Commonwealth Fellowships â?? information for candidates â?? Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

Description

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The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK offers Commonwealth Fellowships for the 2026/27 cycle, hosting eligible professionals and academics at UK organisations and universities. Professional Fellowships are designed for mid-career professionals with at least five years of relevant experience, while Academic Fellowships support university staff who hold a PhD. The programme helps participants strengthen their skills, exchange knowledge, and build professional connections to support development in their home countries. The fellowships cover approved travel, living allowances, visa fee reimbursement, and an arrival allowance. Applications for the 2027 fellowships are now closed.

Scholarship overview

- Host country: United Kingdom
- Study level / opportunity type: Professional Fellowship and Academic Fellowship (short-term, non-degree)
- Funding classification: Funded fellowship, including return airfare, monthly living allowance, visa fee reimbursement, and arrival allowance
- Application deadline: 25 August 2026, 16:00 BST
- Current status: Closed for the 2026/27 fellowship cycle

Note: This opportunity is for eligible mid-career professionals with at least five years of relevant experience and university academics who hold a PhD. It is not a bachelorâ??s, masterâ??s, or PhD scholarship.

Benefits

- Tuition fees: Not specifically listed.
- Monthly living allowance: Provided to cover living expenses.
- Travel: Return airfare to the UK.
- Health insurance: Not covered; fellows should arrange their own insurance.
- Accommodation: No separate accommodation allowance specified.
- Visa fees: Standard visa application fee reimbursement.
- Arrival allowance: Provided to help with initial settling-in costs.
- Books and research: No general allowance specifically listed.

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Eligibility Criteria

- Nationality: Must be a citizen of an eligible Commonwealth country other than the UK.
- Residency: Must meet the official nationality and residency requirements.
- Academic qualifications: Academic Fellowship applicants must hold a PhD and be employed at a university in an eligible Commonwealth country.
- Work experience: Professional Fellowship applicants generally need at least five years of relevant work experience.

- Age limit: No general age limit specified; check the individual fellowship requirements.
- Language requirements: Check the requirements of the UK host organisation.
- Admission requirements: Applicants must secure or meet the requirements of an eligible UK host organisation or university programme.
- Nomination route: Applications must follow the CSCâ??s official process and any host organisation requirements.

Note: Professional Fellowships are intended for mid-career professionals, while Academic Fellowships are for university academic staff. Check the official Commonwealth Fellowships page for the complete eligibility rules.

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Available Fields or Programmes

The Commonwealth Fellowship Programme for 2026/27 offers two fellowship strands across six development themes.

Fellowship strands

- Commonwealth Professional Fellowships
- Commonwealth Academic Fellowships

Development themes

- Science and Technology for Development
- Improving Population Health, Health Systems and Capacity
- Promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Strengthening Peace, Security and Governance

- Strengthening Resilience and Response to Crises
- Access, Inclusion and Opportunity

Participating host organisations include: University of Oxford, Imperial College London, University of Bath, University of Reading, University of Strathclyde, University of Bradford, University College London, and other approved UK organisations.

Note: These are short-term professional and academic development programmes, not degree courses. Applications for the 2027 fellowship cycle are closed.

How to Apply

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Applications for the 2027 Commonwealth Fellowships are now closed. The application process was managed through the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) online application form.

1. Choose a fellowship programme: Review the approved UK host organisations and their Professional or Academic Fellowship programmes on the official CSC website.

2. Check eligibility: Read the requirements for your selected programme, including nationality, work experience, academic qualifications, and any host-specific conditions.

3. Contact the host organisation: Check whether the host accepts applications from new candidates or recruits fellows through its existing professional network.

4. Complete the online application: Submit the CSC application form and provide your education, employment history, references, personal statement, development impact statement, and passport or national identity document.

5. Host organisation nomination: The relevant host organisation reviews applications and nominates eligible candidates to the CSC.

6. Final selection: The CSC selection committee makes the final decision and communicates the results.

Application route: Applicants apply through the CSCâ??s online form for a specific host programme, rather than through an embassy or a national nominating agency. The host organisation then nominates candidates for final CSC selection.

Required Documents

Applicants for the Commonwealth Fellowships must prepare the following information and documents, as specified by the official call.

- Passport or National ID: A scan of your passport or national identity card.
- References: At least two references, including one from your current employer.
- Academic qualifications: Details of undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications, where applicable.
- Employment history: Information about previous roles and relevant professional experience.
- Personal statement: A statement explaining your background and motivation.
- Development impact statement: Explain how the fellowship will help you contribute to development in your home country.
- Career objectives: Your short-term and long-term goals and how the fellowship supports them.
- Leadership and voluntary activities: Details of relevant experience and contributions.

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Note: The official page does not list transcripts, degree certificates, a CV, or English-language test results as standard uploads for this fellowship application. Check the selected host programme for any additional requirements. The 2027 application cycle is closed.

Important Dates

- Application opening date: 28 July 2026, 9:00 AM BST
- Application deadline: 25 August 2026, 4:00 PM BST
- Host nomination period: September 2026
- Nomination deadline: Early October 2026

- Interview period: Not specified on the official page.
- Results announcement: Expected in Novemberâ??December 2026.
- Fellowship start dates: Januaryâ??March 2027, depending on the fellowship strand and host programme.

Application status: Closed for the 2026/27 cycle.

Is this scholarship fully funded or tuition-only?

The Commonwealth Fellowships are funded professional and academic development programmes, not tuition-based scholarships. Benefits include a monthly living allowance, approved return airfare to the UK, visa fee reimbursement, and an arrival allowance. Tuition fees, accommodation, and health insurance are not listed as standard benefits.

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Which nationalities and study levels are eligible?

The Commonwealth Fellowships are open to eligible Commonwealth country citizens, including applicants from Sri Lanka, who meet the programme requirements.

- Eligible nationalities: Citizens or recognised refugees from eligible Commonwealth countries, or British Protected Persons, who meet the residency requirements.
- Professional Fellowship: Mid-career professionals with at least five years of relevant work experience.
- Academic Fellowship: University academic staff who hold a PhD and work at a university in an eligible Commonwealth country.
- Study level: These are short-term professional and academic development fellowships, not bachelorâ??s, masterâ??s, or PhD degree programmes.

Is university admission required before the scholarship application?

o. A separate university admission offer is not generally required for the Commonwealth Fellowships. Applicants must apply for a specific approved fellowship programme through the Commonwealth Scholarship Commissionâ??s online application form. However, applicants must meet the selected UK host organisationâ??s eligibility requirements, which may include additional conditions.

What is the exact deadline and timezone?

- The application deadline for the 2026/27 Commonwealth Fellowships was 25 August 2026 at 4:00 PM British Summer Time (BST). Applications are now closed.

Is there an application fee?

The application deadline for the 2026/27 Commonwealth Fellowships was 25 August 2026 at 4:00 PM British Summer Time (BST). Applications are now closed.

Category

1. Fellowships

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