

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC)

Alumni Advisory Panel 2023-2025: Induction



Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK



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Induction webinar overview

The key aims of the webinar are for panel members to:

- Understand the role of the Alumni Advisory Panel in the development of CSC activities and supporting the CSC in delivering its strategic objectives
- Provide an overview of panel membership
- Outline the role of panel members and CSC expectations
- Discuss future activities and how activity information will be shared
- Provide an overview of the benefits of taking part in the panel
- Q&A



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Background to the Panel

The CSC's Alumni Advisory Panel has been developed to provide a platform for Commonwealth Alumni to support the future of the programme and Scholars by sharing personal insight and expertise to contribute to the development of CSC activities.

- 2019-2021, 101 members
- 2021-2023, 98 members

4 activities per year = 8 activities over the two-year term

CSC Alumni Engagement Strategy 2022-2025

The objectives of the alumni engagement strategy are to support and demonstrate Commonwealth Alumni:

- Collaborating and applying their knowledge and expertise to address critical global challenges
- Increasing personal and professional development to become leaders in sustainable development through the CSC Alumni Network
- Contributing to the scholarship scheme through ongoing promotion and development of programmes

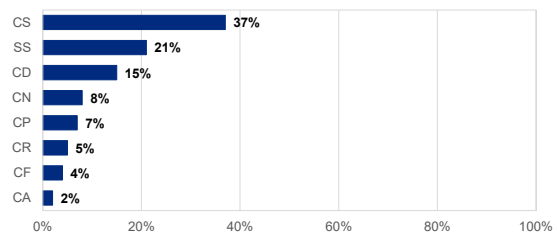


Panel membership 2023-2025

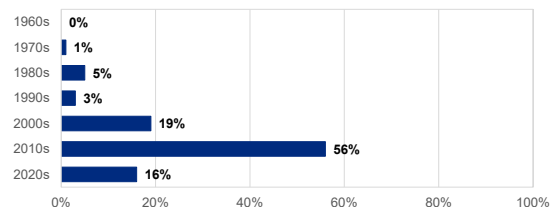
- 118 Alumni Advisory Panel members
- 53% male and 46% female membership; 1% prefer not to say
- 31 countries
- 103 Scholars and 15 Fellows

Professional expertise includes: higher education, programme design, monitoring and evaluation, policy development, CSC activities, leadership, entrepreneurship, research.

Panel members by programme of study



Panel members by decade of study



Role of Panel Members

The primary role of an Alumni Advisory Panel Member is to participate in consultation exercises and pilot studies and advise CSC teams on specific projects.

You will also be expected to represent the CSC at any CSC events and external events you attend in your capacity as a panel member, as appropriate.



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Key expectations



- Adhere to the CSC Code of Conduct for Alumni
- Approach all tasks and activities in a confidential manner
- Be an active and engaged ambassador of the CSC
- Liaise with CSC Secretariat staff and fellow panel members
- Participate in at least one activity per year of your two-year term
- Share feedback on your experiences



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Activities

The scope of advisory activities may include:

- Contributing to the development of activities to support CSC strategic objectives
- Piloting evaluation surveys and approaches
- Testing survey instruments
- Advising on the design and usability of evaluation outputs
- Participating in interviews or focus groups for specific projects
- Testing online training modules
- Advising on the development of partnerships and networks to support alumni engagement



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Upcoming activities



- **November-** Supporting the design and development of an event series to prepare new alumni for career success
- **March-** Advising on the CSC's arrival and communications for scholars
- **May-** Reviewing and validating the CSC's contribution analysis, examining the evidence we hold against our theory of change
- **July-** Consulting on the CSC Alumni Engagement Strategy 2025-2028

Virtual meet-ups for networking and to consult on panel-led topics and areas of the CSC's work.



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Engaging in activities

- Email communications announcing activities- alumni@cscuk.org.uk
- LinkedIn posts in dedicated group
- Pre-register interest or get involved straightaway
- Feedback and insights gathered via:
 - Online survey tool
 - Virtual focus groups (live)
 - Virtual focus groups (online platform)
 - One-to-one communications

Panel members are expected to complete **at least one** activity **per year** of their two-year term. Eligibility to re-a-apply depends on meeting this.

- All activities have a brief
- Pre-reading or supporting documents provided
- Online surveys will be password protected
- Individual panel members will be contacted about additional opportunities
 - 'Closed' activities
 - Speaking at scholar and alumni events
 - Providing case studies or advice/excerpts
- A summary report will be produced for all activities and shared with contributors, as well as the wider panel



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Benefits

As panel members, we hope you will benefit through the opportunity to:

- Give back to the CSC by sharing your personal expertise, insights and experiences
- Inform the Commission's strategy across CSC teams
- Connect with fellow alumni panel members
- Contribute to the global knowledge pool regarding the evaluation of higher education, scholarships, and postgraduate study
- Sharpen your research skills



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Any questions?

Stay connected!

- Contact the CSC Alumni Team at alumni@cscuk.org.uk
- View the **full list of panel members** on the CSC website
- Join the **CSC's Alumni Advisory Panel Member Group** on LinkedIn
- **Learn about the contributions of previous panel members** by reading our panel reports

