



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships

**2021 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 35,000 individuals have benefited – 28,500 of them have held awards funded by the UK government, managed by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC).

This document outlines the terms and conditions of Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships offered by the CSC for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries in 2021. These scholarships are funded by the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), with the aim of contributing to the UK's international development aims and wider overseas interests, supporting excellence in UK higher education, and sustaining the principles of the Commonwealth.

For information about the other scholarships and fellowships offered by the CSC, visit. For information about Commonwealth Scholarships offered by other Commonwealth countries, visit the [ACU website](#).

The CSC's Secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), which is responsible for all matters concerning selection, academic studies, and evaluation. The British Council is responsible for supporting award holders in their home countries before and after their awards.

Commonwealth Distance learning scholarships

Scholarships for individuals to study for a UK Master's degree while residing in their home country.

Purpose: To contribute to development needs of Commonwealth countries by providing training for skilled and qualified professionals in key development areas.

Intended beneficiaries: High-quality postgraduate students who wish to access training not available in their home countries, who wish or need to remain in their home country while they study, and who have the potential to enhance the development of their home countries with the knowledge and leadership skills they acquire.

Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships support courses offered in partnership with local providers in developing countries, as well as courses delivered directly by UK universities.

Candidate applications

Applications for 2021 will open to candidates in March 2021 with a likely final closing date in May 2021. The university must nominate its chosen candidates within four weeks of the CSC's final closing date for applications.

If you have any questions about Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships or the application process, please contact the CSC Secretariat at distance.learning@cscuk.org.uk or on 020 7380 6716.

Selected universities are required to conduct their own recruitment process to nominate a specified number of candidates for Distance Learning Scholarships to the CSC. The selection committee selects scholars from these shortlists of nominated candidates in July. Universities are asked to nominate an equal number of male and female candidates for these awards.

Eligibility criteria

The university is responsible for ensuring its candidates meet the CSC's eligibility criteria.

To apply for these scholarships, candidates must:

- Be a citizen of, or be granted refugee status in, an eligible developing Commonwealth country (see overleaf), or be a British Protected Person;
- Be permanently resident in a developing Commonwealth country
- Hold a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) standard. A lower qualification and sufficient relevant experience may be considered in certain cases.

Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships may not be held concurrently for more than one course.

If selected for a scholarship, candidates **must** be resident and remain in an eligible developing Commonwealth country and **must not** undertake study towards any other qualification for the duration of their award.

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](#).

Additional requirements

When submitting their application to the CSC, all candidates **must** provide **at least one** reference **and hold an offer** to start their chosen course of study in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Eligible commonwealth countries

Bangladesh
Cameroon
The Gambia
Ghana
India
Kenya
Kiribati
Lesotho
Malawi
Mozambique
Nigeria
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Eswatini
Tanzania
Tuvalu
Uganda
Vanuatu
Zambia

How to apply

You must make your application using the CSC's online application system. The CSC will not accept any applications that are not submitted via the online application system. You must also secure admission to an eligible Master's course at a UK university that is participating in the Distance Learning scheme. See a [list of participating universities and eligible courses](#).

Please check with your with your chosen university for their specific advice on when to apply, admission requirements, and rules for applying. You can apply for more than one course and/or to more than one university, but you may only accept one offer of a Distance Learning Scholarship.

All applications must be submitted by the first deadline of **17:00 PM (BST) on 26 April 2021**.

Your application must include the following supporting documentation by second deadline of **17:00 PM (BST) on 10 May 2021** for your application to be eligible for consideration:

- Proof of citizenship or refugee status – uploaded to the online application system
- At least one reference– submitted directly by the referee to the online application system (referees will be sent an email request)
- An offer letter to start their chosen course of study in the 2021-2022 academic year - uploaded to the online application system
- Full transcripts detailing all your higher education qualifications (with certified translations if not in English) – uploaded to the online application system

The CSC will not accept supporting documentation submitted outside the online application system.

Supporting documentation uploaded to the online application system must be uploaded as files that are no more than 5 MB in size and must be in one of the following formats: PDF, .doc, .docx, .odt, .jpg, .jpeg. Files submitted in any other format (including Zip files and PDF Portfolios) will NOT be accepted.

Applicants are responsible for seeking permission from their referees in advance of submitting their application; for ensuring that their referees are available to complete the reference by the deadline and have received the reference request email from the online application system.

General conditions

- A Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarship covers tuition fees and study grants where required. 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 will be necessary to create a record in your name. If you are nominated for an award to the CSC, your details will be kept on file. Basic anonymised demographic data for all applicants will be kept for analytical research. The CSC is

committed to protecting your personal information and to being transparent about the information we are collecting about you and what we do with it. To find out more, see our [privacy notice](#).

- If your application is successful, you will be notified by your selected university via email
- The CSC does not require any candidates to take an IELTS (English language) test. You should note, however, that, as a further condition of your scholarship, 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 university will send you a Notification of Award (formal offer of a scholarship)
- 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.
- Scholars will be expected to abide by the [Commission's Code of Conduct for Award-Holders](#) and [Disciplinary Policy and Procedure](#). 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.

Applicants are expected to adhere to the [CSC's Code of Conduct for award-holders](#) which states:

“As a Commonwealth Scholar or Fellow, you are an ambassador for both the CSC and your home country, and your actions and remarks will have an impact on the reputation of both. You are therefore expected to adhere to high standards of conduct and behaviour and to show respect to others and your surroundings at all times.

“The CSC aims to enable a free exchange of ideas during all its activities in order to achieve the maximum potential impact for all participants. Recognising the diversity of backgrounds among our award holders – in terms of race, religion, gender, sexuality and cultural values – you are reminded to always be respectful to others.

“The CSC is committed to proactively safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, and to protecting all those with whom the CSC comes into contact. The CSC requires Commissioners, Secretariat staff, and Scholars and Fellows to

fulfil their role and responsibilities in a manner consistent with requirements for safeguarding. See the [CSC safeguarding policy](#) .

“Any complaints received will be taken very seriously and any behaviour that does not adhere to the above values and expectations will be addressed by the CSC.

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 and the [FCDO guidance on reporting fraud](#).”

All terms and conditions of award are subject to UK local law and practices, and are subject to change by the CSC.