

Professional Fellowships Information Meeting 2011



Professor Tim Unwin

**Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission**

10th February 2011



The Commonwealth

- ◆ A voluntary association of 54 countries
 - ◆ That support each other and work towards shared goals of democracy and development
- ◆ A network of peoples
 - ◆ not just States
- ◆ A framework for increased communication and understanding
- ◆ Over 70 pan-Commonwealth associations



Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP)

- ◆ Established in 1959 at the first conference of the Commonwealth Education ministers
 - ◆ Bilateral agreements between countries
- ◆ Each country determines its own contribution
- ◆ Over 26,000 award-holders since 1960. Mostly postgraduate with some fellows and undergraduates
- ◆ *Commonwealth Scholarship Commission* is responsible for managing UK's Contribution
- ◆ Funded by
 - ◆ the *Department for International Development*
 - ◆ the *Department for Business, Innovation and Skills*
 - ◆ the *Scottish Government*
 - ◆ Some residual funding from the *Foreign and Commonwealth Office*

Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships in the UK

- ◆ Since 1960 approx 18,500 Scholars and Fellows
- ◆ Seven Types of Awards
 - ◆ PhD Awards, including
 - ◆ Split site PhDs
 - ◆ Master's Awards, including
 - ◆ Distance based
 - ◆ Shared scholarships
 - ◆ Academic Staff Fellowships
 - ◆ Professional Fellowships
- ◆ 43 Commonwealth countries are represented in the 2010 intake (503 awards)
 - ◆ + Prof Fellowships for Rwandans and Zimbabweans

503 New Awards 2010

- ◆ 176 general DFID scholarships (PhDs and Master's)
- ◆ 44 awards to university staff
- ◆ 26 split-site PhDs
- ◆ 7 BIS Scholarships
- ◆ 55 Academic Fellowships
- ◆ 68 Professional Fellowships
- ◆ 127 Distance Learning Master's Scholarships



UK Government Objectives

DFID

- ◆ Funds awards to Developing Commonwealth countries
- ◆ Contribute to Development Objectives
- ◆ Emphasis on Millennium Development Goals and Governance

BIS/SCOTLAND

- ◆ Funds awards to Developed Commonwealth countries
- ◆ Produce 'leaders', global knowledge and research
- ◆ Promote UK higher education excellence
- ◆ Public diplomacy agendas

CSC Administration

- ◆ Association of Commonwealth Universities
 - ◆ Selection Committees and placement
 - ◆ Academic monitoring and services
 - ◆ Policy drafting and Commission secretariat functions
 - ◆ Alumni activities
- ◆ The British Council
 - ◆ Distribution of grants
 - ◆ Welfare support
 - ◆ Travel arrangements and visas
 - ◆ Pre-departure and arrival advice



The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities



BRITISH
COUNCIL



75 YEARS OF
CULTURAL
RELATIONS

Achievements of the CSC



- ◆ Approx 18,070 awards since beginning of scheme – 503 this year
- ◆ High success rate with 95 to 100% of Masters completed, 80 to 90% of PhDs
- ◆ High levels of satisfaction from award-holders
- ◆ Strong contribution of former award-holders to their home countries
 - ◆ And to ‘development’ more generally
- ◆ Rigorous monitoring and evaluation procedures
- ◆ Sustained funding from the UK government
 - ◆ Just under £20m a year in next plan period

Role of Professional Fellowships

- To support ‘capacity development’ in key areas for Commonwealth countries
- Short periods of intensive training in the UK in relevant ‘development’ fields
- Building longer term networks between hosts and Fellows’ institutions
- Ability to deliver swiftly on ‘development’ objectives
- Enhancing Commonwealth networks

Looking to the future

- ◆ Reviews
 - ◆ Triennial review by Commonwealth Education Ministers
 - ◆ DFID review 2010
 - ◆ Continued commitment of UK government
- ◆ Commission's Development Plans
 - ◆ Maintenance of PhDs at 36-39% of funding
 - ◆ Simplifying structure, especially of Master's awards
 - ◆ Even clearer focus of DFID awards on development objectives
 - ◆ Closer links with award-holders, on award and on return home
 - ◆ Value of Professional Fellowships – scheme to grow
 - ◆ Increased focus on accessibility and gender
- ◆ Comprehensive evaluation programmes, to identify the impact of our awards on individuals and societies



CSC Scholars and Fellows for Life

