.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/ngs/scholarships.html) or contact [ngsenquiry@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ngsenquiry@nus.edu.sg)

## INTERNATIONAL IMPACT OF COMMONWEALTH PROFESSIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

Commonwealth Professional Fellowships provide an important professional development opportunity, and also benefit the UK host organisation and the Fellow's home employer. The CSC has supported nearly 450 Professional Fellows since the scheme started in 2002.

Professional Fellows span a range of disciplines. Shaukat Pirzada (Commonwealth Professional

Fellow, Law Society, 2009) has recently been appointed as a High Court Judge in Lahore, Pakistan, following his return home. Previously, he was a founding partner of a law associate company.

Hilary Kimeli Limo (Commonwealth Professional Fellow, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health North East, 2007) is a public health officer from Kenya. He developed emergency planning skills during his Fellowship, which were deployed during the post-election violence in Kenya in 2008, enabling provision of shelter, water, sanitation facilities, and food for internally displaced persons.

The Environment Agency has hosted a number of Professional Fellows and sees the experience as beneficial: 'We have found that working in partnership with other environmental organisations and through international networks has numerous benefits for our organisation. We gain valuable insights that influence the way we manage the environment at home, as well as the successes the Fellows put in place in their home countries'.

More examples of the benefits of the scheme, for both Professional Fellows and hosts, can be found at [www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/pfcasestudies.asp](http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/pfcasestudies.asp)

## CSFP ENDOWMENT FUND: UPDATE

The endowment fund appeal has now raised nearly £1.76 million, and an event was held at Marlborough House in May 2010, attended by HRH The Prince of Wales, patron of the fund (see page 10). We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the fund so far. More information, including details of how to donate, is available at [www.csfp-online.org/fund.html](http://www.csfp-online.org/fund.html)

## DONORS

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# SCHOLARS' NEWS

*Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows represent a diverse community, studying a wide range of subjects in various ways. What they all have in common, however, is their desire to make a positive impact on their home countries and beyond.*

## **COPENHAGEN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS – A GENDER PARITY PERSPECTIVE**

Fijian 2009 Commonwealth Scholar Matelita Ragogo, who is currently studying MA Gender Studies at the University of Sussex, attended COP 15 (the United Nations Climate Change Conference, otherwise known as the Copenhagen Summit) in December 2009. She was invited as a UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) environmental journalism fellow, and she submitted articles for the *Fiji Times* and Pacnews, a regional news agency.

Matelita found the experience valuable: 'Being there allowed me to follow discussions that the developed world, emerging economies and small island and coastal countries were grappling with, and exposed me to daily protests and the concerns people of differing interests had about climate change. It was easy to see why climate change is both an issue of moral and social responsibility to ourselves and the future generation but, as well, why it is a challenge in terms of attempts for an international instrument to ensure a concerted and collective effort towards controlling the pace of our development.'

One message which Matelita hoped the world leaders had understood was 'There is no Planet B'. However, it seems that this slogan 'fell on deaf ears when compared to capitalist interests' and, for Pacific island nations, which are already experiencing the effects of climate change, it was 'a blatant confirmation of the weak bargaining power of countries that had nothing much to offer'.

Despite this, COP15 offered 'the opportunity to see first-hand how international meetings are staged, the procedures and intense lobbying that goes on outside the meeting proper; it may have been the first real show of the changing global geo-political realities and it stressed the importance of research in the Pacific'.

Matelita also believes that 'ensuring gender parity is key to successful mitigating and adaptation initiatives. Meeting and networking with women from both state parties and non-governmental organisations meant a first-hand experience in listening to women's voices that are usually not heard in forums of COP15's magnitude, never mind considered as part of the principal document. The learning of best practices, actions and

communication tools, such as online discussion forums, is invaluable in terms of my returning home and working for the Department of Women'.

## **EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

David Musoke (2007 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar, MSc International Primary Health Care, University College London) has been awarded public health educational materials, including books, DVDs, CD-ROMs and accessories, worth £2,000 by the British Medical Association/British Medical Journal Information Fund 2009. The materials, which mainly deal with communicable diseases, sanitation and hygiene, will enhance existing provision at the Makerere University School of Public Health library, Uganda.



