

# Commonwealth Split-site Scholarships

For developing Commonwealth country citizens

## Prospectus 2015



## Introduction

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is one of the largest and most prestigious scholarships schemes for international study in the world. Since it was established in 1959, around 30,000 individuals have benefited – 24,000 of them have held awards funded by the United Kingdom, managed by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC).

This prospectus describes the Commonwealth Split-site Scholarships offered by the CSC for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries in 2015-2016.

Separate prospectuses exist for the CSC's other programmes, including Scholarships for Master's and PhD study, Shared Scholarships, Distance Learning Scholarships, Academic Fellowships, Medical Fellowships, and Professional Fellowships. Please visit the CSC website at [www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk) for details of these programmes. For information on Commonwealth Scholarships offered by other Commonwealth countries, please visit the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) website at [www.csfp-online.org](http://www.csfp-online.org)

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission'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.

## Eligibility

To apply for a Commonwealth Split-site Scholarship, candidates should:

- Be Commonwealth citizens, refugees, or British protected persons
- Be permanently resident in a developing Commonwealth country (a full list is available at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-developing-cw-countries>)
- Be available to commence their academic studies in the United Kingdom by the start of the UK academic year in September/October 2015
- Hold, by October 2015, a first degree of upper second class Honours standard (or above); or a second class degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification, which will normally be a Master's degree

The Commission wishes to promote equal opportunity, gender equity and cultural exchange. Applications are encouraged from a diverse range of candidates.

## About Commonwealth Split-site Scholarships

Commonwealth Split-site Scholarships support one year's study at a UK university as part of a PhD being undertaken in a candidate's home country, under the **joint** supervision of a home country and UK supervisor.

Applications for 12 months' study in the United Kingdom on a split-site basis **must** be made in the context of a departmental/institutional link with a UK university **already in operation or currently under negotiation**. Both the UK and home supervisor **must** provide supporting statements that highlight current institutional collaboration. Any applications that do not include a UK supporting statement will not be considered.

### Key features

- Candidates should be registered for a PhD at their home country university. The final qualification obtained will be from the home country university, rather than the UK university.
- The 12-month period of study in the UK can be taken at any stage during the PhD study (providing this is justified in the study plan), and can be divided into two or more periods with a period not greater than 12 months elapsing between each award term.
- A Commonwealth Split-site Scholarship covers full tuition fees for one year at the UK host university, stipend for up to one year in the UK, return airfare, and other allowances. The scholarship does not support the period of study at the home country university.
- Those candidates who have not yet commenced their home PhD at the time of application will be eligible to spend a maximum of six months in the UK in the first year of their studies.

## How can I apply?

Candidates can apply to study at UK institutions with which the Commission has a part funding agreement. A list of institutions that have agreed to offer part funded Scholarships in 2015-2016 is available at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-uk-universities>. Agreement to part fund Scholarships is at the discretion of individual institutions.

Applications must be submitted **directly to the CSC** using the Commission's Electronic Application System (EAS), which can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-split-site-scholarships>. All Split-site Scholarship candidates must submit their application using the EAS by 3 December 2014.

Candidates are **not** required to apply via a nominating body for Commonwealth Split-site Scholarships.

## Tenure and placement

Awards are tenable at any approved UK university or higher education institution with whom the Commission has a part funding agreement (i.e. those on the list mentioned previously) for a specific programme of research and are not restricted to particular subject areas. Awards are to obtain one degree and funding will not be extended to enable candidates to complete an additional or higher qualification than that for which the selection was made. Scholarships are made in respect of **full-time** study only and no other courses of study may be undertaken at the same time.

The final decision on institution of study will be made by the Commission, which reserves the right to overrule any preferences expressed by the candidate at the application stage. The Commission will consider the suitability of the study and its value for money when considering any overrule. Tuition fees for at least the current academic year are published on university websites (usually PhD equivalent). The Commission will not change the institution for which the candidate has been provisionally selected after the Commission's selection committee has met, unless exceptional information becomes available that could not have been foreseen at the time of application.

