

Policy on Requests to Enter or Remain in the United Kingdom for Further Study

Guidance Notes

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK will consider requests from Commonwealth Scholars to remain in the UK to undertake doctoral study in circumstances where:

- (a) Scholars have undertaken a Master's Scholarship. Requests will not be considered from those who have undertaken a Split-Site or PhD Scholarship or a Fellowship
- (b) the request is accompanied by a letter of admission from a UK institution for studies leading to a PhD/DPhil
- (c) the area of research appears related to, or a clear next stage, to the course currently funded by the Commission
- (d) in the case of Scholars currently funded by the Department for International Development, the request is accompanied by a statement of support from the national agency or university responsible for nominating the Scholar for the initial award
- (e) the Scholar signs an undertaking to return to their home country within three months of the completion of doctoral studies and to make no further application to remain in the United Kingdom without the agreement of the Commission
- (f) the Scholar provides evidence of 'full' funding for the full duration of doctoral study, from either the institution of study or a recognised scholarship awarding body and confirms that no further financial obligation will rest with the Commission. The Commission will not agree requests to remain where only partial funding has been secured up front.
- (g) The Scholar undertakes to keep the Commission updated of their contact details throughout the period of their PhD study.

Responsibility to ensure that a request contains all of the above elements rests with the Scholar.

The Commission emphasises that meeting of points (a) to (g) above does not, of itself, guarantee that every request will be granted, and each request will be considered on a case by case basis. If a request is granted, the Commission will provide a letter, if required, indicating that we have no objection to the planned study.

Scholars are reminded that it remains their responsibility to ensure that all visa and immigration requirements are met, and that approval from the Commission to remain in the United Kingdom does not provide any guarantee of this.