*David Musoke (right) presents educational materials to **Dr William Bazeyo**, Dean of the Makerere University School of Public Health, Uganda*

## **SHARED SCHOLAR WINS ENERGY INSTITUTE PRIZE**

Naveed Ahmed Shaikh (2009 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Pakistan, MSc Energy, Environmental Technology and Economic, City University) has recently been awarded a Best Author and Presenter prize by the Energy Institute (EI). As part of International Petroleum Week, which took place in February 2010, the EI invited students and recent graduates to take part in a poster competition,



*Naveed Shaikh (right) with the President of the Energy Institute, **James Shell CBE***

judged by senior delegates. Naveed won with his new idea for a 'wind car', which aims to 'find the feasibility of installing or fixing small wind turbines in an electric or hybrid car to charge the battery'.

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**

Collen Zalengera (2009 Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Renewable Energy Systems Technologies, Loughborough University) has successfully initiated a sustainability project in his home country of Malawi. The project, funded by Empower Projects (an Australian not-for-profit organisation) and currently administered by the Department of Energy Studies at Mzuzu University, aims to 'take a holistic approach to which renewable energy technologies will be installed in a community to meet the various energy needs of a community'. It will involve 'solar lighting using solar lanterns and PV modules for households, schools, and health centres; biogas production from animal waste for cooking; solar and wind water-pumping for clean water supply and irrigation; and water harvesting technologies and drip irrigation. It will also provide interest-free loans to assist business enterprise with some synergy with the installed technologies to ensure sustainability and ownership'.

# IN YOUR OWN WORDS

*Teale Phelps Bondaroff, 2009 Commonwealth (University of Cambridge) Scholar from Canada, is studying for a PhD in Politics and International Studies. Here, he describes the subject of his thesis, as well as his experience in the UK so far.*

The main objective of the initiative is 'to demonstrate and use renewable energy technologies in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Energy poverty in Malawi is a very serious problem, mainly at domestic level in the rural areas. Usually, women travel for an average of 10-15 kilometres to fetch firewood and this reduces the time they spend on income-generating activities, family and childcare, hence very high poverty levels. It is hoped that, through the supply of renewable energy electricity for lighting in schools, community health centres and households, the project will improve the quality of education by extending study periods of students to dusk, improve the delivery of health services in rural health centres, and improve the livelihood of families. Irrigation agriculture and water supply will improve the food security of the community and reduce waterborne diseases respectively'.

## COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUMMITS

This spring, the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) held a series of four educational summits for youths aged 14-17 in the UK, to educate young people about the Commonwealth, and to enable them to think critically and actively about issues surrounding disparity and health. Two Commonwealth Scholars were selected as facilitators; Steadman Noble (2008 Commonwealth Scholar from Jamaica, MA in Participation, Power and Social Change, University of Sussex) attended a Summit in Guernsey, and Stephanie Yorke (2009 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, Research in Post-Colonial Literatures, University of Oxford) attended Summits in Bristol and Newcastle.

The Summits involved interactive sessions about the Commonwealth and the Millennium Development Goals, as well as a model Commonwealth Summit, where each youth acted as a representative of a Commonwealth nation and participated in debates in that role. Stephanie was delighted to be granted the opportunity to volunteer at the summits, and she 'thoroughly enjoyed working with the youth. At both summits, students were keen to voice their opinions on poverty, and had very shrewd and ambitious ideas for improving standards of living throughout the Commonwealth. They revealed substantial moral intelligence, and were insightful participants in the workshops and debates. I also greatly enjoyed seeing Bristol and Newcastle, as both cities are beautiful, and have a distinctive character'.

My thesis focuses on the strategy and tactics of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, which is a naval-based environmental conservation organisation. The Sea Shepherd Society is best known for its controversial use of direct action on the high seas. Notable amongst its campaigns are the 1979 ramming of the pirate whaler *Sierra*, off the coast of Portugal. The *Sierra* was later scuttled by Sea Shepherd operatives in Lisbon Harbour.

Sea Shepherd is currently involved in several campaigns around the world, including against Japanese whaling in the Southern Ocean. What makes the Sea Shepherds a fascinating subject to study is that their actions take place on the high seas, unlike other protest actions which take place within the legal jurisdiction of specific states. In engaging in such actions, Sea Shepherd weaves a tangled web within the fabric of international law, and draws numerous state actors into complicated international legal incidents. It is this aspect of the Sea Shepherd strategy which most interests me and which will be the focus of my thesis.

