



Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK



A CONNECTED COMMONWEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 30 September 2019



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS



Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK

A CONNECTED
COMMONWEALTH

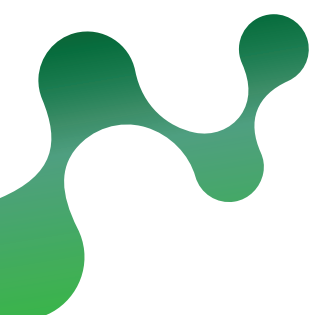
60TH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For the year ending 30 September 2019

**Presented to Parliament pursuant to Paragraph 5 (2) of Schedule 2 of the International
Development Act 2002**



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS



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Contents

6	Foreword
8	Sustainable Development Goals
10	2018-19 Programme for The Gambia
12	Resilience
14	Least Developed, Fragile States, and Lower Middle Income Countries
16	Alumni and Engagement Programme
18	Celebrating a Connected Commonwealth
19	Widening Participation, Equity and Access
20	Gender
21	Time Limited Programme: Disability (2019-20)
22	Our Awards
24	Key Figures
25	Our Partners: Nominating Agencies
26	Academic Advisers
27	UK Universities
27	UK Fellowship Host Organisations
28	Overseas Organisations
29	Governance Statement
30	Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities
33	Commissioner Biographies
35	Key Performance Indicators
36	Statement of Income and Expenditure
37	Notes



Foreword

2019 is the 60th anniversary of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) and of the UK Government's sustained and impressive contribution to it through the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC). Nearly 30,000 Commonwealth citizens have taken up Commonwealth Scholarships since the first group of 175 Scholars arrived in 1960. During those six decades the scheme has constantly developed, adapting to the very different world of a 53-nation Commonwealth in 2019. The CSC is playing an important role in the UK's development aid strategy to transform lives for the better and raise horizons, by fighting poverty, ending conflict, and promoting the values which sustain Britain's democracy. Commonwealth Scholars are, across the world, leaders in this work – helping to build a safer, healthier, more prosperous world for us all.

As I write this preface, a cohort of Gambian scholars are completing their studies and planning their return to The Gambia. Their qualifications in Public Health, International Project Management and Biomedical Science for example will enable them to make great contributions to the restoration of democracy and to the Gambian economy. We wish them well, being the first Gambians to receive CSC awards since The Gambia's return to the Commonwealth. Examples of the research which two Gambian Scholars have been conducting can be found on pages 10 and 11 of this Annual Report.

In the academic year 2019-20 more Scholars with disabilities will be starting studies than ever before. The CSC signed the "Charter for Change" at the 2018 Global Disability Summit and committed to reach out and to encourage people with disabilities to seek and be awarded Scholarships. Changes we made have immediately resulted in new opportunities for very able people with disabilities to gain new skills and so make a greater contribution to their nations. See page 21 of this report for more details of the CSC's Disability programme.

These time-limited programmes are part of the UK Government's continuing commitment to the CSC via a 3-year funding package, which supports a refocused strategy for the CSC from April 2018 to March 2021 through a DFID £82 million programme of investment across those three years. In this Annual Report to Parliament and to our many friends, partners and stakeholders, we account for how the CSC has carefully invested that funding in the brightest and most committed Scholars and Fellows, and how they are demonstrating transformational returns on that investment through the impact of their work and their own daily lives as leaders.

We focus our awards on six strategic themes, which match UK Government development priorities:

1. Science and technology for development
2. Strengthening health systems and capacity
3. Promoting global prosperity
4. Strengthening global peace, security and governance
5. Strengthening resilience and response to crises
6. Access, inclusion and opportunity

In this document we report on the achievements and impact of Scholars and alumni in all of these areas. Khairul Islam has provided eye-care for over 1 million people in northern Bangladesh. Rashid Dumbaya's non-profit legal advocacy group LEGAL LINK has provided free legal representation to over 300 vulnerable groups in Sierra Leone, including women and children, older people, prisoners, and disabled groups.

Reducing the impact of human activity on climate change and finding sustainable ways to mitigate this are high priorities for the UK Government in its development strategy and for the CSC. Two of our PhD scholars and a Rutherford Commonwealth Fellow report on the impact of their research in the section on Resilience (pages 12-13).

Throughout this Annual Report we link the research of our Scholars and the development impact of our alumni to the Sustainable Development Goals. You will see that CSC Scholars are contributing to the achievement of every one of the SDGs, across the whole Commonwealth. This was very clear at a celebration of Commonwealth Scholarship research held at the Royal Society in May 2019.

The CSC's successful programmes rely on a wide range of stakeholders. We are supported by a panel of over 200 academic advisers in UK universities who give their time and experience freely to strengthen our selection process. UK universities contribute through their highly-regarded academic courses, as well as a collective in-kind financial contribution of nearly £5m annually. The Department for International Development is our major funder, now contributing £28m annually. We receive funding for a limited number of awards for citizens of high-income Commonwealth countries from the Department for Education (DfE), as well as funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), who support Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowships, bringing together 50 post-doctorate researchers from around the Commonwealth to join UK universities' world-leading research teams. If repeated, it would undoubtedly contribute yet more to the success of the UK's Global Challenges research programme.





Commonwealth Scholars at a CSC workshop, 'Researcher Excellence', held in London, January 2019

We have the honour to submit pursuant to Schedule 2, Section 13, Clause (5) 2 of the International Development Act 2002, the following report of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom for the year ending 30 September 2019.

The CSC Secretariat, employed on our behalf by the ACU, and the British Council (which support our Alumni activity), are extraordinary. On behalf of all the Commissioners I thank them for their consistently impressive commitment to making Commonwealth Scholarships and Commonwealth Fellowships a success in every respect.

Our partnerships are international. Each Commonwealth government designates a national agency which identifies, often from among thousands of applications, their nation's best potential candidates for CSC Scholarships. These are not quotas; potential Scholars and Fellows are in competition across the Commonwealth to maintain the highest standards. The national agencies, along with a group of NGOs and Commonwealth Universities, are valued partners and we are very grateful for the rigorous and significant work of all our nominating partners across the Commonwealth.

Our internationally-recognised evaluation programme seeks, in increasingly accurate and sophisticated ways, to answer the fundamental question: do Scholarships and Fellowships result in developmental benefits? Our positive evidence is shared in this report through case studies from alumni who have made, and are making, a beneficial impact in their communities and countries. I, and my fellow Commissioners, are inspired by them, and I am confident you will be too.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioners who steward and develop this extraordinary scheme with pride and enthusiasm, are marking 60 years of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships during 2019 and 2020. I hope you will join us in celebrating the development impact of those 30,000 Scholars and Fellows, and in welcoming Scholars and Fellows for another 60 years.

RICHARD MIDDLETON

Chair

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK



Sustainable Development Goals and Developmental Themes

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Launched by the UN in 2015, the 17 goals are underpinned by 169 targets and 230 indicators to be achieved by 2030.

Each story within this report is tagged with the SDG(s) the study or research relates to – demonstrating how Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows are making a meaningful contribution to sustainable development.

PERCENTAGE OF COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICABLE TO EACH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

The below data reflects the SDGs covered by Scholarships in 2018 (up to 3 selected per Scholar)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



All Commonwealth Scholarships funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) are offered under six development themes. All case studies within this Annual Report have been flagged by the relevant colour-coded theme.

CSC KPI: 1

The highest number of DFID-funded Scholarships will be awarded under the 'Science and technology for development' and 'Strengthening health systems and capacity' themes, with all DFID-funded Scholarships awarded under six development-related themes.

PERCENTAGE OF COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICABLE TO EACH DEVELOPMENTAL THEME

The below data reflects the development themes of the 2018 Scholars

DEVELOPMENTAL THEMES:

STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY

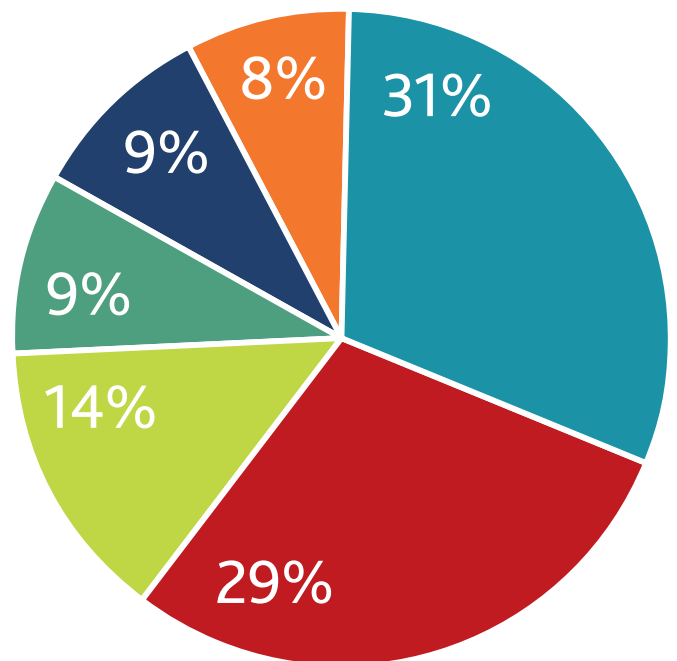
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

ACCESS, INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY

PROMOTING GLOBAL PROSPERITY

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL PEACE, SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE TO CRISES



"This year we were thrilled to see a wide range of candidates with disabilities accessing our Scholarship opportunities, as well as a large number of project proposals targeting inequality and women's rights. We have maintained our gender ratio showing that virtually identical numbers of men and women are coming forward with applications and receiving awards."

DR JENNIE ROBINSON

CSC Commissioner

2018-19 Programme for The Gambia

The special programme for 2018-2019 enabled the CSC to award Master's and PhD scholarships to citizens of The Gambia, to mark the country's return to the Commonwealth.

The Programme was supported by the Gambian High Commission, and the British High Commission in The Gambia. Eight Scholarships were awarded, with seven Gambians undertaking Master's degrees and one Gambian undertaking a PhD.

In addition to the Programme for The Gambia, Gambian citizens were selected for 2018 Commonwealth Shared Scholarships and Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships. Both of these programmes are for Master's study and selections are made by the

host UK university, for study on courses approved by the CSC.

From 2019, all applicants applied through the Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Science and Technology agency route.



2018 Gambian Commonwealth Scholars with Mr Richard Middleton, Chair, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission at the CSC Welcome Event, London, November 2018

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: ACCESS, INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY

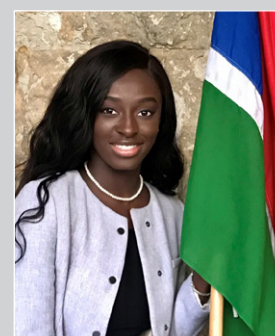
A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH TO EMPOWERING YOUTH

According to the International Labour Organization, Sub-Saharan Africa has the world's highest youth population growth rate and the highest share of youth in the labour force, with a youth population that is expected to double to over 830 million by 2050 across the whole continent. Young people, however, continue to face significant socio-economic challenges that have forced them to engage in irregular migration, leading to the enslavement and death of many.

The purpose of my research this year is to develop an informed framework that analyses the effectiveness of international aid in increasing youth empowerment. I will conclude by suggesting a multidimensional approach that goes beyond economic empowerment but rather includes social empowerment; wellbeing, local integration, political engagement, and a positive change to the mindset of the youth, as well as the older population. My research aims to provide an effective mechanism to empower youth across the world, especially those from developing countries such as The Gambia.

Furthermore, during my course at UCL, I engaged in a research trip in Uganda to explore the use of participatory methods to improve women's access to credit. I gathered valuable first-hand experience which I intend to utilise in The Gambia's work towards improving economic empowerment for women as well as gender equality.

Overall, my experience at UCL and beyond during this academic year has been exceptionally amazing; it has exposed me to diverse areas that I have become very passionate about. Through my studies here in the UK I have acquired key knowledge, expertise and opportunities that I will use to expand my organisation in The Gambia, 'Forward For You', which focuses on access to education for young people, as well as providing quality health care to patients at the psychiatric hospital. By being the change we wish to see in the world, we can make the world a better place.



