



Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowships

2017-2018 terms and conditions

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 34,000 individuals have benefited – 26,000 of them have held awards funded by the UK government through the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC), and managed by the CSC Secretariat at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). The Secretariat is responsible for all matters concerning selection, academic studies, and evaluation.

This document outlines the terms and conditions of 2017-2018 Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowships. These fellowships are funded by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) through the Rutherford Fund, with the aim of attracting global talent and supporting the UK's research base.

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.acu.ac.uk/commonwealth-scholarships

COMMONWEALTH RUTHERFORD FELLOWSHIPS

For highly skilled researchers from Commonwealth countries to spend **one or two years** at an eligible UK university or higher education institution conducting postdoctoral research.

Purpose: To support world-class research and innovation, and to contribute to the UK's research base by attracting high-calibre international candidates and encouraging links and collaboration

Intended beneficiaries: Highly skilled and highly motivated PhD graduates whose proposed research topic is innovative, timely, and likely to lead to wider impact beyond the academic community and build research collaboration between the UK and other Commonwealth countries

ELIGIBILITY

To apply for these fellowships, you must:

- Be a citizen of or have been granted refugee status by a Commonwealth country other than the United Kingdom, or be a British Protected Person
- Be permanently resident in a Commonwealth country other than the UK, and not based in the UK at the time of application
- Be available to start your fellowship in the UK before 31 March 2018
- Have been awarded your PhD no more than ten years prior to 1 November 2017
- Not have previously held a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship awarded by the CSC

You may apply for support for postdoctoral research for **one or two years**.

The CSC is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, and encourages applications from a diverse range of candidates. For further information on the support that the CSC provides to candidates with a disability, see <http://bit.ly/cscuk-disability-support>

HOW TO APPLY

You must make your application directly to the CSC using the Electronic Application System (EAS) – information on how to use the EAS is available at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-rutherford>

All applications must be submitted via the EAS by **12.30 (GMT) on 11 December 2017** at the latest.

You must provide the following supporting documentation, which must be received by the CSC by **12.30 (GMT) on 13 December 2017** in order for your application to be eligible for consideration:

- References from at least two individuals. One of these referees must be your PhD supervisor; without a reference from this person (except in exceptional circumstances) your application will be ineligible
- PhD certificate
- Supporting statement from your proposed supervisor in the UK
- Copy of your passport showing your photograph, date of birth, and country of citizenship

You must ask three referees to submit a reference on letterhead by email to references.rutherford@cscuk.org.uk **as soon as possible**. Your EAS number must be included in the subject line of each email. You must also include the name and email address of each of your three referees in your application. When you submit your application, each referee will receive an email reminding them to submit their reference by the deadline above, in case they have not already done so; this email will include a link to your application, which they can view.

You must also ask your proposed supervisor in the UK to submit a supporting statement on letterhead by email to statement.rutherford@cscuk.org.uk **as soon as possible**. This statement should confirm that they:

- Are willing to host you in their department for a period of one or two years from a date no later than 31 March 2018
- Have approval from their head of department and relevant university authorities to make an offer to host a postdoctoral researcher

Your EAS number must be included in the subject line of the email. You must also include the name and email address of your proposed supervisor in your application. When you submit your application, your proposed supervisor will receive an email reminding them to submit their statement by the deadline above, in case they have not already done so; this email will include a link to your application, which they can view.

SELECTION PROCESS

Your application will be considered by the CSC's selection committee in competition with other candidates and according to the following selection criteria:

- Personal and academic background
- Quality of the proposal
- Impact potential

For further details, see the Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowships 2017-2018 selection criteria, available at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-rutherford>

PLACEMENT

In your application, you are expected to identify **one** institution that you think is the most appropriate to host your fellowship, and to explain your reasons. You must also provide evidence of agreement to host your fellowship from an academic at your chosen institution. This is important because the CSC will not change the institution of a provisionally selected candidate after the point of selection, unless exceptional information becomes available that could not have been foreseen at the time of application. The CSC will make the final decision on institution of study, and reserves the right to overrule any preferences indicated by the candidate.

Host institutions must be willing to agree to host Fellows under the CSC's terms and conditions, and must be able to sponsor a 12-month Visitor (Standard) visa or Tier 5 (Government Authorised Exchange) visa. If your chosen institution does not agree to these conditions, or cannot fulfil its obligations, your application may be deemed ineligible.

VALUE

Each fellowship provides:

- Approved airfare from your home country to the UK and return at the end of your award (the cost of journeys made before your award is finally confirmed will not usually be reimbursed)
- Research support grant of £2,500 per annum
- Stipend (living allowance) at the rate of £1,627 per month, or £2,019 per month for those at universities in the London metropolitan area (rates quoted at 2017-2018 levels)
- Study travel grant of £1,000 per award towards the costs of approved travel within the UK or overseas

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A Commonwealth Rutherford 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)
- 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 have been agreed, the CSC will send you a Confirmation of Award (formal offer of a fellowship).
- You will be required to submit a medical report in advance of your arrival in the UK.
- You are expected to start your award on the date stated on your Confirmation of Award.
- You are expected to liaise with your UK university regarding the most appropriate visa route to come to the UK. Depending on your circumstances, your university may advise you to apply for a 12-month visit visa (standard) or a Tier 5 (Government Authorised Exchange) visa.
- If you require a visa to come to the UK, you must meet all relevant immigration requirements set by UK Visas and Immigration. Depending on your country of residence, you may be required to undergo screening for tuberculosis for your visa application. 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.
- 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>
- All terms and conditions of award are subject to UK local law and practices, and are subject to change by the CSC.