There is a serious lack of reliable non-movement literature on the Sea Shepherds, and for this reason a vital component of my research will be to engage in participant observation while serving on a Sea Shepherd vessel. I have spent the past few months preparing for my fieldwork. This has involved arranging to serve on a Sea Shepherd vessel, a process in which I am still involved, as well as

learning to sail. For someone who was raised on the prairies, 1000 kilometres from the nearest ocean, this has proven challenging. I have joined the Yacht Club and have taken as many training courses as possible. Thus far I have earned my short range marine radio licence and am in the process of studying the theory component of the Yacht Master Certificate. I am grateful for the support of the CSC not only for my studies, but also my fieldwork.

In addition to my academic pursuits, I have been playing for the Cambridge University Ice Hockey Club. This has been a great experience; our team finished third in the league and the playoffs are starting soon, and I have met a wide range of people through the team.

As I intend to pursue a career in academia as well as in politics, I have been getting involved in my department in various ways. I have given a few presentations and will be presenting a

paper entitled 'Prime Time Campaigning: The Media Capture Strategy of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society' at my college research symposium shortly. I am also currently an associate editor of the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs (CRIA)*, a student-run academic journal.

The year has been thus far filled with interesting lectures and exciting opportunities – none of which would have been possible without the continued support of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, to whom I am extremely grateful.



**Teale Phelps Bondaroff,**  
*Commonwealth Scholar from Canada*

# PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS: COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS AND UK UNIVERSITIES

*Professor Mark Cleary, Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bradford, introduces a range of examples showing how UK universities and the CSC community are forging links between students, academics, institutions and governments.*

The personal, academic and institutional links across the Commonwealth represent an enormously valuable resource for UK universities. Higher education has always transcended international boundaries and, at a time when our universities are becoming increasingly international in their student, curriculum, research and staffing profiles, the long-standing connections with the Commonwealth have never been more important. Those connections help underpin our efforts to internationalise, and they provide an outstanding way of strengthening reciprocal links between institutions, bringing lasting benefits to both partners. How then can we build on these as Commonwealth Scholarships look to the next 50 years?

For most UK universities, international links need to reflect a range of priorities. We look instinctively for connections which represent mutual strengths and missions, and which also reflect the diversity of our institutions. This has never been more important than at a time of economic challenge, and that is why so many UK universities have agreed to jointly fund Commonwealth



**Professor Mark Cleary**

Scholarships with the CSC. Commonwealth Scholarships have a long pedigree of attracting outstandingly qualified applicants from across the world whose work not only adds to the research capacities and reputations of the universities where they study, but also adds significantly to developing capacity across the Commonwealth. The fact that Commonwealth Scholarships cover both the developed and less-developed parts of the world is, I believe, a continuing factor in ensuring that we continue to attract the best and brightest applicants, as well as enhancing research capacity in both host and home institutions. The CSC would like to thank all the UK universities that have agreed to offer joint scholarships from 2010 – their contribution has enabled us to offer an extra 23 scholarships this year, which will be primarily devoted to junior staff members from universities in the developing Commonwealth for PhD research.

The range of different schemes that operate under the aegis of the CSC is also something to celebrate. Our provision ranges from professional development and taught postgraduate programmes through to traditional doctoral programmes and innovative distance learning provision. This demonstrates the flexibility of linkages and their continuing relevance to host and home country alike. Above all, Commonwealth Scholarships provide a visible, lasting and powerful demonstration of the strength of international links in higher education. There are countless examples of how relationships developed under the framework of the scheme have blossomed into much wider, often institutional, linkages that would otherwise not have emerged. The success of the scheme reflects above all that strong sense of intellectual solidarity across the universities of the Commonwealth which has been so important, both in shaping the history of institutional contacts and links and in helping to mould the ways in which future international connections will bring strength and richness to the fabric of higher education across the world. In this feature, we look at a tangible

example of a former Commonwealth Scholar utilising links with Commonwealth universities to benefit the health of his home country, as well as explore the diverse ways in which UK universities are strengthening international links via bursaries and exchanges.

To find out more about UK universities and study opportunities, visit

[www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/universities.asp](http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/universities.asp)  
or [www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org)

## **UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD – NEW SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME**

The University of Bradford has started a new central scholarship scheme in the 2009/2010 academic year. £200,000 has been invested this year, and this is likely to rise next year.