## The selection process

In order to ensure a competitive process in the United Kingdom, the Commission normally seeks approximately three times more applications than there are Scholarships available. Each application is first considered by a member of the Commission's panel of advisers with expertise in the subject area concerned and then by the Commission's selection committee in competition with other applicants.

Applications are considered according to the following selection criteria:

- Academic merit of the candidate
- The quality of the proposal
- The likely impact of the work on the development of the candidate's home country

## Value of awards

Each Scholarship provides:

- Student concessionary or other approved airfare to the United Kingdom and return on expiry of the Scholarship (the cost of journeys made before final award confirmation will not normally be reimbursed, nor can fares be paid for a Scholar's dependants)
- Approved tuition and examination fees
- A personal maintenance allowance at the rate of £977 per month (£1,208 per month for those studying at institutions in the London Metropolitan area) – rates

quoted at 2014-2015 levels

- A grant towards the expenses of preparing a thesis or dissertation, where applicable
- An initial arrival allowance, including visa reimbursement where applicable
- A grant for expenses for approved study travel within the United Kingdom or overseas
- Only Scholars selected by the Commission for awards exceeding 18 months are eligible for spouse and child allowances. However, irrespective of the length of the award, a Scholar who is widowed, divorced or a lone parent will receive an allowance in respect of the first accompanying child and child allowances for the second and third accompanying children

More information about the terms and conditions of Commonwealth Split-site Scholarships can be found in the Handbook for Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, available on the CSC website.

## General conditions of award

Applicants should be aware of the following general conditions:

- The Commission reserves the right to publish the names of candidates provisionally selected for awards on the CSC website. By applying for an award, the candidate gives consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful
- Candidates will be notified of their provisional selection by the Commission: that is, selection for award subject to the Commission agreeing the terms of admission to the university/institution
- Candidates will be given a formal Notification of Award – the offer of a Scholarship – as soon as terms of admission to the university/institution have been agreed
- Formal confirmation of the award will be issued when all conditions of the Notification of Award have been met
- Scholars will be expected to take up the award from the date stated by the Commission in its Notification of Award
- A Commonwealth Scholarship covers fees, fares and personal maintenance. Similar awards may not be held concurrently
- Scholars will be expected to reside in the United Kingdom throughout their award, and to seek prior approval for any proposed visits abroad
- Scholars may not undertake paid employment during their award without prior consent
- The Commission will require a medical report before an award can be confirmed
- Scholars will be required to sign an undertaking to return to their home country as soon as their award comes to an end
- The Commission will only consider requests to extend leave to remain in the UK post-award for those wishing to move from Master's to PhD study. Strict conditions will apply
- The Commission will therefore be unable to provide

any letter of support which might be required by an award holder to stay on to work or undertake postdoctoral study in the UK

- All terms and conditions of award are subject to UK local law and practices, and are subject to change by the Commission
- All regulations concerning immigration and visas are set by the UK immigration authority. The Commission has no control over these; please note that they are subject to change
- Candidates from Commonwealth countries which require a Tier 4 visa to come to the UK for study may be required to take an approved English language test and/or be screened for tuberculosis in order to obtain their visa. The regulations on this could change at any point. You are advised to check the UK Visas and Immigration website at [www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/study-visas](http://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/study-visas) for updates
- In line with the UK Bribery Act which came into effect on 1 July 2011, it is Commission policy that any candidate convicted of bribery will be banned from reapplying for a Commonwealth Scholarship for a period of up to five years
- A Scholarship may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress, or attendance

## Additional requirements

The Commission may require candidates to undertake the academic IELTS English language test as a condition of eligibility. An IELTS test will be considered valid only if taken after 1 October 2014 and before 6 March 2015. Candidates must achieve an overall score of 6.5 with no less than 5.5 in each band. As a further condition of award, the Commission, or a host institution in the United Kingdom, may require a candidate to provide evidence of a particular level of English language proficiency.



Commonwealth Scholarship  
Commission in the UK

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