

Imperial College London - Academic

The Imperial Global Development Lab-Commonwealth Academic Fellowship will embed early to mid-career academics from ODA-eligible Commonwealth countries within host departments at Imperial for 3-month, high-impact placements. Fellows will collaborate directly with Imperial academic staff on research aligned with their home-country development priorities, benefit from access to world-class facilities, and participate in structured professional development. Equally, the Fellowship is designed around relationship-building: through the GDL, Fellows will develop facilitated connections across Imperial's research, innovation, and policy communities, leaving with an active network that continues to generate value after they return home.

Upon return, Fellows are expected to draw on these networks to initiate bidirectional collaborations, bringing Imperial researchers into contact with their home institutions and development contexts. Fellows will introduce new methodologies and approaches; pursue joint publications and grant applications with Imperial colleagues; and mentor junior researchers, creating a multiplier effect on capacity within their institutions and national research ecosystems.

Eligibility

The Fellowship is open to early to mid-career academics employed at universities or research institutions in ODA Commonwealth countries as defined by the CSC. Applicants must be nationals of and reside in an ODA Commonwealth country, hold a relevant doctoral or postdoctoral qualification, and demonstrate clear alignment between their research area and one or more of the six CSC development themes. There are no restrictions based on sector or partner organisation. Applications will be welcomed from all eligible ODA countries, with no geographical sub-restrictions, though applications from under-represented nations and female applicants are particularly encouraged.

Proposed Programme Dates: 10/02/2027 to 08/05/2026

Priority Theme: Science and technology for development

Recruiting from an established network: Yes

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/imperial-global-development-lab/>