### **Investing in Excellence and Community Scholarships**

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[www.brad.ac.uk/external/tuitionfees/support/scholarship-scheme.php](http://www.brad.ac.uk/external/tuitionfees/support/scholarship-scheme.php)

### **ALUMNI RECRUITS UK UNIVERSITY EXPERTISE TO HELP IMPROVE HEALTH IN MAURITIUS**

Dr the Hon Rajesh Jeetah (Commonwealth Fellow, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Cambridge, 2002-2003) has just been appointed Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology in Mauritius. Previously, he was Minister of Health and Quality of Life, and was responsible for tackling the problem of non-communicable diseases and diabetes, which have become major public health threats in the country. Diabetes and related complications, such as cardiovascular problems, renal inefficiencies, blindness and lower limb amputations, are posing major problems, with 50% of the population having diabetes or being pre-diabetic.

Rajesh was active in seeking high-level support for and participation in an International Conference on Diabetes and Associated Diseases, held in November 2009 in Mauritius. Delegates included academics from University College London, University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford (UK), and the University of Yaoundé (Cameroon).

Conscious of the fact that diabetes is also linked to genetic factors, Rajesh has sought and obtained the collaboration of academics internationally to work with the University of Mauritius on genetic research in the Mauritian population. This will take the form of a family planning diabetes study, a diabetes statistical association study, and a biomarker study.

A conference on the management of cardiovascular and related diseases will take place in August 2010 in Mauritius, and will be facilitated by ten international experts, including academics from the UK.

Rajesh is proud, as a former Commonwealth Fellow, to have been able to make a significant contribution to his country in the area of health. Speaking before his new appointment, he said 'It is my duty to ensure that the health status of the population is enhanced, the quality of health care delivery is improved, and the health sector is consolidated to further enable accessibility to health services'.

### **LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIA, BANGLADESH AND NIGERIA**

London Metropolitan University (LMU) has a series of prestigious scholarships for students from India, Bangladesh and Nigeria, aiming to identify outstanding graduates in any subject area who are going to make a real difference to their country.

In India, LMU works with the Gandhi Smriti, offering three scholarships per year to academically successful graduates who share Gandhi's philosophies, through the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship programme. In Bangladesh, the Muhammad Shahidullah Scholarship celebrates the immense achievements of educationist and polyglot Dr Shahidullah. In Nigeria, LMU works with the Murtala Mohammad Foundation to promote scholarships for first-class undergraduates.

More information is available at [www.londonmet.ac.uk/international/howtoapply/scholarships/postgraduate-scholarships](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/international/howtoapply/scholarships/postgraduate-scholarships)

### **CARDIFF UNIVERSITY LAUNCH NEW £4M PRESIDENT'S RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS**

A new multi-million pound package of postgraduate scholarships designed to tackle some of the key climate, engineering, social and medical research challenges and attract the most talented postgraduate research students to Cardiff University have been unveiled.

The President's Research Scholarship fund is a £4m investment set up to coincide with the inauguration of Professor Sir Martin Evans, Nobel Prize Laureate in Medicine, as Cardiff University's new President and in recognition of his world leading research.

Successful candidates will have the opportunity to work on new projects under the supervision of successful and established researchers and in dynamic research environments. In total, an additional 72 full Research Council UK-rate PhD scholarships are being offered by the university over the next two years as part of the new package.

Cardiff University's Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Grant, said: 'This is a substantial addition to our existing scholarship investment and it will enhance the number of people undertaking significant, challenging and innovative research to PhD level at Cardiff University'.

Further details can be found at [www.cardiff.ac.uk/presidents](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/presidents)



**Professor Sir Martin Evans,**  
*President of Cardiff University*

### **IAS FELLOWSHIPS AT DURHAM**

Since 2006, Durham University's Institute of Advanced Study (IAS) has been gathering together scholars, intellectuals and public figures of world-class standing to address topics of major academic, policy and public interest. Located on a UNESCO World Heritage Site beside both Durham Castle and the Cathedral, the IAS's work is organised around an annual theme designed to cultivate innovation in interdisciplinary thinking and research.