AJI FATOU GAYE

2018 Commonwealth Scholar

THE GAMBIA

MSc Development Administration and Planning
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

THE SUBJECTS AND INSTITUTIONS OF SCHOLARS FROM THE GAMBIA FOR 2018

Subject Studied:	Institution
International Project Management	Glasgow Caledonian University
Infectious Diseases	University of Kent
Analytical Chemistry	University of the West of England
Development Administration and Planning	University College London
Public Health	University of Bradford
Tropical Medicine and International Health	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Public Health for Development	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Biomedical Science	Kingston University

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: ACCESS, INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

I believe the Gambia National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) is uniquely positioned to usher in a period of prosperity to The Gambia following the recent success of oil and gas exploration efforts in the Mauritania-Senegal-Gambia-Bissau-Conakry geological basin.


National oil companies (NOCs) are expected to follow the trend of transitioning from traditional NOCs to sustainable energy companies and low-income countries must not be left behind in this trend.

Overseeing this dynamic of the industry requires a bold, reliable leadership that is adequately trained in principles of innovative project management and strategy for ongoing and future ventures.


The tools and skills I am gaining from studying International Project Management with a focus on energy, construction management, oil and gas will help me hone technical and managerial skills to become an influencer in a sector that is well-poised to drive an age of economic growth and social prosperity in The Gambia.

While the GNPC is yet to take concrete steps towards transitioning into a national energy company, I have no doubt in my mind that with the current trend of national energy policies, we are headed in that direction and I expect to get involved in the innovation and management of sustainable energy and energy efficient projects upon my return. The Gambia as a country has passed laws that prioritise expanded green energy and has become an unexpected global climate leader as one of only two countries that have commitments sufficient to limit greenhouse gas emissions to meet climate targets (Gibson 2019).


As a woman with a background in STEM influencing organisational, national and international policies, I hope to be an inspiration to young girls and women in The Gambia in showing what is possible when we resist pigeonholing and defy geographical and socio-cultural barriers. My contributions to national development will be in line with our national development goals relating to gender parity, women in decision-making and access to affordable energy for all.



5 GENDER EQUALITY



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



CANY JOBE TAAL
2018 Commonwealth Scholar
THE GAMBIA
MSc International Project Management
GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY

IMPROVING ACCESS TO BLOOD COAGULATION TESTING IN RESOURCE SCARCE AND EMERGENCY SETTINGS


Coagulation disorders cause excessive blood-loss, resulting in extensive morbidity (the rate of disease in a population) and mortality, particularly in resource-poor settings. Death rates are high in certain regions of West Africa due to haemorrhage during childbirth, venous thromboembolism (blood clots), and disseminated intravascular coagulation. A lack of blood coagulation tests which are suitable for low-resource environments prevents rapid diagnosis and treatment in such settings.

The aim of my PhD is to design and produce a number of tests that rely on capillary action for moving a liquid sample through a paper medium and the test result based on distance covered by the sample front. The developed tests will then be combined into a single sheet that can potentially test or screen for multiple coagulation disorders such as fibrinogenemia, haemophilia, platelet dysfunction and Von Willebrand Disease. This device, if successfully developed, would be cheap and easy to use, environmentally friendly and most importantly, it would permit fast diagnosis of bleeding and thrombotic disorders so that immediate


treatment can be administered.

By developing a simple to use, low-cost panel of paper-based blood coagulation diagnostics, my research is intended to support the decentralisation of the health service, and the expansion of adequate, effective and affordable healthcare into primary care services across all communities. The technology requires minimal financial and logistical support and can be used by local healthcare providers with minimal training. It would give local health workers a very useful tool for the immediate assessment of people who may be at risk of bleeding due to a range of conditions, but who would not otherwise get access to testing, which would prevent effective treatment. Community workers could administer the tests and provide a range of interventions.

A paper-based lateral flow device for testing fibrinogen in blood plasma has been developed and is currently being optimised and calibrated, after which it will be validated against a hospital standard method by testing clinical samples.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



JERRO SAIDYKHAN
2018 Commonwealth Scholar
THE GAMBIA
PhD Analytical Chemistry
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND



Resilience

Commonwealth Scholars are undertaking vital research into disaster management and resilience in light of climate change. This supports the theme of the 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in 2018: 'Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver?'. It also supports the Commonwealth Blue Charter Commitments 21 and 22, in which stated signatories were to: 'reaffirm the Commonwealth way of sharing of experience, especially through practical cooperation' and 'recognise the importance of cooperation and engagement with all stakeholders, including the non-state sector, in meeting our ocean commitments and the sustainable management of the blue economy'.

Cyclones in 2019 in India and Mozambique, and in recent years across the Caribbean, demonstrate the growing need for disaster preparedness and for investment and capacity building in this area, including dealing with the effects of climate change.

Disaster management is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and is a current focus of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is viewed as uniquely well-placed to support many of the low-income countries and small-island states facing

climate-related issues including disasters. A number of our Scholars have undertaken research on the causes of climate change and related issues, and are investigating ways in which countries can build resilience.



Glacier sampling being conducted by Commonwealth Scholars in the greater Himalayan region in order to study the role of algae in glacial melting

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE TO CRISES

INVESTIGATING THE DRIVERS OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

My research has assessed, for the first time, the role of anthropogenic climate change (that which is caused or influenced by humans) in increasing the likelihood of extreme rainfall events in Bangladesh, using probabilistic event attribution (PEA) to provide scientific information on the extent of human-induced climate change impact.

To date, most PEA-based studies have focused on extreme events of mid-latitudes and predominantly those occurring in developed countries. Low-income countries located at the tropical monsoon regions are underrepresented in this field of research, despite their climate vulnerability.

Bangladesh is a hot spot of climate change impacts and is vulnerable to a combination of increasing challenges, including extreme rainfall events, intense flooding, flash floods, tropical cyclones, and rising sea levels. My research has provided a fresh outlook for monitoring extreme weather events in Bangladesh by addressing human influence on climate and other anthropogenic drivers, such as aerosols, and highlighted the need to raise awareness about human impacts on climate change, scientifically support claims for additional adaptation funds, and improve community level resilience.



RUKSANA HAQUE RIMI

2013 Commonwealth Scholar

BANGLADESH

PhD Climate Change

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

MICRO-ORGANISMS: A GLACIAL PROBLEM

The glaciers in the greater Himalayan region have undergone rapid shrinkage since the 1850s, which is concerning as these glaciers are an important source of water for people in the high regions of many Asian countries. The amount of light which is reflected by the glacier surface without being absorbed is an important parameter which affects the melting of Himalayan glaciers.

This rate of melting is an indicator of climate change and global warming. The glacial environment is hostile for life as it offers a low amount of nutrients, freeze-thaw cycles, and UV radiation among other factors. However, microbial communities such as phototropic algae have recently been discovered to be thriving in the ice. Algae produces different pigments to survive such extreme environments. These dark pigments speed up the melting of the ice by absorbing more light than the white snow or ice. As the algae thrive in meltwater, a vicious cycle of reduced sunlight reflection and enhanced melting is created.

Our project aims to find out the diversity and mechanisms of pigment production by algae living in the Hindukush & Himalayan glaciers through metagenomics approaches (the study of genetic material recovered directly from environmental samples). The phenomenon of glacial melting and the possible role of algae is heavily studied in samples of polar regions. There is no single report however on the

same case with non-polar range glaciers. The current research project is about to investigate algal diversity, its mechanism of adaptation with reference to pigment production and its role in reducing sunlight reflection. This will also open some gateways into how to control the glacial melting.

After the completion of this project, the major outcome will be the generation of skilled man power in the field of metagenomics and this will encourage further study into the microbial habitats of psychrophilic organisms (those which are capable of growth and reproduction in low temperatures, ranging from -20°C to $+10^{\circ}\text{C}$). Our work will also help in the development of new strategies, such as controlling the growth of algae on the surface of ice sheets and glaciers, to help the control of glacial retreat. It will also contribute to the continuation of a very successful partnership between The Bristol Glaciology Centre and Dr Fariha Hassan's lab in Pakistan.

The project itself is extremely timely since the reduction of sunlight reflection due to climate-induced microbial activity likely plays an important role in the accelerated melting of glaciers, particularly mountain ones such as those in Himalayas; but we still know very little.



MUHAMMAD RAFIQ

2017 Commonwealth Rutherford Fellow

(Funded by BEIS)

PAKISTAN

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL



NOOR HASSAN

2018 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar

PAKISTAN

PhD Microbiology

**QUAID-I-IZAM UNIVERSITY AND
UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**

Least Developed, Fragile States, and Lower Middle Income Countries

The CSC has given priority to applicants from least developed, fragile states, and lower middle income countries. Commonwealth Scholars from these countries and states continue to make a significant impact on current issues through the research and capacity-building conducted during and after their awards.

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY

IMPROVING ACCESS TO EYE CARE

I established Deep Eye Care Foundation (DECF), a non-profit, non-government, community-based organisation which provides comprehensive eye services for people living in northern Bangladesh with limited or no access to healthcare. It is the only eye care centre in the northern region and has provided eye care services to over 1,000,000 people. DECF has performed more than 55,000 surgeries to restore vision, including 700 paediatric cataract surgeries, not previously performed in this region. I now employ over 230 staff, 70% of whom are women.

Although my initial focus was to treat general eye diseases, specifically cataracts (the biggest cause of blindness in Bangladesh), DECF has expanded to provide a range of treatments, including vitreoretinal surgery, a major operation for which patients previously had to travel to Dhaka to access, and eye care treatment for children through the establishment of a paediatric ophthalmology department. DECF also organises Eye Camps, a mobile eye care service which enables elderly people or those living in rural areas to access screenings and treatment. As the only tertiary eye care centre in the northern region,

DECF has established Deep Institute of Community Ophthalmology (DICO) to train more people in eye care and scale up much-needed services and research in Bangladesh.

Through DECF, I established 'Drishti Corner' (Vision Corner) in 21 schools in Rangpur, through which 50,000 schoolchildren can test their own eyesight, identify problems, and report these to registration points in the school. DECF then conducts eye care checks and delivers treatment. Alongside this, the Foundation regularly arranges seminars to raise awareness among parents of childhood blindness to improve their ability to identify eye-related issues in their children. I am currently in the process of establishing Drishti Corner in a further 100 schools.

I believe that nobody should be denied service and, if needed, I provide eye care free of cost to those who cannot afford treatment. Along with my team, I aspire to contribute to national economic development by providing quality eye care services for all through DECF as a centre of excellence, while collaborating with national and international partners.



KHAIRUL ISLAM

2009 Commonwealth Shared Scholar

BANGLADESH

MSc Community Eye Health

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY

ANALYSING THE EFFECTS OF GENDER CONSTRUCTS AFTER NEW-BORN SCREENING FOR SICKLE CELL DISEASE

It is important to introduce new-born screening services for genetic diseases that are found to be highly prevalent in Africa.

An analysis of the potential implications of these services to communities is necessary because of the socio-cultural environment. Moreover, a careful analysis of the technologies is required when applied in societies with distinct gender norms. This will avoid exacerbating already-existing gender-related vulnerabilities within the communities. My research has provided important insights into gender issues related to genetic screening programmes for children, and the quality of care that the children may potentially receive.

My research will inform advocacy campaigns for Sickle Cell Disease in Tanzania, which aim to improve the proportional distribution of the care burden in families affected by Sickle Cell Disease. I am also working with patient groups to develop evidence-based advocacy campaigns to improve Sickle Cell Disease awareness in Tanzania. I would like to develop short pamphlets with the policy briefs in Swahili (the local language) to be disseminated during awareness campaigns. In June 2019, I presented at the First Pan African Workshop on Newborn Screening. Publishing my work in scientific journals will help this research gain traction in the academic community.

I anticipate that the evidence provided will be used to improve overall health care in a gender-sensitive way, supporting gender equality early on in communities.



DAIMA BUKINI

2018 Commonwealth Scholar

TANZANIA

Split-site PhD Ethics in Genomics Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

CSC KPI: 2

93%

93% of 2018 DFID-funded awards are for citizens of least developed and lower middle income countries and fragile states.

