



University of Sussex Commonwealth PhD Scholarships 2027 in the UK

Description

The **University of Sussex** [Commonwealth PhD](#) 2027 provide a [fully funded opportunity](#) for outstanding students from eligible Commonwealth countries to pursue doctoral research in the **United Kingdom**. Hosted by the University of Sussex and supported through the **Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC)**, the 2027/28 application cycle is designed for talented graduates whose research can contribute to sustainable development in their home countries. This scholarship is ideal for academically strong candidates seeking international research experience, world-class supervision, and financial support while building expertise that can create a lasting impact in their communities.

Scholarship Overview

- **Host Country:** United Kingdom (UK)
- **Host University:** University of Sussex
- **Study Level / Opportunity Type:** PhD (Doctoral Research)
- **Funding Classification:** Fully Funded (through the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission)
- **Application Deadline:** 20 October 2026 (16:00 BST) for CSC applications for the 2027/28 academic year. Applicants must also meet any earlier deadline set by their nominating agency.

- **Current Status: Applications open** for the 2027/28 Commonwealth PhD Scholarships, with studies commencing in September/October 2027.

Scholarship Benefits

- **Tuition Fees:** Full tuition fees covered.
- **Monthly Stipend / Living Allowance:** Monthly stipend provided (£1,712 per month, or £2,000 per month for scholars in the London metropolitan area).
- **Travel / Airfare:** Approved round-trip economy airfare to and from the UK.
- **Health Insurance:** Not included.
- **Accommodation:** No separate accommodation funding; covered through the monthly stipend.
- **Visa:** Not specified as a standard benefit.
- **Books:** No separate book allowance.
- **Research Support:** Study travel grant and approved fieldwork funding, where applicable.
- **Settling-in Allowance:** Not specified as a standard benefit.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Nationality:** Must be a citizen, refugee, or British Protected Person from an **eligible Commonwealth country** and be permanently resident in that country.
- **Academic Qualifications:** Must hold at least an **upper second-class (2:1) bachelor's degree**, or a lower second-class degree with a relevant **master's degree**, by September 2027.
- **Age Limit:** No age limit specified.

- **Work Experience:** No mandatory work experience required, although relevant experience may strengthen the application.
- **Language Requirements:** Must meet the **University of Sussex English language requirements** for the chosen PhD programme.
- **Admission Requirements:** Must be eligible for admission to a full-time PhD programme at the University of Sussex and be available to begin studies in **September/October 2027**.
- **Nomination Route:** Applications **cannot be made directly to the CSC**. Candidates must apply through an **approved national nominating agency or selected NGO/charitable body** in addition to the CSC application.

Available Fields or Programmes

The 2027 Commonwealth PhD Scholarship call does **not provide a fixed list of PhD programmes at the University of Sussex**. The CSC states that there is no restriction on subject of study, provided the proposed research relates to one of its six development themes.

Applicants should therefore select an eligible **full-time PhD research programme at the University of Sussex** that aligns with the CSC development themes and their proposed research.

CSC Development Themes:

- Science and technology for development
- Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship
- Improving population health, health systems and capacity
- Strengthening global peace, security and governance
- Strengthening resilience and response to crises
- Access, inclusion and opportunity

Note: Do not publish a specific list of Sussex PhD programmes as **Commonwealth-eligible** unless the 2027 official call or Sussex confirms those programmes.

How to Apply

The application requires **two separate applications**: one to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) and one through an approved nominating agency.

Choose a PhD programme and Sussex supervisor: Identify a suitable full-time PhD at the University of Sussex and contact a potential supervisor. The supervisor must provide a supporting statement.

1. **Apply to the University of Sussex:** Submit your PhD application online with your CV, academic transcripts and certificates, statement of interest, two academic referees, and required English-language evidence. Sussex recommends applying well before the scholarship deadline.
2. **Apply through CSC Central:** Complete the [Commonwealth PhD Scholarship application](#) online through the CSC's application system. The 2027/28 application deadline is **20 October 2026 at 16:00 BST**.
3. **Apply to a nominating agency:** You must also apply to an approved **national nominating agency** in your home country or an eligible participating NGO/charitable body. Each nominator may have its own deadline and requirements.
4. **Submit supporting documents:** Upload the required transcripts, references, research/study plan, Development Impact Statement, and Sussex supervisor statement through CSC Central.
5. **Nomination and selection:** The nominating agency shortlists candidates and submits nominations to the CSC. Final selection is made by the CSC based on its selection criteria.
6. **Application route:** Applicant → University of Sussex + CSC Central + Nominating Agency. The CSC **does not accept direct applications without a nominating route**.

Required Documents

According to the current Commonwealth PhD Scholarship guidance, applicants should provide:

- **Academic transcripts** for all relevant higher education qualifications.
- **Degree certificates** or evidence of completed qualifications.
- **References** from the required referees.

- **Supporting statement from the proposed UK PhD supervisor.**
- **Research proposal / study plan** as required in the CSC application.
- **Development Impact Statement** addressing the expected impact of the proposed study.
- **English language evidence**, where required by the University of Sussex or the relevant PhD programme.
- **Passport or national identity document** as required to verify nationality.

References and the PhD supervisor's supporting statement must be uploaded to the CSC application system before submission; incomplete applications may be rejected.

Note: A CV should not be listed as a mandatory CSC supporting document unless it is specifically requested in the current application form or by the University of Sussex.

Important Dates

- **Application Opens:** 8 September 2026
- **CSC Application Deadline:** 20 October 2026, 16:00 BST
- **Nominating Agency Deadline:** Varies by country and agency; applicants must meet both the agency and CSC deadlines.
- **Interview Period:** Not specified in the current official call.
- **Results:** No specific results date has been announced.
- **Study Start:** September/October 2027

The official CSC confirms the opening and closing dates for the 2027/28 cycle, while the University of Sussex also lists **20 October 2026 at 16:00** as the application deadline. The CSC notes that nominating agencies may set earlier deadlines.

Is this scholarship fully funded or tuition-only?

The **University of Sussex Commonwealth PhD Scholarship** is **fully funded**, not tuition-only. It covers full approved fees, a monthly living stipend, return airfare, study travel support, and approved fieldwork costs where applicable.

Which nationalities and study levels are eligible?

The scholarship is open to **citizens or permanent residents of eligible Commonwealth countries**, specifically countries classified as **least developed countries or vulnerable states** under the CSC programme. Applicants must also meet the programme's nationality and residency requirements.

The scholarship is available for **full-time PhD (doctoral) study** at participating UK universities, including the **University of Sussex**. It is **not available for Bachelor's or Master's study** under this particular scholarship.

Is university admission required before the scholarship application?

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No. An offer of admission from a UK university is **not required when submitting the Commonwealth PhD Scholarship application** and is not a CSC eligibility requirement. However, applicants must take steps to apply for admission to their preferred universities **before submitting the scholarship application**. If selected, having applied for and secured admission is necessary for the scholarship to proceed.

Applicants must also provide a **supporting statement from a named PhD supervisor** at at least one of their preferred UK universities.

What is the exact deadline and timezone?

Application Deadline: 20 October 2026, 16:00 (4:00 PM) UK time.

Is there an application fee?

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No. The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) does **not charge applicants an application fee** for submitting a Commonwealth PhD Scholarship application through its online system, CSC Central.

Application Fee: Free / No fee.

Category

1. Fellowships

Author
admin