The IAS's Annual Fellowships programme invites fellows from around the world to spend three

months at the Institute, allowing freedom and time to develop their own ideas on the annual theme. Fellows live and work closely with leading national and international academics, and become part of a vibrant postgraduate and college community, participating in a wide range of IAS-sponsored research activities during their stay in Durham. Durham's IAS is one of only a handful worldwide that facilitates such research that bridges disciplinary boundaries and aims to contribute to evolving world thought and culture, with the fellowship scheme at the heart of harnessing these connections.

To find out more about the fellowship programme and the aims and activities of the IAS, visit [www.durham.ac.uk/ias](http://www.durham.ac.uk/ias)



**Institute of Advanced Study**  
*at Durham University*

# ALUMNI IN ACTION

## Alumni News

### ALUMNUS RECEIVES NOBEL PRIZE

Professor Elizabeth Blackburn (Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, PhD in Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge, 1973-1974) received the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden during a ceremony on 10 December 2009. Afterwards, Nobel Laureates and guests attended a banquet at Stockholm City Hall. Elizabeth's prize recognised the discovery of an enzyme (telomerase) that plays a key role in normal cell function, cell aging and most cancers (see *Commonwealth Scholarships News* 11).

### PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

Dr Md Taufiq-Ur-Rahman (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Molecular Pharmacology, University of Manchester, 2003-2004) obtained a PhD in Molecular Pharmacology from the University of Cambridge in 2008, and has been awarded a three-year Drapers' Company Research Fellowship at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Dr Khaled Misbahuzzaman (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Forest Ecology, University of Edinburgh, 1996-1999) is currently undertaking a Fulbright Scholarship, awarded by the US government, to pursue postdoctoral research in Ethnoecology and Ethnobotany at Pennsylvania State University, USA.

### SENIOR UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Many of our Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows go on to pursue academic careers, often assuming senior posts in their home countries. We are delighted to report on several recent senior appointments.

#### Professor Andrew Petter

(Commonwealth Scholar, LL.M., University of Cambridge, 1981-1982), former Attorney General of British Columbia, has been appointed President and Vice-Chancellor of Simon Fraser University, Canada.

Dr Syed S Husain (Commonwealth Fellow, Animal Breeding, Aberystwyth University, 2002) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh.

Professor Adetokunbo Sofoluwe (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Numerical Analysis, University of Edinburgh, 1974) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Nigeria.



**Professor Andrew Petter**, former Commonwealth Scholar

Professor Joseph RA Ayee (Commonwealth Fellow, Politics, University of Glasgow, 1993) has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head, College of Humanities, of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Professor Olorunfemi Olaofe (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Chemical Engineering, University of Bath, 1979-1982) has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the University of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.

### RECENT ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

Professor Richard Bosworth (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in History, University of Cambridge, 1966-1968) holds a Shared Professorship between the University of Western Australia and the University of Reading, UK. He edited the *Oxford Handbook of Fascism*, published in 2009. 2010 will see the publication of a revised edition of his prize-winning biography *Mussolini*, and a new book entitled *Modern Rome and its Histories*.

Professor Lyn Gorman (Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil in History, University of Sussex, 1969-1972) is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of Charles Sturt University in Australia, and has co-authored *Media and society into the 21st century: a historical introduction*.

### ICON IN SCIENCE AWARD



**Dr Lall R Sawh** receives his Icon award from the Caribbean Academy of Sciences

Dr Lall R Sawh (Commonwealth Fellow, Surgery, University of Edinburgh, 1977) has been named as a Trinidad and Tobago Icon in Science and Technology for his contribution to the field of medicine.

## Alumni events

### RECEPTIONS IN TRINIDAD AND ZIMBABWE

Professor Tim Unwin, Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, held an alumni reception on Wednesday 25 November 2009, during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The British Council office in Harare, Zimbabwe, hosted an informal gathering for former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows and local stakeholders on Monday 20 April 2010.



**Alumni reception** in Trinidad

## In brief

Dr Jane Bryce (Commonwealth Fellow, African Literature, School of Oriental and African Studies, 1996-1997) has been appointed Professor of African Literature and Cinema at the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados.

Dr Anneke Hesseling (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Infectious Diseases, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2005-2008) has been appointed Professor in Paediatrics and Child Health, at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

Louis Kasekende (Commonwealth Scholar, Diploma in Economic and Social Statistics, University of Manchester, 1981) has been re-appointed as Deputy Governor of the Bank of Uganda.

Dr M Abul Kashem (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Agricultural Extension, University of Reading, 1983-1986) has become Director of the Agricultural Museum at Bangladesh Agricultural University.