"The best thing about Commonwealth Scholarships are that we are able to equip scholars to add to sustainable and economic solutions to intractable issues in some of the poorest countries in the world."

PROFESSOR PAUL JACKSON

CSC Commissioner

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: STRENGTHENING GLOBAL PEACE, SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE

DEVELOPING POLICING AND LEGISLATION

Policing forms a critical part of the Government of Saint Lucia's strategy to disrupt, contain, and prosecute those responsible for crime in order to improve safety and security on the island. The geographic location of Saint Lucia makes it an ideal location for the movement and distribution of illegal narcotics and weapons, illegal immigration, and terrorism.

As an officer in the Police Marine Unit of Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSLPF), Mario's responsibilities include subaquatic search and recovery, drug interception operations, and criminal investigations. The Government of Saint Lucia is in the process of creating a new model for the Police Marine Unit to develop a Border Patrol Unit.

Mario has focused his studies on gaining the skills needed to make a meaningful contribution to the development of his unit under the new model. His exposure to advanced policing models and senior leadership has been an integral part of his development as a police officer. This includes understanding policy and practices in policing as it moves to an evidence and

technology-based approach to crime, such as the use of body cameras. Mario believes the incorporation of this technology into everyday policing in his unit will help increase prosecutions and reduce illegal drug trafficking on the island by creating stronger cases against criminals and increased prosecutions.

Mario has also gained the skills required to conduct research into the causation of crimes as well as recommend best practices when dealing with these situations. He has particularly focused upon applying these skills in the area of juvenile delinquency, through which he hopes to develop a better approach when dealing with juveniles to reduce the likelihood of them becoming repeat and adult offenders.

Following his scholarship, Mario hopes to grow into a leadership role within the RSLPF to help develop a strategic and integrated policing model that is reflective of public needs, incorporating advanced policing methods.



MARIO CHICOT

2018 Commonwealth Scholar

SAINT LUCIA

MSc Advanced Policing

LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

ASSESSING RENEWABLE ENERGY BUSINESS MODELS

The business models for renewable energy in Kenya are mostly focused on the utility (grid-tied) and customer side (off-grid, or small-scale decentralised systems). The supply-side of the business model, which encompasses key activities and resources that deliver renewable energy technologies to customers, is the main environmental hotspot for renewable energy companies. The demand-side of business models, value proposition, and financial aspects are mostly drivers of environmental impacts.

Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a tool that is widely used to analyse the environmental burden and resource use throughout the life cycle of a product. Renewable energy is one of the enablers of the Paris Agreement's ambitious goal of keeping global temperature rise less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels; however, the development of renewable energy still results in greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, the development of renewable energy has been found to contribute to other negative environmental impacts, such as ozone depletion,

acidification, eutrophication, ecotoxicity, mineral and fossil depletion, water use, and particulate matter formation. The type and severity of these environmental impacts varies depending on the renewable energy source and where they occur in the life cycle stages.

My research aims to analyse the environmental burden of current renewable energy business models in Kenya from a life cycle perspective and assess how companies can use business model innovation to alleviate the burden. The expected results of my research are new renewable energy business models which have a lower environmental burden. These will support renewable energy companies in Kenya, policymakers, development organisations, project developers, academics and researchers, LCA practitioners, and county governments in developing renewable energy while lowering their environmental impact.



VELMA MUKORO

2018 Commonwealth Scholar

KENYA

PhD Mechanical Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Alumni and Engagement Programme

In order to highlight the contribution that Commonwealth Scholarships make to international development, both collectively and through the activities of individual Scholars and alumni, the CSC Alumni and Engagement teams support a range of activities on award, and post-award, in conjunction with the British Council.



CSC Alumni Lecture on Science and Technology for Peace and Development, held in November 2018, at the British Council Ghana

SCHOLARS AS CHANGE-MAKERS

Commonwealth Scholars aspire to be change-makers. During their scholarship, the CSC provides a range of workshops and training sessions which support Scholars in developing the skills and capacity to implement their development goals and contribute to the success of the sustainable development goals in their home country, and beyond.

Following their studies, it is important that Scholars continue to feel prepared to deliver their goals by securing employment in sectors and organisations most in need of their skills and ambition. For returning Scholars, reintegration workshops provide an opportunity to understand employment opportunities and trends in their home country, and explore how they can apply their new skills in the workplace to achieve change, drawing on the wealth of experience across our alumni network. Further development of these workshops is currently underway to deliver core reintegration support to all departing Scholars in 2019/20.

MENTORING

Commonwealth Alumni have a wealth of expertise and knowledge that cuts across a range of sectors and subjects. The British Council has delivered mentoring opportunities in 14 countries, pairing incoming scholars with alumni whose subject

knowledge and employment experience can support them in gaining the necessary skills and knowledge during their studies to achieve their development impact goals. Building on the success of the programme, a refreshed mentoring programme, to be delivered across additional countries, has been developed to expand this opportunity in 2019/20.

INSPIRING POTENTIAL SCHOLARS

Our alumni act as a network of ambassadors who can encourage talented individuals to apply for Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship opportunities. Alumni delivered information sessions to potential applicants in ten countries, reaching over 700 individuals.

EVALUATING IMPACT

Understanding the outcomes and impact of our alumni is an important part of evaluating Commonwealth Scholarships and showcasing the achievements of the CSC community. Inviting alumni to take part in interviews has allowed us to further understand the impact of their Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship on both their career and intended beneficiaries of their work.

“Developing a strategic approach to assessing the full range of development impacts of Commonwealth Scholarships maximises the effectiveness of awards and ensures lessons are learned to strengthen the impact of future awards. Providing development training helps alumni demonstrate their impact in line with national plans, and upon the communities and beneficiaries they aim to serve, facilitating an evidence-based approach and increasing opportunities for sharing compelling stories about the impact of their work.”

EMMA JUDGE

Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY

IDENTIFYING, LINKING AND RETAINING INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPOSURE TO HIV

I work as a Clinical Cascade Advisor for the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Tanzania (UMB) in an HIV project funded by the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) to provide technical assistance to local NGOs implementing HIV care and treatment projects. We work with three clinical and one community implementing partner to accelerate achievement towards the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals.

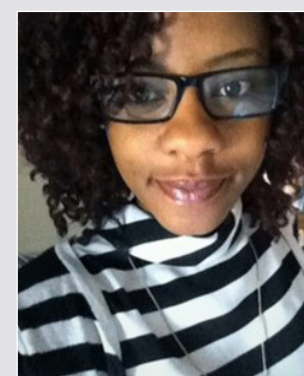
The UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals call for HIV epidemic control by 2030 by advocating for 95% of all people living with HIV to be aware of their status, 95% of those who know their status to be on sustained quality care and treatment, and 95% of those on treatment to be virally suppressed. Between the three 95% goals are processes called linkage and retention. Linkage refers to the identification of positive diagnoses and being on treatment, while retention is the bridge between those on treatment and viral suppression. My work mainly focuses on identification, linkage, and retention.

I worked with the Ministry of Health on an intervention which aims to increase identification efforts through targeting individuals with exposure to HIV by being

either sexual partners, biological children under 15 years, or needle-sharing partners of individuals already identified as HIV positive. I developed a training package and manuals, as well as standard operating procedures, job aids, and monitoring and evaluation tools to capture index testing services. I further facilitated the National HIV Testing Services Trainer of Trainers delivery to coach and mentor health workers and carers in implementing the training package and monitoring tools.

An extension of this work has seen my involvement in geospatial mapping to identify high-risk HIV areas to accelerate the identification process. I undertook the task of organising and conducting hotspot mapping and developed a data collection tool to assist with this exercise. The epidemic maps drawn have been used to advise implementing partners on where to direct programme activities to identify people living with HIV.

I am now working with CDC facility implementing partners, community implementing partners, and local government health management teams, to design a mobile app that will enhance index contact tracing, notification, and testing practices. The app will



GALAL NAPHTAL KING'ORI
2015 Commonwealth Scholar
TANZANIA
MSc Global Health
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

serve as a bridge between the facility and community implementing partners by sharing information and efforts on the notification and testing of contacts.

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: PROMOTING GLOBAL PROSPERITY



EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES WITHIN COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH

It is very apparent that economic growth does not necessarily lead to economic development, therefore sustainable approaches must be established. My research is in Local Economic Development (LED) and explores the potential of communities to utilise local resources to alleviate poverty and develop sustainable income channels. My research critically examines LED strategies, implementation, and challenges, to identify solutions and further harness the ability of communities to manage their own resources to support sustainable economic growth.

CHARITY LANKONO
2018 Commonwealth Shared Scholar
GHANA
MPhil Development Studies
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Celebrating a Connected Commonwealth

To mark Commonwealth Day 2019, Alumni were invited to organise events or engagement activities on or around Commonwealth Day in their local communities which promoted the theme, 'A Connected Commonwealth', and provided them the opportunity to share their work with wider beneficiaries. 19 events took place across the Commonwealth.

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: STRENGTHENING GLOBAL PEACE, SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

I am the founder and CEO of LEGAL LINK, a non-profit legal advocacy group comprising lawyers, law students, and human right activists that seeks to provide legal assistance to the religious community as well as vulnerable groups in Sierra Leone through legal advocacy, public interest litigations, state and private sector accountability, enforcement of the rule of law, and ensuring respect for domestic and international laws that guarantee fundamental human rights and freedoms.

LEGAL LINK has provided free legal representation to over 300 vulnerable groups in Sierra Leone, including women and children, older people, prisoners, and disabled groups. They have also delivered specialised training to the Sierra Leone Police on the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Agencies. Through LEGAL LINK's open

education programme, over 1,000 students have benefitted from free legal education aimed at non-lawyers. I have overseen a partnership with officials at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Court to raise awareness among university students on the accessibility and jurisdiction of the court.

To mark Commonwealth Day and this year's theme, 'A Connected Commonwealth', my fellow lawyers and I held a public lecture to raise awareness of human rights and the values of the Commonwealth. The lecture was attended by over 300 people, including secondary school pupils, university students, and representatives of vulnerable groups and civil society organisations. Following the formal presentation, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions about human rights and representation with representatives of LEGAL LINK.



RASHID DUMBUYA
2013 Commonwealth Scholar
SIERRA LEONE
LLM Petroleum Law and Policy
UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: ACCESS, INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY

ERADICATING EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE

I am the Executive Director of the Association for Integrated Development-Comilla (AID-COMILLA), an NGO which promotes the socio-economic status of underprivileged men, women, and children in urban and rural areas.

Female students of Madrasha (Islamic Educational Institute) are one of the most vulnerable groups to religious extremism, conservative ideologies, and child marriage. This stems from the area's conservative outlook which defines women as caretakers of the household and dependents. One of the biggest concerns for female students is that they will be subjected to early and forced child marriage.

AID-COMILLA has worked with female students over the last year on a 'Countering Violent Extremism' project, providing life skills and leadership training to equip them with the skills to seek future educational and employment opportunities, and to show family members alternative livelihood options for young and adolescent girls. A total of 8 Madrasahs were chosen within Comilla District and 240 girls were selected to take part.

Through the activities facilitated, the girls were able to express themselves and demonstrate a wide range

of skills, while building their confidence and becoming more proactive and decisive. The project assigned a teacher in each Madrasha to develop the girls' English and computer literacy to support them in seeking future employment.

In collaboration with AID-COMILLA, I marked Commonwealth Day through an event for female students and their guardians and local residents to understand the importance of girls' access to education and the impact of child marriage on women's empowerment. The event provided an opportunity to connect these isolated groups with Commonwealth Alumni and encourage further participation in training and workshops to help eradicate early and forced child marriage.

I was joined by Commonwealth Alumnus Monira Rahman, Founder and Executive Director of Innovation for the Well Being Foundation, who collaborated with AID-COMILLA to deliver Mental Health First Aid Training for school and Madrasha teachers. I also delivered a workshop on Mental Health First Aid with students and parents to discuss the effects of child marriage on the mental and physical health of under-aged girls and the importance of preventing early and forced marriage across communities.



