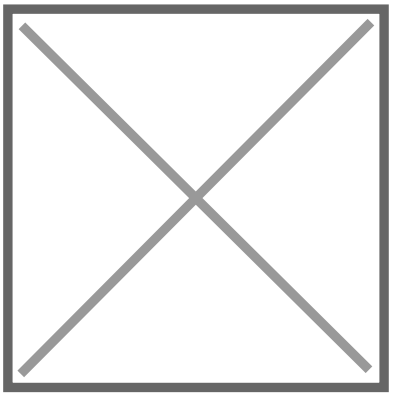


Commonwealth Fellowships â?? information for UK host organisations

Description

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The **Commonwealth Scholarship Commission** **(CSC)** offers Commonwealth Fellowships to strengthen professional development, academic collaboration, and knowledge exchange across Commonwealth nations. Fellowships are hosted by eligible organisations and universities across the **United Kingdom**, providing participants with valuable training and networking opportunities. For the **2026/27 programme**, the application cycle includes selected host organisations and fellowship opportunities, with candidate applications currently open for the 2027 intake. The programme is designed to benefit mid-career professionals, university academics, UK host institutions, and Commonwealth countries by fostering skills development, international partnerships, and long-term development impact.

Scholarship overview

- **Host country:** United Kingdom / Commonwealth countries
- **Study level / opportunity type:** Masterâ??s, Ph.D., Fellowship, Exchange / Non-degree
- **Funding classification:** Funding mentioned â?? verify full coverage
- **Application deadline:** Not detected â?? verify the official page
- **Current status:** Unconfirmed

Fellowship Benefits

- **Monthly Stipend:** Â£2,218 per month (or Â£2,753 per month for fellowships based in the London metropolitan area).

- **Return Airfare:** Economy-class return airfare between the fellowâ??s home country and the UK.

- **Visa Support:** Reimbursement of the standard UK visa application fee.
- **Arrival Allowance:** Up to Â£1,247.09 to help cover initial settling-in expenses.
- **Programme Support:** Funding may be available for approved short courses, conferences, or professional visits that are part of the fellowship programme.
- **Tuition Fees:** Not applicable, as this is a fellowship rather than a degree programme.
- **Health Insurance:** Not provided by the fellowship.
- **Accommodation:** No separate accommodation allowance is provided; fellows are expected to use their monthly stipend to cover housing costs.
- **Books Allowance:** No dedicated allowance for books or study materials.
- **Research Allowance:** No separate research grant is provided.

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Eligibility Criteria

- **Nationality:** Applicants must be citizens of, refugees in, or permanent residents of an eligible Commonwealth country.
- **Academic Qualifications:** Professional Fellows require relevant qualifications or expertise; Academic Fellows require a PhD or equivalent doctoral qualification.
- **Age Limit:** No specific age limit; the programme targets mid-career professionals and established academics.

- **Work Experience:** Applicants must have relevant professional experience in their field, with leadership potential and clear development goals.

- **Language Requirements:** Applicants must have sufficient English proficiency to participate effectively in the fellowship.

- **Admission Requirements:** Candidates must apply through an approved UK host organisation and meet the host programme requirements with required supporting documents.

- **Nomination Route:** Candidates apply to published fellowship opportunities, are shortlisted by UK hosts, and final selection is made by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC).

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Available Fields / Programme Areas

The Commonwealth Professional and Academic Fellowships support programmes aligned with the following confirmed development themes:

- **Science and Technology for Development**

- **Strengthening Health Systems and Capacity**

- **Promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

- **Strengthening Global Peace, Security and Governance**

- **Strengthening Resilience and Response to Crises**

- **Access, Inclusion and Opportunity**

Specific fellowship topics and placements depend on the approved **UK host organisation programmes** available in the current call. Applicants must apply only for programmes published by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) and participating UK hosts.

How to Apply

The application process is completed through an **approved UK host organisation**. Applicants do **not** apply directly through an embassy or nominating agency.

Step-by-step application route:

1. **UK host organisations submit proposals** to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) to offer fellowship programmes.
2. **CSC reviews and approves host programmes** based on eligibility and development priorities.
3. **Approved fellowship opportunities are published** for eligible candidates.
4. **Applicants apply online** for their chosen fellowship programme through the CSC application system.
5. **UK host organisations review applications** and nominate suitable candidates.
6. **CSC makes the final selection** and confirms successful fellows.