Dr Santrupt B Misra (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Industrial Relations, Aston University, 1990-1993) is Director, Group HR of the Aditya Birla Group, India, and is also now CEO of its Carbon Black Business.

Professor Jones Olanrewaju Moody (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Pharmacology, King's College London, 1986-1989) has been promoted as the first Professor of Pharmacognosy and Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Dr Jai Prakash (Commonwealth Fellow, Nephrology/Renal Transplant, St James' University Hospital, Leeds, 1995-1996) has been appointed Head, Department of Nephrology, at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, India.



# ALUMNI PROFILE

*In this issue, we look at the benefits of ongoing collaboration between alumni and their host institutions or supervisors, whether in an academic, research or broader education context.*

**Dr Heather Bell** (Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil in Modern History, University of Oxford, 1992-1995) is the University of Oxford's first Director of International Strategy. After completing her DPhil and spending a year as a Research Fellow at Oxford, Heather returned to Canada to work as a Consultant and then Partner at McKinsey Consulting.



**Dr Heather Bell**, former Commonwealth Scholar and Director of International Strategy at the University of Oxford, UK

Heather's Commonwealth Scholarship enabled her to pursue her goal of studying at Oxford, and the award changed her life both professionally and personally. 'The award was transformative. I was introduced to the world of academic research, wrote a thesis which I then published as a book, and learned analytical skills that have been crucial in my career at McKinsey and now in university administration. And I met my husband the day after I got off the plane to the UK.'

As Director of International Strategy, Heather has a broad remit to support the university's international activities, from attracting the best students and academics from around the world to working with academics to secure international research funding and conduct international research collaborations.

Heather believes that Commonwealth Scholarships are of critical importance in strengthening UK universities, through both the time Scholars spend at UK institutions and continued collaboration when they return home. 'Oxford has very high rates of research collaboration with countries like Canada and Australia, relative to population, as a result of these kinds of links.'

Heather believes that Commonwealth Scholarships play a vital role in attracting talented international students. 'In the UK – unlike the top US institutions – universities are not in a position to fully fund doctoral students. It makes a world of difference to have a full scholarship to offer to top students.'

**Professor Michael Omolewa** (Commonwealth Fellow, History of Education, King's College London, 1975-1976) has had a distinguished career. He served as Professor and Dean of Education at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and later as Nigeria's Ambassador to UNESCO based in Paris, France. He was awarded the UNESCO Gold Award in 2005.

As a young lecturer from the University of Ibadan, Michael was keen to utilise all the opportunities available during his Commonwealth Fellowship at King's. His supervisor, Professor Kenneth Charlton, proved to be an inspirational force both during and after his Fellowship.

As Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Charlton was able to provide academic expertise and, as a member of the History of Education Society and editor of its journal, he encouraged his students in their research and publications.



**Professor Michael Omolewa**, former Commonwealth Fellow from Nigeria

Michael remembers that Professor Charlton met with him frequently and 'discussed with me possible themes to explore, gave me freedom to identify areas of interest, and remained excited each time I reported some breakthroughs which came my way in the archives'.

Michael's supervisor also encouraged him to use international resources for his research, supporting an application for him to spend some of his Fellowship at the Archives Nationales in France, and a short attachment at the University of Wisconsin in the USA.

Michael maintained links with his supervisor after his Fellowship, through continued involvement in the History of Education Society. Later, as a faculty dean himself, he strove to provide the same level of encouragement to his students and junior staff as he had encountered during his Commonwealth Fellowship.



**Dr M Nazrul Islam**, former Commonwealth Fellow and recipient of a DelPHE grant

**Dr M Nazrul Islam** (Commonwealth Fellow, Geography, University of Hull, 2006-2007) is currently a Professor in the Department of Geography and Environment at Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh.

Nazrul has been awarded a Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DelPHE) grant for a research project developed in collaboration with his University of Hull supervisor, Dr Barbara T Rumsby. The project, 'Food Security through a Community Food Bank and Employment Generation in Northern Bangladeshis' will receive £75,000 of funding over three years, and will contribute to the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) efforts to eradicate seasonal hunger in the region.

The project aims to create employment generation opportunities, with jobs in non-crop agriculture and agro-processing, and to ensure year-round food supply, especially during periods of poor production. Knowledge gained through the project will be disseminated via publications and seminars and workshops at regional, national and international levels, as well as dialogue with the NGO and academic communities.