ROKEYA BEGUM SHAFALI
2008 Professional Fellow
BANGLADESH
BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION

Widening Participation, Equity and Access

The CSC is committed to ensuring our programmes promote equity and inclusion, reward merit, and deliver widespread access, especially to those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In establishing our position, we have drawn from the rights-based approach to development, and the 'leave no one behind' agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals. We endeavour to deliver on these values through the research we support and our internal practices.

CSC KPI: 3

100%

100% of 2018 scholarship applicants declared that they did not have the private means to undertake their programme of study.

In 2018, with all other criteria being equal, excellent candidates demonstrating social or economic disadvantage or from marginalised or underrepresented communities received preference in selection.

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: ACCESS, INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY

ADVANCING EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG WOMEN

I am the co-founder and Executive Director of Girl Up Initiative Uganda (GUIU). I established GUIU to respond to the unmet need to advance educational and economic opportunities for young women and adolescent girls in urban slum areas of Kampala. After growing up in a slum community, my first-hand experience of poverty and gender inequality motivated me to establish an organisation in my community to promote gender equality and empower young girls.

GUIU provides a range of activities and programmes designed to build adolescent girls' leadership and mentorship skills to become spokespersons for girls' rights and drivers of systematic gendered change in their communities. Through the Adolescent Girls Program (AGP), I bring together adolescent girls and young women to discuss forms of gender inequality,

including gender-based violence, and poor sexual and reproductive health. The aim is to promote the role of women as leaders in their community and home, their educational potential, and control over their bodies.

To date, over 2,500 adolescent girls have participated in the AGP. GUIU report that of those participants, 95% now know their right to an education, 94% believe that if they try hard, they can improve their lives, and 88% feel they make decisions about their body.

I also realise the importance of engaging boys and men in discussions and encouraging their participation in GUIU's activities to bring about lasting gender equality. 116,225 adolescent boys, youth, and young women have benefited from GUIU's other programmes, the Ni-Yetu Programme and the Young Women's Economic Empowerment Programme.



MONICA NYIRAGUHABWA

2014 Distance Learning Commonwealth Scholar

UGANDA

MA Education, Gender and International Development

UCL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: ACCESS, INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY

PROVIDING ANTENATAL CARE SERVICE IN A PASTORALIST COMMUNITY

Early antenatal care access (ANC) and utilisation is linked with improved maternal and child health outcomes, yet underutilisation in low-middle income countries is a major public health issue. For example, a 15-year-old female in sub-Saharan Africa has a lifetime risk of 1 in 36 of dying from pregnancy-related causes, compared with 1 in 4,900 in other regions (Black et al., 2016).

In Kenya, and in particular Marsabit County, no study has been documented on ANC experience among pastoralist communities despite a high maternal mortality rate of 1,127 per 100,000 live births (KDHS, 2014), which is the fourth highest in Kenya. Several socio-economic and cultural factors and potential facilitators influence ANC service use. More research is needed into how the following issues influence ANC underutilisation: the high teenage pregnancy rate, the high prevalence of female genital mutilation, and the fact that Marsabit County women are seven times more likely than the average Kenyan woman to deliver before accessing an ANC clinic.

The lack of clear understanding of factors influencing female pastoralist ANC access means that planning an appropriate strategy to tackle this issue is currently not possible. My research aims to understand antenatal care practices and factors influencing access to ANC. A lack of access to ANC may be one of many factors to high maternal mortality rates, and my research will contribute to evidence-based policy formulation for female pastoralist ANC access. Over a 6-month period, I gathered the views of women, men, traditional birth attendants and nurses through interviews, focus group discussions and clinics observations.

On completion of this study, my target is to present and share potential policy messages with Marsabit County government, present at local and international conferences on maternal health (both academic and non-academic), be involved in advocacy for pastoralist women's health, and to continue research among pastoralists regarding maternal health.



TALASO BARAKO

2016 Commonwealth Scholar

KENYA

PhD Nursing Studies

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Gender

The CSC is committed to equal opportunity and gender equity. We believe in supporting the rights and freedoms of every citizen and ensuring that every child has access to a quality education, regardless of their gender.

The CSC has a requirement that the gender balance of candidates selected for a DFID-funded scholarship will be at least 45% female and 45% male. In addition, we have a long-standing relationship with the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) who nominate female candidates each year to support us in meeting our gender target.

CSC KPI: 5

47% of candidates selected for a DFID-funded 2018 Commonwealth Scholarship were female.

DEFENDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

To mark International Women Rights Defenders Day, on the 29 November 2018 the British Council Bangladesh organised a workshop as part of the '16 Days of Activism for Violence against Women and Children', which supported women to speak out against gender violence.

Over 100 women and adolescent girls who have been victims of gender violence attended the workshop at the offices of Tarango, an NGO which works towards establishing a just and poverty-free society by organising and training disadvantaged women in Bangladesh. Tarango is managed by CEO and Commonwealth Alumnus Kohinoor Yeasmin (2009

Professional Fellow, Education and Governance, Rights of Women). The workshop was facilitated by Commonwealth Alumni Saudia Anwer (2014 Shared Scholar, MSc Environmental Change and International Development) and Farhana Sharmin (2010 Professional Fellow, Public Health, University College London).

Sessions were delivered for 130 working mothers and daughters on career planning and how to resist harassment. Saudia, who currently works with the United National Development Programme (UNDP), provided suggestions for women working at Tarango on how to effectively plan their future given their

limited resources and educational background. She provided information on different career help programmes offered by the UNDP and other government agencies which can assist them in taking charge of their finances.

The talks were followed by a Q&A session. Attendees greatly appreciated the information provided and shared that they felt more confident about standing up to harassment. The younger girls also felt inspired to pursue their education despite various socio-economical challenges.

DEVELOPMENTAL THEME: STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY

LEADING NUTRITION-BASED INTERVENTIONS ON THE FOOD SECURITY OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

Kenya has one of the world's largest HIV/AIDS epidemics. Women are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infections, with a prevalence of 7% compared to Kenyan men with a prevalence of 4.7%. Homa Bay County bears the largest burden of HIV/AIDS in the country, with an HIV/AIDS prevalence of 26% compared to the national prevalence of 6%.

The County is also challenged by high incidences of malnutrition and poverty. 82% of households do not have enough food to meet their household needs throughout the year. Lack of food is even more serious in HIV/AIDS households, yet food is often identified as the most important and critical need by people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Little has been done to initiate sustainable programmes to improve food security among HIV-infected individuals.

In 2017/2018, the Homa Bay County health budget comprised 30% of its total budget. Nutrition received

0.03% of the health budget, yet nutrition activities are many and varied. The aim of my research is to find out why, despite nutrition-based interventions being given to PLWHA, there is recurrent malnutrition amongst women living with HIV/AIDS. I will examine the effectiveness of leadership in implementing nutrition policies aimed at curbing malnutrition and enhancing the food security of women living with HIV in the County.

I hope to reduce malnutrition amongst PLWHA and encourage better health and nutritional status for women and families, as good health has a positive impact on the economic growth of the County.

Other beneficiaries of my research include County governments, development partners, academics and researchers, policymakers, non-governmental organisations and caregivers.



JANE ROSE SHIKURI MUNYENDO OKILO
2016 Commonwealth Scholar

KENYA

PhD: Leadership Studies with Reference to Security and Development

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Time Limited Programme: Disability (2019-20): progress between April 2019 and 30 September 2019

It is estimated that 15% of the world's population has a disability. Of these, 80% live in low and middle income countries. To draw attention to this issue, in 2018 the UK Government co-hosted the world's first Global Disability Summit. At the Summit, the CSC pledged £300,000 to support outreach activities and to encourage Scholarships for people with disabilities and in subject areas related to the rights of people with disabilities.

IN ORDER TO FULFIL OUR COMMITMENT WE UNDERTOOK A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:



Appointing two Disabled People's Organisations as nominators: Pacific Disability Forum and Leonard Cheshire to help recruit more applicants with disabilities and provide additional support in the application process



Offering additional UK-based Shared Scholarships and Distance Learning Scholarships for people studying disability-related related Master's programmes



Reviewing existing disability allowance payments and changing the way we assess support needs



Auditing our application system and website to ensure they meet accessibility standards



Interviewing current Scholars with disabilities to better understand their experience and see where improvements could be made



Running Disability Confidence training for all CSC staff and Commissioners



Hosting a panel discussion at the UK Council for International Students Affairs Conference to share our findings with colleagues in the UK Higher Education sector

The CSC's Disability Programme is expected to have impact in a number of ways. For our 2019-20 Scholar intake we have significantly increased the number of accepted Scholars with disabilities and Scholars who are studying issues related to disability. This will have a direct positive impact on disability awareness and policies through the research they produce, and support people with disabilities in achieving positions of excellence.

Changes made to the CSC's disability allowance and ensuring the website and application system are accessible will have an ongoing impact.

The training and teaching elements of the project, such as the Disability Confidence training undertaken by all CSC staff and Commissioners, as well as an upcoming session for Scholars, means as an organisation we are better equipped to understand how we can help this community.

Our Awards

The CSC awards over 700 Scholarships and Fellowships for postgraduate study and professional development to Commonwealth citizens each year.

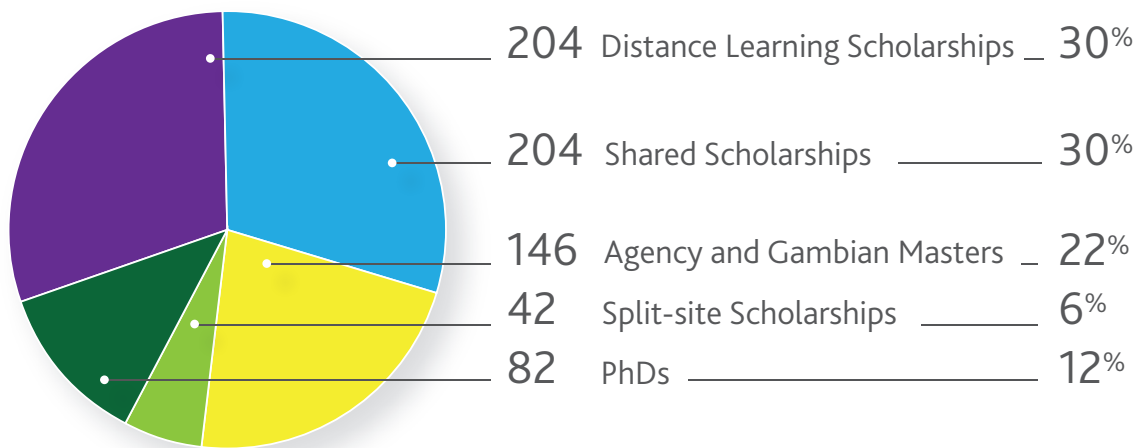
CSC KPI: 4

Over the three years of the current strategy, there will be an increase in the number of Commonwealth Split-site, Master's, Shared, and Distance Learning Scholarships, with a reduction in the balance of funding allocated to DFID-funded Commonwealth PhD Scholarships.*

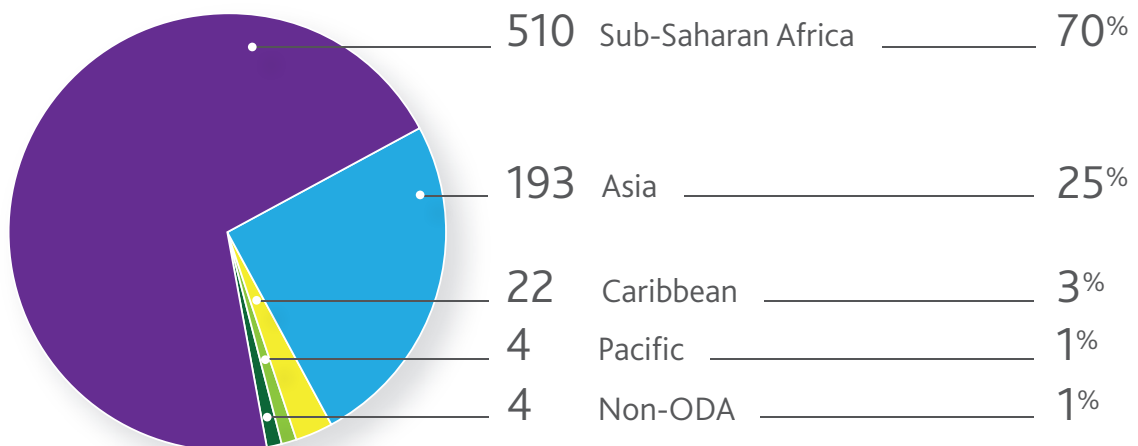
AWARDS IN 2018:

