



Commonwealth Master's Scholarships

For candidates from the Gambia

2018 terms and conditions

ABOUT COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) is one of the largest and most prestigious international scholarship schemes in the world. Since it was established in 1959, 35,000 individuals have held a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship – 27,000 of them were funded by the UK government, through the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC).

The CSC awards over 800 scholarships and fellowships for postgraduate study and professional development to Commonwealth citizens each year. The CSC's Secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities, based in London; overseas services are provided by the British Council.

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 MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIPS

The CSC is offering a special programme of Commonwealth Master's and PhD Scholarships to welcome the Gambia's return to the Commonwealth in 2018.

Commonwealth Master's Scholarships are for full-time Master's study at a UK university.

Funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), Commonwealth Master's Scholarships enable talented and motivated individuals to gain the knowledge and skills required for sustainable development, and are aimed at those who could not otherwise afford to study in the UK.

Purpose: To contribute to development needs of Commonwealth countries by providing training for skilled and qualified professionals and academics, and to contribute to UK higher education and foreign policy aims by encouraging collaboration and links.

Intended beneficiaries: High-quality postgraduate students who have the potential to enhance the development of their home countries with the knowledge and leadership skills they acquire.

Commonwealth Master's Scholarships are offered under six themes:

1. Science and technology for development

The scholarship, which may be in any area of science or technology (including, for example, agriculture, veterinary science, or forestry), will develop knowledge and/or skills that are directly related to the specific needs of a low or middle income country. Where possible, applications should cite expressed national or local priorities.

2. Strengthening health systems and capacity

The scholarship will develop knowledge and/or skills that will improve health provision or outcomes for disadvantaged groups in low and middle income countries. A range of approaches could be adopted, such as training staff to fill critical shortage areas; establishing better systems, processes, or management; health promotion and improving understanding of non-take up; or developing new treatments.

3. Promoting global prosperity

The scholarship will support economic prosperity in low and middle income countries. The knowledge and/or skills gained could lead to, for example, enhanced trade capacity; improved economic understanding or decision-making by business or government; new products and services; or long-term capacity building, through the development of entrepreneurial skills, for instance.

4. Strengthening global peace, security and governance

The scholarship will develop knowledge and/or skills that will strengthen peace and security at national, regional, or international levels. Multiple approaches could be used, such as strengthening open and transparent governance; improving mutual understanding within and between societies; or building systems that reduce the potential for conflict or encourage its resolution.

5. Strengthening resilience and response to crises

The scholarship will develop knowledge and/or skills which will help low and middle countries adapt to changing contexts, withstand sudden shocks, or increase capacity to preserve the continuity of operations following such events. This could apply to a broad range of threats, including natural and physical disasters; long-term threats such as climate change; interruptions to the supply of key resources; or sudden economic or technological disruption.

6. Access, inclusion and opportunity

The scholarship will develop knowledge and/or skills that will promote opportunity amongst historically disadvantaged groups in low and middle income countries. This could be through, for example, expanding educational opportunities; conducting community outreach; enhancing access to decision-making; or increasing understanding of the barriers faced. A range of disadvantage can be addressed – including social, economic, gender, ethnic, regional, or political – provided that the need is clearly stated.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply for these scholarships, you must:

- Be a citizen of or have been granted refugee status by the Gambia, or be a British Protected Person
- Be permanently resident in the Gambia
- Be available to start your academic studies in the UK by the start of the UK academic year in September/October 2018
- By October 2018, hold a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) honours standard, or a second class degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification (usually a Master's degree)
- Be unable to afford to study in the UK without this scholarship

The CSC aims to identify talented individuals who have the potential to make change. We are committed to a policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, and encourage applications from a diverse range of candidates. For further information on the support available to candidates with a disability, see the CSC disability support statement at <http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/csc-disability-support-statement>

HOW TO APPLY

You should apply to study at a UK university which has a joint funding agreement with the CSC. Joint funding agreements are at the discretion of individual universities. For a list of universities that have agreed to joint fund Commonwealth Scholarships, visit <http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/uk-universities/joint-funding>

You must make your application **directly to the CSC** using the CSC's application system. The CSC will not accept any applications that are not submitted via its application system.

All applications must be submitted by **23.59 (BST) on 7 June 2018** at the latest.

In your application, you must provide the following supporting documentation:

- Full transcripts detailing all your higher education qualifications (with certified translations if not in English)
- Proof that you hold eligible citizenship: a copy of your passport or birth certificate

You must provide the following supporting documentation, which must be received by the CSC by **23.59 (BST) on 14 June 2018** in order for your application to be eligible for consideration:

- References from at least two individuals

If this documentation is not provided by the dates specified above, your application will be considered ineligible.