# NETWORKS AND EVENTS

For full reports on recent events, visit [www.cscuk.org.uk/news/eventreports.asp](http://www.cscuk.org.uk/news/eventreports.asp)

## ALUMNUS ATTENDS CHOGM



**Carol Holness** at the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Meeting

**Carol Holness** (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Human Rights, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2008-2009) reports on her experience at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

The Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) and CHOGM took place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 22-29 November 2009. The topic for the 2009 CPF was 'Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future' and the forum was attended by participants from civil society organisations based in countries all over the Commonwealth. The forum was divided into eight main assemblies dealing with pertinent issues ranging from environment and climate change to human rights and deepening democracy and governance.

As the Commonwealth Scholars' and Youth Representative at the CPF, I sat on the drafting committee and assisted in preparing the statement from the CPF to the Heads of Government. I also sat as the Youth Representative on the opening plenary discussion panel, along with the UN Assistant Secretary-General and the Trinidad and Tobago Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment, amongst others. I had the opportunity to raise issues pertaining to youth in the Commonwealth, as well as some of the ideas discussed by Commonwealth Scholars at the 50th anniversary conference in March 2009.

I also attended the Foreign Ministers' Meeting and subsequent luncheon, where CPF representatives

delivered brief statements arising from the discussions to government officials from a number of Commonwealth countries.

The Commonwealth People's Space, which was open for the duration of the CPF and CHOGM, was an arena allowing locals and foreign delegates to interact and express their viewpoints. It also served as a showcase for some of the diverse local dancing, music, singing and food.

It was an immense privilege to represent Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows at the CPF. The opportunity to meet and interact with people from all over the Commonwealth was both enlightening and humbling, and my experiences in the land of calypso were fantastic and memorable.

## MAXIMISING THE IMPACT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIETY EVENT

In celebration of Commonwealth Day 2010, around 70 Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows gathered at Cumberland Lodge on 12-14 March to address the theme of 'Science and Technology for Society'. Delegates considered the role of the Commonwealth in development, the relationship between scientists and government, and the impact of policymaking on both economic and social levels.

Dato' Ir Lee Yee Cheong, Chairman of the Governing Board of the UNESCO International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC), gave the keynote speech, emphasising the need to address the challenges of combating climate change and global poverty simultaneously, in order to achieve sustainability on earth. Professor José Furtado, former Secretary of the Commonwealth Science Council, looked at the role of S&T cooperation, highlighting the need for non-frontier, needs-based networks that build capacity and develop leadership.

One major issue to emerge was that of science policy and how best to facilitate communication between scientists and government policymakers. Both Dr Kirsty Newman of the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) and David Dickson from SciDev.Net focused on the role of intermediaries such as journalists and facilitators in translating research and its implications into political language. Professor Jeff

Waage, from the London International Development Centre, and Dr Andrée Carter, from the UK Collaborative on Development Sciences, demonstrated the competing agendas politicians face from advisers and lobbyists, and discussed how the quality of information available to them could be improved.

In closing, Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner and Director of the Commonwealth Foundation Dr Mark Collins emphasised the importance of networks in maximising the impact of science and technology research, and implored award holders to join the CSC's Science and Technology Network in order to strengthen cross-regional and interdisciplinary ties. The importance of building relationships and improving communications between scientists, politicians and the public was the central message that delegates took away from the event.

## MAGNA CARTA ELECTION EVENT

The Magna Carta Institute at Brunel University held an event on 6 March looking at the British General Election 2010. It featured a number of eminent speakers, including Sir Robert Worcester (founder of MORI, a survey research organisation, now Ipsos MORI), Peter Riddell (Assistant Editor of The Times), Lord Chris Rennard (former Chief Executive of the Liberal Democrats), Robert Evans (former Member of the European Parliament), and Justin Fisher (Director of the Institute). Discussions covered polling, coverage of the campaign in the media, and the likely outcome of the election. Professor Fisher commented that 'The event was lively and included a great deal of interaction with the audience. Overall, the day was a great success, with many scholars enthusing about such a stimulating day.'



HRH The Prince of Wales meets supporters of the **CSFP endowment fund** at a lunchtime reception held on 5 May 2010. The event, held at Marlborough House, allowed supporters of the fund, alumni, current Scholars and other stakeholders to interact with each other and The Prince, who is patron of the fund.