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Application Route: Through an approved UK host organisation (not through an embassy or separate nominating agency).

Required Documents

Applicants may need to provide the following documents as part of the Commonwealth Fellowship application:

- **Passport or Proof of Citizenship/Residency:** Evidence confirming eligibility as a Commonwealth citizen, refugee, or permanent resident.
- **Degree Certificates:** Copies of relevant academic qualifications (including PhD certificate for Academic Fellowships, where applicable).
- **Academic Transcripts:** Official records of completed academic study, if required by the host programme.

- **CV / Professional Profile:** Details of employment history, skills, achievements, and relevant experience.
- **References:** Supporting references from professional or academic referees.
- **Personal Statement / Fellowship Proposal:** Explanation of career goals, development objectives, and how the fellowship will support professional growth.
- **English Language Evidence:** Proof of English proficiency, if required by the host organisation.
- **Supporting Documents:** Any additional documents requested by the selected UK host organisation or fellowship programme.

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Note: Document requirements may vary depending on the specific fellowship opportunity offered by the approved UK host organisation.

Important Dates (2026/27 Commonwealth Fellowships)

- **Application Opening Date:** Applications open after approved UK host fellowship programmes are published by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC).
- **Host Organisation Application Deadline:** Deadlines vary depending on the fellowship category and host application route.
- **Candidate Application Deadline:** Applicants must submit their applications by the deadline specified for the selected fellowship opportunity (deadline and timezone are provided in the CSC application system).
- **Nomination Deadline:** Approved UK host organisations nominate shortlisted candidates after reviewing applications.

- **Interview / Selection Period:** Shortlisting and interviews are conducted by host organisations after the candidate application period closes.

- **Final Results Announcement:** Successful candidates are informed after CSC completes the final selection process.

- **Fellowship Start Date:** Selected fellows are expected to begin their programmes from **March 2027**.

Note: Exact opening dates, deadlines, interview schedules, and result dates depend on the specific fellowship programme and approved UK host organisation. Applicants should check the official CSC call for the latest timeline.

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Important Dates (2026/27 Commonwealth Fellowships)

- **Application Opening Date:** Applications for the 2027 Commonwealth Fellowships are now open.

- **Application Deadline:** Friday, **22 August 2026, 16:00 BST (British Summer Time)**.

- **Nomination Deadline:** Septemberâ??early October 2026 (host organisations nominate shortlisted candidates to the CSC).

- **Interview / Selection Period:** Conducted after the application deadline during the host organisation shortlisting and nomination stage.

- **Result Announcement:** Expected in **November 2026**.

- **Fellowship Start Date:** Selected fellows begin their programmes in **Januaryâ??March 2027**, depending on the fellowship strand and host programme.

Reviewer: Simon Longley (Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK)
Page Review Date: 24 July 2026

Is this scholarship fully funded or tuition-only?

Funding Type

The **Commonwealth Professional and Academic Fellowships** are **fully funded fellowship programmes** (not tuition-only).

The funding support includes:

- Monthly living stipend
- Return airfare to and from the UK
- Visa fee reimbursement
- Arrival allowance

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However, it is **not a tuition-based scholarship**, as fellows are not enrolled in a degree programme. Tuition fees, accommodation, health insurance, books, and separate research funding are generally **not provided as standard benefits** unless specifically included within an approved host programme.

Which nationalities and study levels are eligible?

Eligible Nationalities & Study Levels:
Applicants must be citizens of, refugees in, or permanent residents of an eligible Commonwealth country. The programme is available for **professional and academic fellowships**, including **mid-career professionals and university academics with a PhD or equivalent qualification**. It is not intended for undergraduate or standard masterâ??s degree study.

Is university admission required before the scholarship application?

University Admission Requirement:
No. University admission is **not required** before applying. Applicants apply for an approved Commonwealth Fellowship programme offered by a UK host organisation. The selected host organisation reviews applications and nominates candidates to the CSC.

What is the exact deadline and timezone?

Application Deadline:
The exact deadline depends on the specific Commonwealth Fellowship programme. Applicants should check the official CSC application portal for the confirmed closing date and timezone stated for their selected fellowship opportunity.

Is there an application fee?

Application Fee:
No. There is **no application fee** for Commonwealth Fellowships. Applicants can submit their applications free of charge through the official CSC application system.

Category

1. Scholarships

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admin

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