You are not required to apply via a nominating body for these scholarships.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be considered according to the following selection criteria:

- Academic merit of the candidate
- Quality of the plan of study
- Potential impact of the work on the development of the candidate's home country

For further details, see the Commonwealth Master's Scholarships 2018 selection criteria at <http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/gambia-scholarships>

TENURE AND PLACEMENT

Awards are tenable at any approved UK university or higher education institution with which the CSC has a part funding agreement (as mentioned previously) for a specific programme of study. Awards are to obtain one degree; funding will not be extended to enable candidates to complete a qualification in addition to or higher than that for which the selection was made. Awards are made in respect of **full-time study only** and no other course of study may be undertaken at the same time.

You are advised to list three universities and courses that you think are the most appropriate for your study, in order of preference, and to explain your reasons. This is important because the CSC will not change the university or course (or the order of preference) 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. The CSC will consider the suitability of the course and its value for money when deciding on any overrule.

You must take the necessary steps to secure admission to your preferred universities in advance of your scholarship application. Many courses have strict admission deadlines. You should check admission requirements carefully when applying.

VALUE

Each scholarship provides:

- Approved airfare from your home country to the UK and return at the end of your award (the CSC will not reimburse the cost of fares for dependants, nor usually the cost of journeys made before your award is finally confirmed)
- Approved tuition fees
- Stipend (living allowance) at the rate of £1,065 per month, or £1,306 per month for those at universities in the London metropolitan area (rates quoted at 2017-2018 levels)
- Warm clothing allowance, where applicable
- Thesis grant towards the cost of preparing a thesis or dissertation, where applicable
- Study travel grant towards the cost of study-related travel within the UK or overseas
- If you are widowed, divorced, or a single parent, child allowance of £458 per month for the first child, and £112 per month for the second and third child under the age of 16, if you are accompanied by your children and they are living with you at the same address in the UK

The CSC's family allowances are intended to be only a contribution towards the cost of maintaining your family in the UK. The true costs are likely to be considerably higher, and you must be able to supplement these allowances in order to support any family members who come to the UK with you.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A Commonwealth Scholarship covers fees, approved fares, and personal maintenance. Other scholarships, awards, or bursaries that cover the same costs may not be held concurrently.
- In order for the CSC to administer your application effectively and efficiently after you have submitted it, it will be necessary to create a record in your name and your details will be kept on file. Basic anonymised demographic data for all applicants will be kept for analytical research. Should you wish to change your details before the deadline for references and supervisors' supporting statements, you can do so on the Candidate Information and Extra Details pages. All personal data held on you will be processed according to the principles of the United Kingdom Data Protection Act 1998.
- 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 does not require any candidates to take an IELTS (English language) test. You should note, however, that, as a further condition of award, you may be required by your university to provide evidence of a particular level of English language proficiency.
- The CSC will not be able to offer you a scholarship if it would contravene the terms and conditions of another scholarship that you have previously held.
- When terms of admission to the university have been agreed, the CSC will send you a Notification of Award (formal offer of a scholarship).
- When all conditions of the Notification of Award have been met, the CSC will send you a formal Confirmation of Award.
- You will be required to submit a medical report before your Confirmation of Award can be issued.
- You will be required to sign an undertaking to return to your home country as soon as possible after the end of your award.
- You are expected to start your award on the date stated in your Notification of Award.
- If you require a Tier 4 visa to come to the UK to study, you must meet all relevant immigration requirements set by UK Visas and Immigration. You should check the GOV.UK website at www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa 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 will be selected for an award on the basis of the plan of study outlined on your application form, which is not expected to change significantly during your award. Any such changes must be agreed by the CSC.
- You are expected to reside in the UK throughout your award, and to seek approval from the CSC in advance for any overseas travel.
- You must not undertake paid employment during your award without approval from the CSC in advance.
- The CSC will consider a request to extend your leave to remain in the UK after your award only if you wish to move from Master's to PhD study. Strict conditions will apply.
- The CSC cannot provide a letter of support or permission for you to remain in the UK after your award to work.
- Your award may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress, or attendance, or if your registration is suspended or terminated by your university for any reason.
- 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 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/csc-in-the-uk-anti-fraud-policy-and-procedure> and the DFID guidance on reporting fraud at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about#reporting-fraud>
- All terms and conditions of award are subject to UK local law and practices, and are subject to change by the CSC.

For more information, see the Handbook for Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, available at <http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/award-holders/handbook-forms>



**Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK**

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