12%	of awards in 2018 were for PhDs	(17% in 2016)
6%	of awards in 2018 were for Split-site Scholarships	(4% in 2016)
22%	of awards in 2018 were for Agency and Gambian Masters	(25% in 2016)
30%	of awards in 2018 were for Shared Scholarships	(28% in 2016)
30%	of awards in 2018 were for Distance Learning Scholarships	(25% in 2016)

AWARDS TAKEN UP IN 2018 BY PROGRAMME (DFID-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS ONLY):



2018 AWARDS TAKEN UP BY REGION (INC. NON-DFID FUNDED AWARDS):

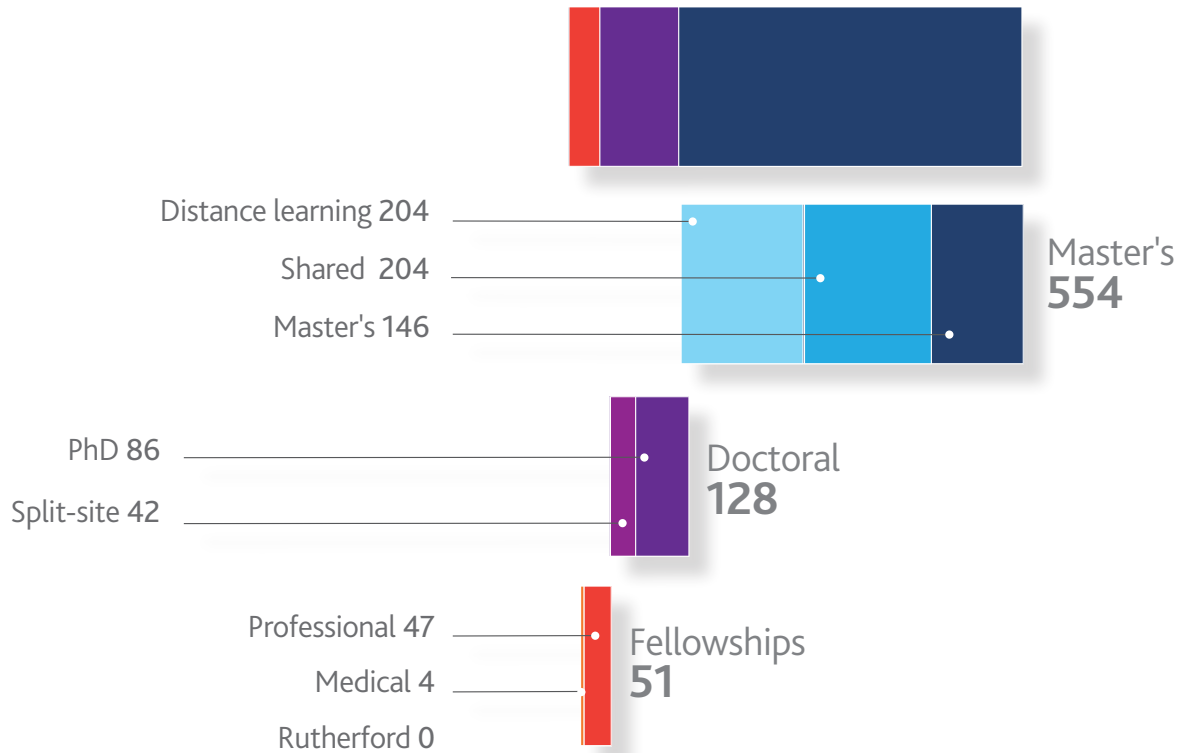


* Commonwealth Shared Scholarships are for candidates from least developed and lower middle income Commonwealth countries, for full-time Master's study on selected courses, jointly supported by UK universities.

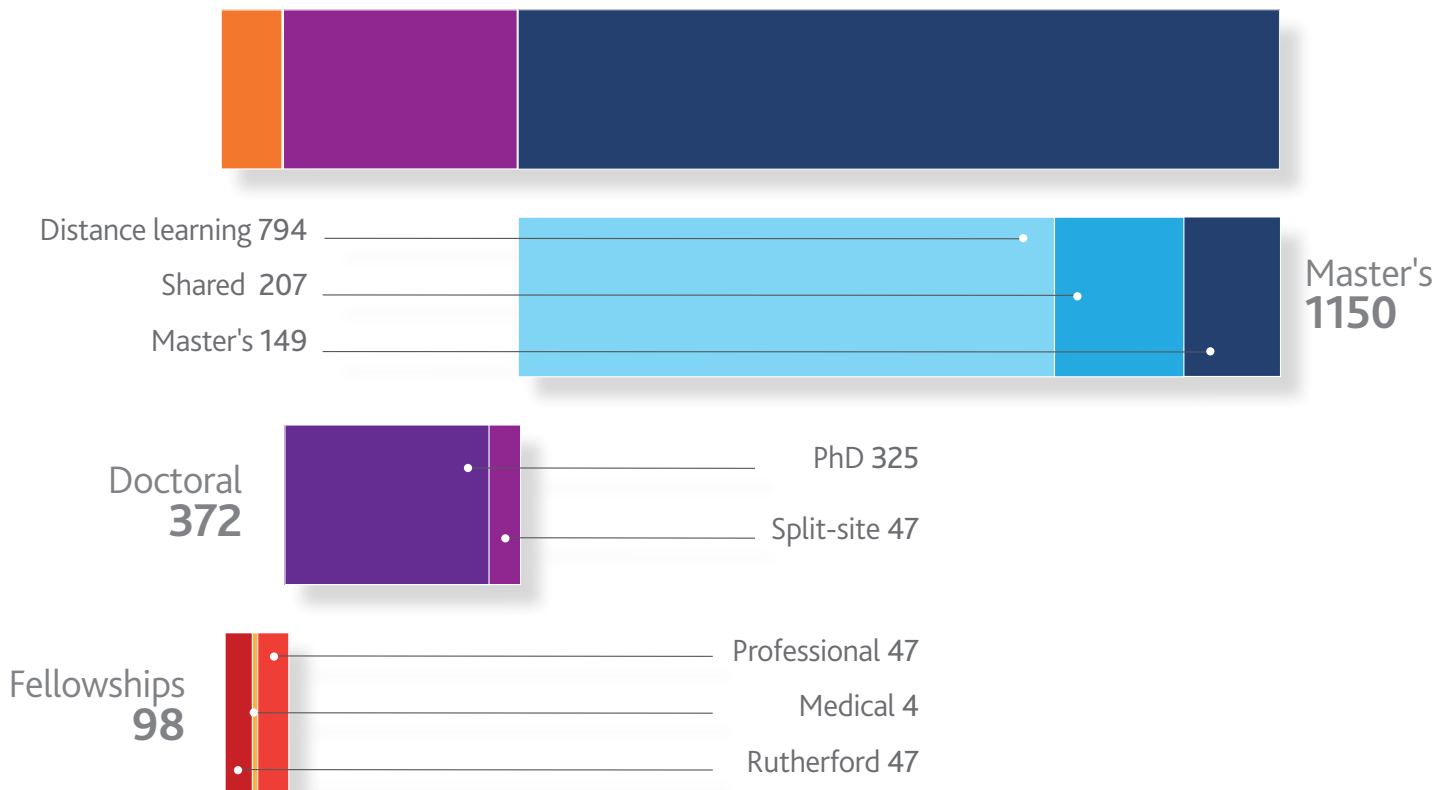
The KPI figures represent Commonwealth Scholarships funded by DFID only

Awards 2018-2019

NEW 2018 AWARDS* 733



ALL AWARDS HELD 2018-2019** (including continuers) 1620



* Includes programme for The Gambia and awards funded by DfE

** Includes programme for The Gambia and awards funded by DfE and BEIS

2018-2019 Key Figures

93%

of 2018 DFID-funded awards are for citizens of least developed and lower middle income countries and fragile states



Our mix of application routes enables governments in low and middle income countries to nominate in line with their national development priorities. In this report year, these included:

- Education
- Good Governance
- Economic Growth
- Energy, Water and Food Security
- Industry and Commerce
- Agriculture and Green Technology
- Rural Development
- Human and Social Development
- Climate Change and Natural Resource Management
- Transport and Infrastructure Development
- Engineering
- Water and Sanitation
- Security and Response to Crises
- Universal Health Coverage

97%

of alumni completing their awards returned to a developing country



47%

of candidates selected for a DFID-funded scholarship were women



£4.76m

The contribution of UK Universities to CSC programmes, through maintenance payments and tuition fees, was £4.76m. Such partnership contributions increase the number of awards available

92%

of award holders rated support from the CSC as 'excellent' or 'good'



966

alumni were added to the database



2

editions of *Common Knowledge* magazine were published in March and September 2019



95%

of award holders would recommend applying for a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship



99%

of award holders would recommend studying in the UK



95%

of award holders think Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships are prestigious



93%

of award holders think awards are relevant to the needs of their home country



100%

of alumni have used the skills and knowledge that they acquired on award and/or have made changes in the workplace

They are using the skills gained from their award

Applying skills at work

Transferring skills to others

Advocating change

All the time
Often
Rarely
Never



Our Partners: Nominating Agencies

Commonwealth Scholarships were founded on the principle of mutual cooperation. The CSC works with governments and trusted partners across the Commonwealth to recruit and shortlist candidates for Master's and PhD study, and also to ensure that national priorities are reflected in our awards.

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Antigua and Barbuda

Ministry of Education

Bangladesh

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh

Bangladesh

Ministry of Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities

Belize

Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology

Botswana

Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP)

Cameroon

Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development

Dominica

eSwatini Government, Ministry of Public Service

Eswatini

Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board

Fiji

Pacific Disability Forum

Fiji

Ghana Scholarships Secretariat

Ghana

Ministry of Education & Human Resource Development

Grenada

Ministry of the Presidency

Guyana

Ministry of Human Resource Development

India

Ministry of Finance & the Public Service

Jamaica

Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)

Kenya

Ministry of Education

Kenya

Public Service Office

Kiribati

National Manpower Development Secretariat

Lesotho

Department of Human Resource Management and Development

Malawi

Public Service Department

Malaysia

Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research

Mauritius

Human Resources Management Unit

Montserrat

Ministry of Education and Human Development

Mozambique

The Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund

Namibia

The Minister for Education

Nauru

Federal Scholarship Board

Nigeria

Higher Education Commission

Pakistan

Department of Personnel Management

Papua New Guinea

Higher Education Council

Rwanda

Education Learning Centre

Saint Helena

Department of Education, Innovation and Gender Relations

Saint Lucia

Department of Education, Innovation and Gender Relations

Saint Vincent and The Grenadines

Service Commissions Department

Saint Vincent and The Grenadines

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade

Samoa

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Sierra Leone

Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development

Solomon Islands

Higher Education and Training

South Africa

Ministry of Higher Education

Sri Lanka

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Tanzania

Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Science and Technology

The Gambia

Ministry of Education and Training

Tonga

Department of Human Resources

Tuvalu

Ministry of Education and Sports

Uganda

Windle Trust International

UK

Leonard Cheshire Disability

UK

Wellcome Trust

UK

Canon Collins Trust

UK

HALI Access Network

US

Training & Scholarships Coordination Unit (TSCU)

Vanuatu

Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Board

Zambia

Academic Advisers

Our selections were guided by a panel of over 200 academic advisers during the report year, including internationally-renowned experts in all subject areas, who receive no remuneration for reviewing applications. The CSC is enormously grateful to them