# COUNTRY PROFILE – KENYA



## SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

Responsibility for nominating Kenyan candidates for Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships is split between the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (nominating agency for those in public service) and the universities (which handle academic nominations). In order to attract the best candidates, the Scholarships are publicised through the print and electronic media. To aid the candidate selection process, the Ministry has a committee, chaired by the Directorate of Personnel Management. The Ministry also serves as the secretariat for Commonwealth Scholarships in Kenya, with further support also provided by the Kenyan High Commission in the UK.

Selection criteria stress equality of opportunity, with equal consideration given to male and female candidates, and a system of regional distribution, based on the number of administrative provinces. Value is also placed on the potential of candidates to contribute towards Kenya's development agenda.

## KENYA AND THE CSFP

More than 400 Kenyans have held Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships in the UK, and Kenyans have, in total, held almost 1,000 Commonwealth Scholarships throughout the Commonwealth. Other hosts have included Canada, New Zealand, India and Australia.

Kenya acknowledges the important contribution of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan to improving the skill set of Kenyans and contributing to the socioeconomic development of the country as a result.

Kenya is looking forward to hosting its first Commonwealth Scholarships this September, thanks to the CSFP endowment fund. Plans are to host

these inaugural awards at the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University.



Kenyan **Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholars** present their donation to the CSFP endowment fund to Dr John Kirkland, Executive Secretary of the CSC. This was one highlight of a reception held in Nairobi in February 2010, which brought together current Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholars and alumni. Other guests also included HE Mr Rob Macaire, British High Commissioner to Kenya, and representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

## ALUMNI

Kenyan Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows have made a wide contribution to public life, holding positions in the diplomatic/government/civil service, academia, industry and the NGO sector.

• **Dr Katherine Getao** (Commonwealth Fellow, Automata and Natural Language Processing, University of Manchester, 2005) is Project Manager of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) e Africa Commission. She was formerly Director of the School of Computing at the University of Nairobi.

- **Professor Crispus Kiamba** (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Urban Land Appraisal, University of Reading, 1978-1979) is Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology. He was formerly Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi.
- **Philip Mbugua** (Commonwealth Professional Fellow, Community Service Volunteers, 2005) is Executive Director of the National Organisation of Peer Educators.
- **Dr Yusuf Nzibo** (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Latin American Studies, University of Glasgow, 1977-1979) was formerly Kenya's Ambassador to the USA and to the Netherlands.
- **Josiah Okumu** (Commonwealth Scholar, MEd Educational Administration, Cardiff University, 1984-1985) is Senior Deputy Director of Education at the Ministry of Education.
- **Dr Kefa Rabah** (Commonwealth Fellow, Physics, University of Cambridge, 1998-1999) is Chief Executive of the Green Africa Network.



**Professor Crispus Kiamba** (left) receives the 2010 Symons Medal from **Professor Thomas Symons**. The medal, awarded by the Association of Commonwealth Universities for outstanding contributions to Commonwealth higher education, was named after Professor Symons, one of the founders of the CSFP.



The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC) is responsible for managing Britain's contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP).

The CSC supports around 750 awards annually. Awards are funded by the Department for International Development (for developing Commonwealth countries) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Scottish Government in partnership with UK universities (for developed Commonwealth countries). The CSC also nominates UK citizens for scholarships to study in other Commonwealth countries under the CSFP.

The CSC makes available seven types of award:

- Scholarships for PhD research
- Scholarships for Master's study
- Shared Scholarships with UK universities in support of Master's programmes
- Academic Fellowships for staff serving in developing country universities
- Split-site Scholarships for PhD students to spend up to one year in the UK
- Professional Fellowships for mid-career professionals in developing countries
- Distance Learning Scholarships for developing country students to study UK Master's degree courses while living in their own countries

The CSC is a non-departmental public body in its own right, and members are appointed in line with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Commission's secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities; financial management and welfare support for scholars is provided by the British Council.

The CSFP is an international programme under which member governments offer scholarships and fellowships to citizens of other Commonwealth countries. The Plan was established at the first Commonwealth education conference in 1959 and is reviewed by ministers at their triennial meetings – the only scholarship scheme in the world to receive such high-level recognition.

[www.cscuk.org.uk](http://www.cscuk.org.uk)