



Queen Elizabeth  
Commonwealth  
Scholarships

**Building Commonwealth connections  
through higher education**

## What are Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships?

The Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarship scheme is owned by and for Commonwealth governments. Hosted by leading universities in low and middle-income Commonwealth countries, the scheme provides awards for Commonwealth citizens to study for a Master's-level qualification.

Awards are fully funded through the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) endowment fund, which has been supported with donations from 14 Commonwealth governments, many Commonwealth scholarship alumni, and organisations. The ACU manages the administration of this inter-governmental fund and its scholarships.

Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships support scholars who are highly engaged in their communities to gain a Master's award in another country, building their academic profile and connecting with international networks to help effect positive change across the globe.

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**'The Commonwealth is a thriving family of nations, a common link between nearly two and a half billion people, and a defender of democracy, justice, and peace.'**

HRH The Duke of Sussex, Speaking at the Commonwealth Youth Forum in May 2018

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Hosted in 20 different countries to date, no other scholarship scheme offers such variety in experience and connections across the Commonwealth.



## The cause

Commonwealth Scholarships are one of the Commonwealth's most widely recognised brands. They have been offered between member nations since 1959, maintaining and improving international relations and creating mutual understanding through an alumni network of over 35,000 people. The common language and legal systems, shared values, and commitment to liberal democracy and human rights binds Commonwealth countries together, providing a natural framework for cooperation on global challenges through the active collaboration of highly engaged citizens.

The Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarship scheme ensures that the opportunity to host Commonwealth Scholarships is available to all countries. Host countries offer access to expertise in new and emerging fields, contributing to knowledge sharing between Commonwealth nations.

This innovative mechanism for supporting south-south as well as north-south mobility, expands the number of scholarships available to developing countries, helping to strengthen capacity and build bridges through mobility and research collaboration. Queen Elizabeth scholars will work in their home and host countries, solving global challenges and collaborating to secure sustainability in the future Commonwealth.

Increasing both the number and the geographic reach of these prestigious scholarships also contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4B.

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**‘By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing states and African countries, for enrolment in higher education.’**

UN Sustainable Development Goal 4B

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The Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships will launch fully in 2019 to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Commonwealth, the 60th anniversary of the CSFP and the 10th anniversary of the CSFP endowment fund.



## What we have achieved so far

The true value of the CSFP stems from its ability to create mobility across the Commonwealth. Rather than just encouraging typical south-to-north or north-to-south movement, Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships provide opportunities for all Commonwealth nations to host and send scholars.

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**‘As international students we decide to be role models for our countries, by trying to address and fight the challenges we all face and help change our countries for the better.’**

**Judith Ahimbisibwe, Uganda 2017 scholar at Kenyatta University, Kenya (MSc Agribusiness Management)**

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**‘This programme enables international exposure, providing scholars with the knowledge and leadership skills required to achieve global sustainable development.’**

**Fabian Chidubem Eze, Nigeria 2017 scholar, University of Nairobi, Kenya (MSc Renewable Energy)**

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The CSFP maximises the value of this unique network, supporting scholars to study subjects which enable them to deliver real change within their communities and become ambassadors who help build lasting relationships between nations.

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**‘The Commonwealth has been making a great impact around the world, and I am happy to say that I am part of this. I would love to give more to the Commonwealth in the future.’**

**Joachim Arikibe, Nigerian** 2016 scholar, University of the South Pacific (MSc Chemistry)

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**‘The experience I am gaining from my studies will not only benefit me, but it will also be a great benefit to my entire nation because I will transfer skills and knowledge acquired in my studies to help improve the agricultural education sector in Botswana.’**

**Tshepiso Abram, Botswana** 2017 scholar at the University of Swaziland (MSc Agricultural Education)

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## Get involved

At the 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (20CCEM) in Fiji in February 2018, Commonwealth governments endorsed the growth of the Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships scheme via the CSFP endowment fund. The ACU is coordinating Commonwealth governments to join others in actively supporting the growth of the fund with a financial contribution.

As a contributor to the endowment fund you provide:

### **Commitment to the future of the Commonwealth**

The Commonwealth has placed renewed focus on the importance of young people and their role in achieving sustainable development. The expansion and reinvigoration of the CSFP also contributes to achieving Target 4B of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Life-changing opportunities for students across the Commonwealth**

With each new scholar, a new bond is forged between the home and host country. Scholarships offer opportunities for cultural exchange and diplomatic dialogue – diplomatic links, with students at their heart, can be strengthened. Targeting of regions/countries and subjects is possible with donations of a sufficient scale.

### **Outward mobility experiences for your students**

Increased opportunities for your students to gain a qualification overseas, bringing increased human resource capacity on their return home. Cross-cultural understanding and problem-solving skills are valued by employers.

## Contributing governments

- Government of Australia
- Government of the Bahamas
- Government of Barbados
- Government of Brunei Darussalam
- Government of Cameroon
- Government of Canada
- Government of Fiji
- Government of Kenya
- Government of Malaysia
- Government of the Maldives
- Government of Mauritius
- Government of the Seychelles
- Government of Sri Lanka
- Government of the United Kingdom

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‘COMSATS University is a long-time member of ACU, and regularly hosts Commonwealth Scholars.

COMSATS is deeply committed to the real spirit of internationalisation in higher education, which we demonstrate by offering opportunities for young people from across the Commonwealth to study at our university.

Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholars are selected following a rigorous screening process, meaning only the most outstanding candidates who are well-equipped to produce high quality research are admitted.

We are proud to partner with the ACU to offer these prestigious scholarships.’

Dr Arshad Malik - Head of the International Office at COMSATS University, Pakistan

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Commonwealth  
Scholarship  
and Fellowship Plan

For more information or to discuss a contribution towards the CSFP endowment fund, please contact:

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