Dr Bode Akinwande	Professor Christine Cooper	Professor Sunetra Gupta	Professor Siow Ming Lee	Professor Robin Roslender
Professor Jocelyn Alexander	Dr Mia Crampin	Professor Fares Haddad	Professor Fiona Leverick	Dr Alet Roux
Professor Stuart Allan	Dr Martin Crapper	Professor Geoff Haddock	Professor Stephen Liddle	Professor Sudipta Roy
Dr Christopher Allen	Professor Richard Craster	Professor Malcolm Halcrow	Professor Philip Lightfoot	Professor Jonathan Rushton
Professor Adriana Allen	Professor Simon Croft	Dr Sally Hancock	Professor Tanniemola Liverpool	Professor Kath Ryan
Professor Tim Allen	Dr Ruth Cross	Professor Russell J Hand	Dr Pavel Loskot	Professor Neil Sandham
Professor Annie S Anderson	Professor John Crowe	Professor Jenny Harding	Professor Julie Lovegrove	Professor Mark Sandler
Professor Tim Andrews	Professor Luis E Cuevas	Professor Catherine Harper	Professor Nicola Lowe	Dr Devendra Saroj
Professor James Annett	Dr Alan Cuthbertson	Dr Stephen Harris	Professor Douglas C MacMillan	Dr Nick Savage
Professor Timothy Arnett	Dr Parviz Dabir Alai	Professor Elizabeth Harrison	Professor Koushik Maharatna	Professor Monika Schmid
Professor Augusto Azuara Blanco	Professor Kenneth Dalgarno	Professor Graham Harrison	Professor Wolfgang Maier	Professor Bhaskar Sen Gupta
Professor David Baldwin	Professor Gail Davey	Professor Jackie Harrison	Professor Emmanuels Mamatzakis	Professor Jane Setter
Dr Amitava Banerjee	Professor Simon Davies	Professor Oubay Hassan	Dr Parthasarathi Mandal	Dr Graeme Shannon
Dr Susan Barker	Professor Simin Davoudi	Professor Sarah Hawkes	Professor Robin Mansell	Professor Suleiman Sharkh
Professor Michael Barrett	Professor Susan Dawson	Professor Daniel Haydon	Professor Lutz Marten	Professor Peter Shaw
Professor Paul Beaumont	Professor Antonella De Santo	Professor Caroline Heycock	Dr Emma Mawdsley	Professor Soraya Shirazi Beechey
Professor Steve Beeby	Professor Veronica Della Dora	Professor Malcom Higgs	Professor Christine McCourt	Professor John Sidel
Professor Sanjoy Bhattacharya	Professor I.M Dharmadasa	Professor Grant Hillier	Professor Morag McDonald	Professor James Smith
Professor John Boardman	Professor Tim Dixon	Professor Michael Holdsworth	Professor Cheryl McEwan	Professor Tom Solomon
Dr Barbara Bompani	Professor Daniel Donoghue	Professor John Holford	Dr Alison McFadden	Professor Jane Stuart Smith
Dr Peter Bourdillon	Professor Han Dorussen	Professor David Hopkins	Professor Jim McGuirk	Dr Amanda Sykes
Professor Sue Bowden	Professor Isabel dos Santos Silva	Professor Sam Howison	Professor Chris Miall	Professor Ian Taylor
Professor Michael Bowe	Dr Alex Douglas	Professor Zhu Hua	Professor Giles Mohan	Professor Susan Taylor
Professor Chris Bowen	Professor Kurt Drickamer	Professor Tom Hutchinson	Dr Thomas Molony	Professor Neil Taylor
Mr Simon Bramhall	Professor Angela Druckman	Dr Jaci Huws	Dr Lindsey Moore	Professor Peter Taylor
Professor Susan Breau	Professor Nnamdi Nduka Ekere	Professor Lorenzo Iannucci	Professor Fionn Murtagh	Professor Leon A Terry
Professor Michael Brockhurst	Professor Sherif El Khamisy	Professor John Thomas Sir Irvine	Dr Talat Nasim	Dr Vijay Kumar Thakur
Professor Iain Broom	Professor Robert Elliott	Professor Nick Jenkins	Professor Penelope Nestel	Professor David Thomas
Professor Nick Brown	Dr Raziye Farmani	Professor Animesh Jha	Professor Stephen T Newman	Professor Robert R Thomson
Professor Andrew Brown	Professor Helen Fenwick	Professor Mark A Jobling	Dr Linda Newnes	Professor Thomas Thomson
Professor David Brown	Professor Leslie Firbank	Dr Gillian Juleff	Professor Sarah O'Brien	Professor Kenneth J Thomson
Professor Andrew Bush	Professor Andrew Fleming	Professor Satvinder Juss	Professor David Osrin	Professor Iain Todd
Professor Tony Bush	Dr Alan Floyd	Professor Robert Kalin	Professor Christine Oughton	Professor Howard Tumber
Dr Amanda Callaghan	Professor John Fossey	Professor Paul Kaye	Professor Sheila Patrick	Professor Nick Tyler
Professor Mike Calnan	Professor David Fraser	Dr Nina Kazanina	Mr Geoffrey Payne	Professor Ann Varley
Professor Zhixian Cao	Professor Simon Frostick	Professor Kevin Keasey	Dr Stephen Pearson	Professor Mark Viney
Dr Tracy Diane Cassidy	Professor Simone Fullagar	Professor Brendan Kenny	Professor Andrea Petroczi	Professor Zia Wadud
Professor Mario Cerrato	Professor Laura Galloway	Professor Hafiz Khan	Professor Martin Powell	Professor David Walker
Professor Justin Champion	Professor Sayantan Ghosal	Professor John Kinsella	Dr Gail Preston	Professor Frances Wall
Professor Siddharthan Chandran	Professor John Girkin	Dr Janine Kirby	Professor Adam Price	Professor Anne Watson
Professor Tracey Chapman	Professor Richard Giulianotti	Professor Susan Kirk	Dr Catherine Pritchard	Professor Adrian Williams
Professor Nic Cheeseman	Professor Jon Gluyas	Professor Richard Kneller	Professor Christine A Raines	Professor Justin Willis
Professor Jon Clare	Dr Hugh Gong	Professor Konstantinos Kontis	Professor Vivek Ranade	Professor William Wisden
Dr Phil J Clark	Professor Jonathan Goodhand	Professor Susanne Kuechler	Dr Orsola Rath Spivack	Professor Adrian Wood
Professor Peter Clarke	Professor Nandini Gooptu	Professor Panicos Kyriacou	Dr Catherine Rees	Professor Geoff Wood
Professor Ian Colbeck	Professor Paul Gready	Professor Ilias Kyriazakis	Dr Andrew Regan	Professor Michael Woods
Professor David Collison	Professor Jeffrey Green	Dr Emma Lane	Dr Gwendolen Reilly	Professor Simon Woodward
Professor Declan Conway	Dr Chris Greenwell	Professor Jane Langdale	Professor Jane Rickson	Dr Jianzhong Wu
Professor Stephen Coombes	Professor Shaun Gregory	Professor Susan Lanham New	Professor Joseph Robson	Professor David Zhang
	Professor Peter Gregory	Professor Mike Lean	Professor Michael Roe	Professor Valentina Zharkova

UK Universities

The CSC plays an important role in attracting the best and brightest talent to UK universities. In return, universities support the CSC's activities through part funding all scholarship awards, providing matching contributions of £4.76 million. In the report year, Commonwealth Scholars studied at 97 UK universities.

Aberystwyth University	Leeds Beckett University	Teesside University	University of Leeds
Aston University	Liverpool Hope University	The Open University	University of Leicester
Bangor University	Liverpool John Moores University	UCL Institute of Education	University of Lincoln
Bath Spa University	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	Ulster University	University of Liverpool
Birkbeck, University of London	London School of Economics and Political Science	University College London	University of Manchester
Birmingham City University	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	University of Aberdeen	University of Nottingham
Bishop Grosseteste University	London South Bank University	University of Bath	University of Oxford
Bournemouth University	Loughborough University	University of Birmingham	University of Plymouth
Brunel University	Manchester Metropolitan University	University of Bradford	University of Portsmouth
Cardiff University	Newcastle University	University of Bristol	University of Reading
City, University of London	Northumbria University	University of Buckingham	University of Roehampton
Coventry University	Nottingham Trent University	University of Cambridge	University of Salford
Cranfield University	Queen Margaret University	University of Central Lancashire	University of Sheffield
De Montfort University	Queen Mary University of London	University of Chester	University of South Wales
Durham University	Queen's University Belfast	University of Dundee	University of Southampton
Edge Hill University	Royal College of Art	University of East Anglia	University of St Andrews
Glasgow Caledonian University	Royal Veterinary College	University of East London	University of Stirling
Goldsmiths, University of London	School of Advanced Study, University of London	University of Edinburgh	University of Strathclyde
Harper Adams University	Sheffield Hallam University	University of Essex	University of Surrey
Heriot-Watt University	SOAS, University of London	University of Exeter	University of Sussex
Imperial College London	St George's, University of London	University of Glasgow	University of the West of England
Keele University	Staffordshire University	University of Greenwich	University of Warwick
King's College London	Swansea University	University of Huddersfield	University of Wolverhampton
Kingston University		University of Hull	University of York
Lancaster University		University of Kent	

UK Fellowship Host Organisations

Through hosting Commonwealth Medical, and Professional Fellows, UK organisations support early and mid-career professionals to develop key skills, as well as building relationships and collaboration with colleagues across the Commonwealth. In the report year, Commonwealth Fellows were hosted by 48 UK organisations.

African Prisons Project	King's College London	Foundation Trust	University of Leicester
Birmingham Children's Hospital	Knowledge for Change	Swansea University	University of Lincoln
British Geological Survey	Lancaster University	The Association of Guyanese Nurses and Allied Professionals in the United Kingdom	University of Liverpool
Cardiff University	Liverpool John Moores University	The Bees for Development Trust	University of Nottingham
Conciliation Resources	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	The Meriden Family Programme	University of Oxford
Durham University	Loughborough University	University of Bath	University of Salford
East London NHS Foundation Trust	National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery	University of Bristol	University of Sheffield
Ethnic Health Forum	Nottingham Trent University	University of Cambridge	University of Southampton
Great North Children's Hospital	Queen Mary University of London	University of East Anglia	University of Stirling
Heriot-Watt University	Queen's University Belfast	University of Edinburgh	University of Surrey
Imperial College London	Rothamsted Research (BBSRC)	University of Glasgow	University of Warwick
Institute of Cancer Research	Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS	University of Leeds	University of York
Institute of Child Health (UCL)			

Overseas Organisations

Through Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships, overseas organisations benefit from better-qualified staff with increased knowledge and skills, as well as access to international collaboration and partnerships. In the report year, 94 overseas organisations either nominated candidates for or partnered with a UK university on Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships.

Bangladesh University of Textiles, Bangladesh	University of Hyderabad, India	Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan
Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh	Wildlife Institute of India, India	University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan
Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Bangladesh	University of Technology, Jamaica, Jamaica	University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila, Pakistan
University of Chittagong, Bangladesh	University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica	University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh	African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya	Papua New Guinea University of Technology, Papua New Guinea
University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh	African Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya	University of Rwanda College of Medical and Health Sciences, Rwanda
University of eSwatini, Eswatini	Braeburn Schools, Kenya	University of Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone
Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, Ghana	Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya	University of Cape Town, South Africa
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya	University of Pretoria, South Africa
University for Development Studies, Ghana	University of Nairobi, Kenya	University of South Africa, South Africa
University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana	University of Malawi, Malawi	University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
University of Ghana, Ghana	Rushmore Business School, Mauritius	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana	University of Namibia, Namibia	University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
Alagappa University, India	Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria	Institute of Financial Management, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Aligarh Muslim University, India	Ekiti State University, Nigeria	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania
Calcutta Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology, India	Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria	National Construction Council, Tanzania, Tanzania
Central University of Rajasthan, India	Kano University of Technology, Wudil, Nigeria	Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, Tanzania
CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, India	Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria	Open University of Tanzania, Tanzania
CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, India	Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria	Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania
Gauhati University, India	University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria	The College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), Tanzania
Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, India	University of Benin, Nigeria	University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Indian Institute of Science, India	University of Calabar, Nigeria	Kulika Educational Trust, Uganda
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, India	University of Ibadan, Nigeria	Makerere University, Uganda
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, India	University of Lagos, Nigeria	Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda
Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, India	University of Nigeria, Nigeria	National Environment Management Agency, Uganda
Institute of Chemical Technology, India	University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria	National Water and Sewerage Trust, Uganda
Jadavpur University, India	Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan	Uganda Management Institute, Uganda
Jawaharlal Nehru University, India	Bahauddin Zakariya University, Pakistan	Copperbelt University, Zambia
National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, India	COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Pakistan	University of Zambia, Zambia
Punjab University, India	Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan	
Punjab Agricultural University, India	Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Pakistan	
School of Planning and Architecture, India	National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan	
University of Delhi, India		

Governance Statement

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC) was established by Act of Parliament in 1959 in order to manage the UK contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP), launched by Commonwealth Education Ministers in 1958. Its status was subsequently reaffirmed in the International Development Act of 2002 (the Act).

