

Lifegate Outreach Centre

Fellowship Summary

The Fellowship aims to empower professionals from Commonwealth countries with knowledge and tools that promote safety, informed migration, entrepreneurship, and climate resilience in their communities.

Lifegate Outreach Center's focus for 2026 includes addressing contributory factors of community vulnerability that correlate with community building and resilience systems, leading to internal migration and mass emigration of the productive population. This migration is driven by limited opportunities to thrive and prosper, exacerbating the effects of climate change and weakening community cohesion. The fellowship aims to enhance migration literacy, counter fraud, and support youth employment through entrepreneurship and UK-Africa trade links.

Fellows will engage with UK institutions like the Home Office and British Council to gain insights into legal migration and scalable community interventions in the West Midlands. Upon return, Fellows will lead awareness campaigns, support and incubate local businesses, and policy dialogues, reducing migration-related vulnerabilities and promoting communities.

Weblink for Candidates

<https://www.lifegatecentre.org/lifegate-communities/>

Eligibility Criteria

Mid-career professionals working in migration services, youth development, community advocacy, entrepreneurship, or climate resilience across Commonwealth countries will be eligible applicants. Applicants must be affiliated with NGOs, social enterprises, local government, or community-based organisations directly engaged in migration education, youth employment, or climate adaptation. Priority will be given to individuals in migration-prone regions with demonstrable grassroots impact and a clear plan for community engagement post-Fellowship.

Proposed Programme Dates

16 February 2026 to 23 April 2026

Proposed Activity

10 weeks (February – April 2026)

Week 1–2: Orientation & Migration Systems in the UK

- 16th-17th February 2026: Welcome & induction at Lifegate Community Centre, West Midlands.

- 18th February 2026 Lifegate CSC Alumni Engagement—Testimonials and Establishment of Fellows Learning Partnerships.

- 19th February 2026 Communication and Interpersonal Skills-[TP: Lifegate Communities].

- 23rd-24th February 2026 Workshop: UK Migration Policy and Process (Home Office/British Council expert session) [TP: Lifegate Communities].

- Fellows’ 0-Learning Partnerships.

- 26th-27th February 2026: Learning session with the UK Department of Business and Trade—understanding their role in trade facilitation, pathways, and opportunities for micro-level trade with the UK from Commonwealth countries. [TP: Lifegate Communities]

Weeks 3–4: Understanding community awareness and resilience-strengthening frameworks and tools in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- 2nd March 2026 - Seminar on countering immigration fraud with the UK National Crime Agency and anti-fraud experts [TP: Lifegate Communities].

- 3rd March 2026 - Learning Partnership Sessions (Fellows).

- 4th March 2026 - Roundtable with media professionals on effective awareness messaging (radio, digital, grassroots).

- 5th–10th March, 2026 - Begin co-creation of the “Migration Preparedness Toolkit” in multilingual formats [TP: Lifegate Communities].

- 11th March 2026 - Learning Partnership Sessions (Fellows).

- 12th-13th March, 2026 Field visit: Engage with African diaspora groups and recent immigrants in Walsall, Birmingham, and Wolverhampton (2-day workshop) [TP: Lifegate Communities].

Weeks 5–6: Youth Employment &

Entrepreneurship for Community Resilience

- 17th March 2026 - Partner visit: UK Department for Business & Trade—exploring UK Africa trade frameworks and opportunities [TP: Lifegate Communities].

- 18th-19th March, 2026 - Workshops on entrepreneurship incubation, mini accelerator lab sessions [TP: Lifegate Communities].

- 20th March 2026 - Exposition visit to the Tony Elumelu Foundation UK chapter [TP: Lifegate Communities].

- 23rd March 2025 - Fellows’ Learning Partnerships.

- 24th–27th March 2026 - Co-develop a “Business Without Borders” resource guide [TP: Lifegate Communities].

Weeks 7-8: Climate Change, Migration & Food Security

- 30th March 2026 - Presentation by Commonwealth Climate Resilience Network on climate-induced migration [TP: Lifegate Communities].
- 31st March–2nd April 2026 - Case study development workshops with UK-based environmental think tanks [TP: Lifegate Communities].
- 7th-9th April 2026 - Interactive sessions on climate-adaptive agriculture and livelihood models [TP: Lifegate Communities].
- 10th April 2026 - Fellows’ Learning Partnerships.

Weeks 9-10: Integration, Policy Briefing & Return Plan

- 13th - 14th April 2026 - Reflection and consolidation: Peer exchange on learnings and preparation of post-Fellowship implementation workshop) [TP: Lifegate Communities].
- 15th April 2026 - Fellows’ Learning partnerships
- 17th April 2026 Develop final project proposals and stakeholder engagement strategy [TP: Lifegate Communities].
- 20th-22nd April 2026 - Review and presentation of pilot models and community toolkits workshop [TP: Lifegate Communities].
- 23rd April 2026 - Lifegate Communities closing activity with participation from UK stakeholders TP: Lifegate Communities].

Throughout the programme, Fellows will also contribute to a shared digital resource hub, participate in intercultural activities, and be mentored by Lifegate’s Outreach Centre leaders.

Priority Theme

Strengthening resilience and response to crises