The CSC is a non-departmental public body, for which the Department for International Development (DFID) is the lead department and main sponsor, focusing exclusively on awards that deliver on poverty reduction. Other financial contributions are received from the Department for Education (DfE), for scholarships for candidates from high income countries, and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), for fellowships for postdoctoral researchers. The CSC is independent of Government in its decision-making and operations; the Act legislates that the Secretary of State may not give any direction for the selection or rejection of any particular person for an award or as a candidate for an award. The CSC submits an Annual Report on its work each year to the Secretary of State; this forms the basis of a report submitted by the Secretary of State to Parliament, to which (s)he is ultimately responsible for the work of the CSC.

In addition to regulations provided in the 1959 Act (which have been confirmed in subsequent Development Acts) and subsequent Ministerial Directives, detailed governance arrangements for the CSC have been set out in a framework document. The framework includes an associated financial memorandum and the CSC's three-year corporate and one-year business plans. The DFID Internal Audit Department (IAD) provides the CSC's internal audit function. The CSC's annual income and expenditure are incorporated in the overall accounts of DFID, and the CSC account is held with the Government Banking Service.

The Commission normally comprises 15 members, including the Chair, who are appointed in accordance with the principles of the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies. Commissioners are appointed by the Secretary of State for an initial period of three years, with the possibility of reappointment for one further three-year appointment. The Chair and other relevant officials normally meet with relevant Ministers at least annually to discuss the work of the CSC. The Chair of the Commission is the Accounting Officer for the CSC, with responsibility to the Secretary of State for its conduct and performance. A separate statement from the Accounting Officer follows.

Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

A) CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

I. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Organisational Structure

Mr Richard Middleton (Chair and Accounting Officer)

Professor Anne Anderson (Deputy Chair)

Page 33-34 lists the membership of the CSC

Dr Joanna Newman MBE, ACU Chief Executive and Secretary General acted as the CSC's Executive Secretary during the period of the report.

The CSC's Secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), whose offices at Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HF serve as the CSC's headquarters.

Some post-award services are also provided by the British Council under the terms of a separate MOU between the CSC and the British Council.

Register of Interests

Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioners are required to complete a declaration of any interests twice a year. A copy of the Register of Interests is kept by the Secretariat.

Diversity and Inclusion

In appointing Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioners DFID seeks to be open and inclusive and seeks to recruit and develop a diverse and talented Commission that is representative of society today.

Personal Data Incidents

There were no personal data incidents in 2018-19.

II. STATEMENT OF COMMISSION'S AND ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the International Development Act 2002, the Commission must make to the Secretary of State for International Development in each year a report on the discharge of its functions during the period of 12 months to 30th September. The Secretary of State will lay a copy of the report before each House of Parliament. In preparing the statement of income and expenditure included in the report, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and, in particular, to:

- Observe any Accounts Direction issued by the Secretary of State, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis
- Make judgments and estimates on a reasonable basis

The CSC has regard to the Framework Document, agreed between the CSC and DFID, which sets out financial and accounting requirements in meeting these obligations. The Permanent Secretary and Accounting Officer of DFID has designated the Chair as the Accounting Officer of the CSC. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the CSC's assets, are set out in Managing Public Money published by HM Treasury. The CSC's Accounting Officer has attended relevant training provided by HM Treasury.

Commencing in May 2017 and continuing into the year under report, the Minister for International Development led an internal review of the Commission. Working with the CSC to develop a new strategy, the DFID Minister confirmed that DFID would increase its grant, supporting CSC over a three-year period beginning in April 2018. The Commission is now in the second year of this three-year strategy.

The Accounting Officer confirms that the annual report as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable, and that he takes personal responsibility for the annual report and statement of income and expenditure and the judgments required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable. The CSC's accounts are inspected and reported upon by professional auditors.

The Accounting Officer has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken to make himself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the staff engaged in this work are aware of that information.

III. GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The CSC was established under the 1959 Act to:

- Administer the Grant-in-Aid
- Select the persons to receive the Commonwealth Scholarships
- Place the holders of Commonwealth Scholarships at Universities in the UK; and
- Oversee the welfare of the Commonwealth Scholars throughout their tenure

The Commission consists of a chair and not less than nine nor more than fourteen members appointed by the Secretary of State, of whom not less than four shall be appointed as holders of high academic office. Commissioners are volunteers and receive no remuneration. The Chair receives an annual stipend of £12,000.

The Commission and its Committees consider the following matters annually:

- Government policy as it applies to the CSC and the Scholarships
- CSC's governance, membership and policies
- CSC's audit and risk management
- Commission strategy including CSC's Corporate and Business Plans and CSC's performance against them
- Allocation of budgets to programmes, administration and programme support
- Awards policy and process
- The issue of disadvantage and safeguarding
- Selection: the mechanisms for selecting scholars, contents of the application, outreach, the selection process, management of selection committees and final outcomes
- Scholars: policies relating to the Scholars and their activities in the UK, rules and regulations, placements and the general well-being of Scholars
- CSC's engagement and Alumni strategies
- CSC's programme for the evaluation of impact of awards
- CSC's relationships and joint-funding agreements with UK universities
- Production of an Annual Report
- Other policies that may impact the administration of the Scholarships

Governance Framework

The full Commission meets three times per year, supported by four committees, namely Audit & Risk Management (ARM), Awards Policy, Evaluation and Monitoring, and Finance Committees. The Chairs of these Committees, with the CSC Chair and Deputy-Chair, comprise the Executive Group, and this meets twice annually in between full meetings of the Commission. Separate committees of Commissioners are convened to handle the selection of scholarship recipients. The CSC may appoint independent members to all committees.

Commissioner attendance at full meetings was as follows in 2018-19:

- Mr Richard Middleton (Chair) 100% 3/3
- Professor Madeleine Arnot 100% 3/3
- Professor Anne Anderson 100% 3/3
- Mr Sandy Balfour 100% 3/3
- Dr Nick Brown 100% 3/3
- Professor Brian Faragher 100% 3/3
- Professor Claire Heffernan 66% 2/3
- Professor Paul Jackson 100% 3/3
- Ms Emma Judge 100% 3/3
- Ms Sarah Laessig 66% 2/3
- Professor Nuala McGrath 100% 3/3
- Dr Jennie Robinson 100% 3/3
- Professor Alfredo Saad Filho 100% 3/3
- Professor Mary Stiasny 0% 0/3

The ARM Committee advises the CSC and Accounting Officer on:

- The arrangements through which CSC accounts for its expenditure, including both internal controls and external inspection, and recommends any changes required to conform with best practice
- Its oversight of the CSC's programme of internal Audit by DFID IAD
- The arrangements in place to prevent conflicts of interest for Commissioners and staff
- The CSC's Risk Register and risk management procedures, and ensures that appropriate policies are in place to conform with these
- Whether all contractual arrangements which exist between the Commission, its sponsors and its main service suppliers are appropriate from a risk management perspective

The Awards Policy Committee advises the CSC on:

- Allocation of budgets between programmes; policy for all Scholarship and Fellowship programmes including on policy for the recruitment of award-holders and liaison with nominating bodies; proposals for ideas for new Programmes

The Evaluation and Monitoring Committee advises the CSC on:

- Evaluation of CSC's programmes by identifying their impact on individual award holders, on their home countries and on wider international activities, and on systematic data as the evidence base for Commission discussions of policy and processes

The Finance Committee advises the CSC and Accounting Officer on:

- Budgets made available to the Commission from Government Departments and policy set by the Commission to ensure that these are appropriately allocated and properly accounted for
- Arrangements through which the Commission presents its accounts; and on approval of end-of-year expenditure reported by its service providers
- Proposals from service providers for the costs of providing the menu of agreed services in the following financial year, and recommendations to the Commission as appropriate; and on satisfaction with the internal controls in place for the management of expenditure
- The MoU or other contractual arrangements which exist between the Commission, its sponsors and its main service suppliers
- Forecast award expenditure and any action taken in the event of significant forecast budgetary under- or over-spend
- A budget to meet the Commission's operating costs and any action taken in the event of significant forecast budgetary under- or over-spend
- A budget to meet the costs for the Commission's Engagement and Alumni Strategies, and for programmes of Recruitment and Outreach, and Monitoring and Evaluation; and on any action taken in the event of significant forecast budgetary under- or over-spend against these headings
- The formal record of recommendations made to selection committee chairs for the allocation of resources to new awards

Commission Performance

During 2018/19 the Chair had individual conversations with each Commissioner, reviewing Commission performance and individual contributions. Commissioners also had the opportunity to relay via DFID any feedback on the performance of the Chair.

All Scholars are surveyed each year on the effectiveness of the Scholarship and its administration as part of the anonymous survey and the results of this survey are reviewed by the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee. In 2018/19, 92% of Scholars reported that the support they had received from CSC had been excellent or good.

Corporate Governance Code

The CSC has considered HM Treasury's Corporate Governance Code as it applies to a small Non-Departmental Public Body, and, where the Code is materially relevant, the CSC and the Accounting Officer consider that the CSC does conform.

Risk Assessment

The following key principles outline the CSC's approach to risk management and internal control which it seeks to align with DFID's processes:

The CSC's risk policy is that it:

- Has responsibility for overseeing risk management within the organisation as a whole
- Has an open and receptive approach to solving risk problems
- Has a generally low risk appetite and makes conservative and prudent recognition and disclosure of the financial and non-financial implications of risks

The CSC's Risk Framework and Register incorporate this approach to risk management, and the roles and responsibilities of the CSC and its Secretariat and its risk management processes. The CSC and its Secretariat seek guidance where appropriate from DFID on risk management issues and in the year of report commissioned an audit of Commission Governance from DFID Internal Audit Department. The CSC and its Secretariat conduct risk assessments of relevant higher risk activities, e.g. a risk assessment is undertaken for all CSC organised events.

CSC has a Risk Framework and a Risk Register which is reviewed three times a year by the Audit and Risk Management Committee and by the full Commission once a year. CSC did not face any severe risks in 2018/19.

Scope of responsibility

As Accounting Officer since 1 April 2016, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the CSC's policies, aims and objectives whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Managing Public Money.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of CSC policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accords with Treasury guidance.

The Secretariat regularly reports to the Commission on expenditure to date, forecast outturn and projections for future years. These projections enable the CSC to assess the potential impact of increased tuition and maintenance fees. The CSC has considered, together with the DFID representative, the impact of any changes in entry requirements for Scholars. Relevant administrative staff have obtained accreditation (Level 1) with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC).

The CSC works closely with DFID's United Nations and Commonwealth Department, which is represented at meetings of the Commission and its Finance Committee.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the CSC, particularly its system of internal control. This review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the ACU, which has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework that is separately audited, and responds to advice from DFID, DFID Internal Audit reports, comments made by the firm engaged in the inspection of CSC's accounts and other reports. I have been advised on the implications of the result of this review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the ARM Committee so that the system can remain fit for purpose.

Data Quality

All information presented to the Commission is derived from existing management information systems. The CSC is content with the quality of the data presented to it and considers it sufficient to properly inform decision making.

CSC is assured that ACU has systems in place to ensure that all personal data is handled in compliance with GDPR and has access to professional advice in this area. ACU offers regular training to ensure that its staff are kept up to date on Data Protection and GDPR compliance.

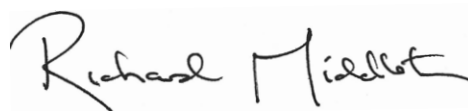
B) REMUNERATION AND STAFF REPORT

The Commission has continued the arrangement under which its Secretariat and other management functions are provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the British Council. The Commission does not itself have any employees. The effectiveness and value for money of these arrangements are formally reviewed annually by the Finance Committee, which recommends appropriate action to the full Commission. This arrangement was specifically reviewed by the most recent Cabinet Office review of CSC as an NDPB and was confirmed as good value for money.

C) PARLIAMANTARY ACCOUNTABILITY AND AUDIT REPORT

CSC monitors the regularity of its expenditure through its expenditure approval process and by scrutinising expenditure against budget.

CSC levies no fees or charges. It experienced no losses or special payments. It has no remote contingent liabilities.



Richard Middleton

Chair

Commissioner Biographies

RICHARD MIDDLETON

CHAIR, COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION IN THE UK

I work as an interim Registrar or Chief Operating Officer at UK universities – to fit with my role as Chair of the CSC. My experience also includes working for the Medical Research Council in The Gambia and supporting universities' research programmes in sub-Saharan Africa. As Chair I am responsible for ensuring the CSC makes good decisions (consistent with UK Government priorities) and for ensuring the Commission develops an effective strategy. Also, I promote the efficient and effective use of staff, Commissioner expertise and other resources, encouraging high standards of propriety. I enjoy learning from our scholars and alumni, and representing their experiences to our stakeholders and partners.

PROFESSOR ANNE ANDERSON OBE

DEPUTY CHAIR, COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION IN THE UK

VICE PRINCIPAL AND HEAD OF THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

As a university leader I have been very active building international partnerships and see the huge value these bring for research and addressing global challenges.

As Deputy Chair and Research lead at CSC, I am passionate about the value the CSC brings in supporting capacity building in research across the Commonwealth and the huge contribution our scholars' research brings to tackling the challenges faced in lower income countries.

PROFESSOR MADELEINE ARNOT

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION, JESUS COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

For over 40 years, I have taught and researched gender, poverty and social justice issues in education in the UK, Europe and the Commonwealth. I currently advise on migration and the education of displaced youth, and edit a monograph series on Education, Poverty and International Development.

SANDY BALFOUR

My experience includes development, higher education and open knowledge. I was the founding chair of the pioneering Fairtrade Company, Divine Chocolate, and more recently I have served as Chief Executive of the Canon Collins Educational and Legal Assistance Trust, and of Wikimedia UK.

DR NICK BROWN

PRINCIPAL LINACRE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

I lead a large international graduate college at the University of Oxford where I also have responsibility for university buildings and estates. I have a long-standing interest in improving Higher Education opportunities in Africa and I chair the Tertiary Education Scholarship Trust for Africa. I am a plant ecologist and research the impacts of major environmental change on natural communities.

PROFESSOR DAVID COPE

FOUNDATION FELLOW, CLARE HALL, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

For 14 years I was Director of the UK Parliament's Science and Technology Office (POST). I have some expertise in pollution control technologies.

I became a Commissioner in 2013, particularly to help its work in areas such as energy, environment, earth sciences and engineering but I have a particular interest in the interlinkages between the development themes that the Commission is promoting and particularly the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

I promote these aspirations and results at the University of Cambridge through several of its pioneering Centres. These support Commonwealth people - Scholars and Fellows - but more widely, I work to encourage all UK universities to engage with these critical issues.

PROFESSOR BRIAN FARAGHER

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICAL STATISTICS AT THE LIVERPOOL SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE (LSTM)

I am in my second term as a CSC Commissioner. As Emeritus Professor of Medical Statistics at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), I specialise in statistical modelling and research methods. I have worked for over 40 years supporting clinical and epidemiological research, most recently in the area of tropical medicine, and continue to advise and support projects in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia.

PROFESSOR CLAIRE HEFFERNAN

DIRECTOR, LONDON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

My work at the LIDC focuses on facilitating interdisciplinary and solutions-based research across seven University of London institutions aimed at addressing critical challenges in international development. Current thematic areas include nutrition, health agriculture, humanitarian emergencies, zoonotic diseases, impact evaluation and education. I am Principal Investigator on the UKRI GCRF Action against Stunting Hub which aims to transform current research on child undernutrition and stunting.

PROFESSOR PAUL JACKSON

PROFESSOR OF AFRICAN POLITICS AND DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

As a former Director of the International Development Department at the University of Birmingham I have a lot of experience of working with Commonwealth Scholars at postgraduate level. I am Director of Research for the social sciences at Birmingham and a researcher with extensive experience across the Global South, specialising in post-conflict environments and governance. I also sit on several international committees, including the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration, where I am responsible for monitoring SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

EMMA JUDGE

I am an international development consultant and writer, with a special interest in disability, health and education, and more than 25 years' experience of living and working in Africa, Asia and Latin America for INGOs and government agencies, helping facilitate sustainable social and economic change for vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

SARAH LAESSIG

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONER

In addition to my role as a Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner, I also hold other board positions in the public and private sectors which reflect my experience and interest in government, higher education, international development, financial services and technology.

PROFESSOR NUALA MCGRATH

NIHR GLOBAL HEALTH PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

I am a Professor of Epidemiology and Sexual Health at the University of Southampton, and NIHR Global Health Professor. I work primarily on HIV and STIs in Sub-Saharan Africa. I have spent more than 25 years strengthening research capacity at research institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and training future global health specialists.

DR JENNIE ROBINSON

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

My academic interest is human behaviour, particularly on the benefits and impact of diversity. As a Commissioner, I am a cheerleader for encouraging applications from as wide a variety of people as possible, to give us the best chance of achieving the SDGs.

PROFESSOR ALFREDO SAAD-FILHO

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL ECONOMY AT SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

I was the Senior Economics Affairs Officer at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development between 2011-12. I am in my first term at the CSC, and am particularly interested in the fields of economic growth and development, globalisation, and the international economic order.

PROFESSOR MARY STIASNY OBE

PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR (INTERNATIONAL) UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

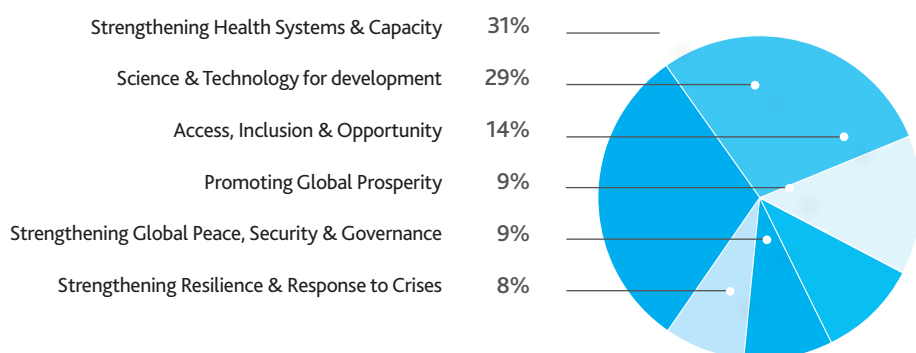
I am Pro Vice Chancellor (International) and CEO of the University of London programmes studies by distance and flexible learning around the globe. Currently I chair the Awards Policy Committee.

Key Performance Indicators as agreed in the 2018-2019 Business Plan

The following six key performance indicators were used to measure success against our objectives and priorities:

1. The highest number of DFID-funded scholarships will be awarded under the 'Science and technology for development' and 'Strengthening health systems and capacity' themes, with all DFID-funded scholarships awarded under six development-related themes.

AWARDS TAKEN UP:



2. At least 85% of new DFID-funded awards will be made to citizens of least developed and lower middle income countries and fragile states.

Awards taken up: 93% of 2018 DFID-funded awards taken up are for citizens of least developed and lower middle income countries and fragile states.

3. Mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that excellent candidates demonstrating social or economic disadvantage receive preference, with all DFID-funded scholarships awarded to candidates who declare that they could not otherwise afford to undertake the programme of study.

- 100% of 2018 scholarship applicants declared that they did not have the private means to undertake their programme of study.
- In 2018, with all other criteria being equal, excellent candidates demonstrating social or economic disadvantage or from marginalised or underrepresented communities received preference in selection.

4. There will be an increase in the number of Commonwealth Split-Site, Master's, Shared, and Distance Learning Scholarships, with a reduction in the balance of funding allocated to DFID-funded Commonwealth PhD Scholarships.

Awards taken up:

12% of awards in 2018 were for PhDs (17% in 2016)

6% of awards in 2018 were for Split-site Scholarships (4% in 2016)

22% of awards in 2018 were for Agency and Gambian Masters (25% in 2016)

30% of awards in 2018 were for Shared Scholarships (28% in 2016)

30% of awards in 2018 were for Distance Learning Scholarships (25% in 2016)

5. The gender balance of candidates selected for a DFID-funded Scholarship will be at least 45% female and 45% male.

47% of candidates selected for a DFID-funded Scholarship were female.

6. At least £4.3 million in matching contributions will be generated through partnerships with UK universities.

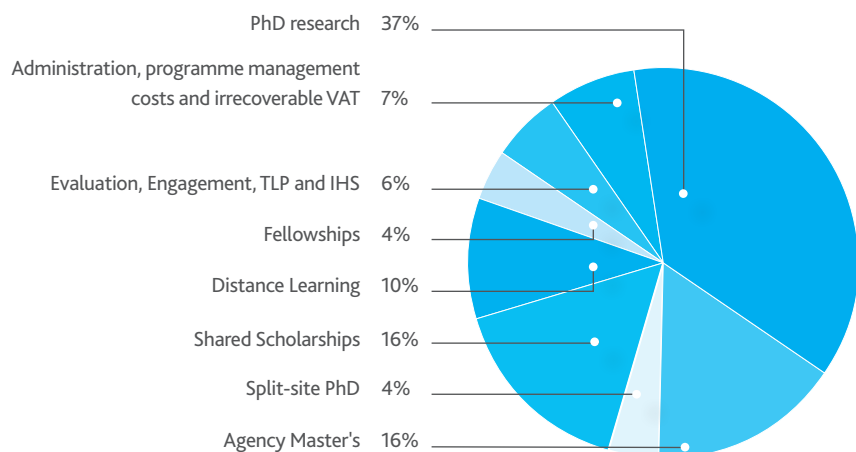
£4.76 million has been contributed.

Statement of Income and Expenditure

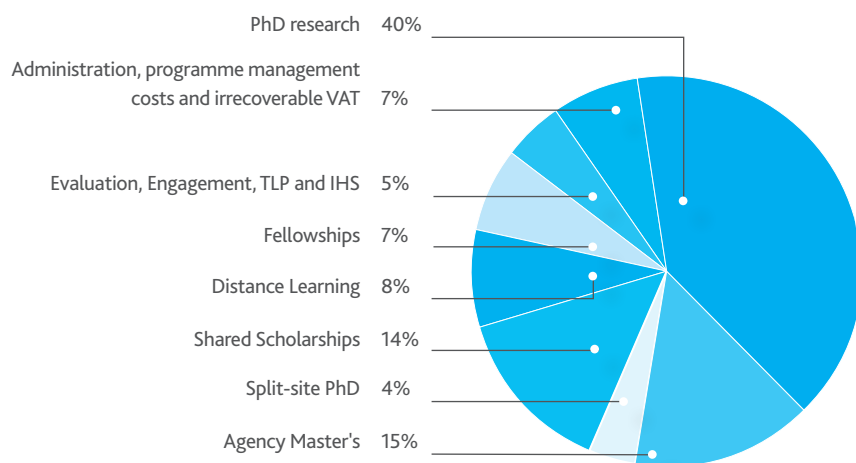
	2018/2019		2017/2018		% CHANGE (Year on Year)
	£000	% (in-year)	£000	% (in-year)	
DFID Grant-in-aid programme	24,820	89%	23,628	90%	5%
DFID Grant-in-aid admin	1,624	6%	1,624	6%	0%
DFE Grant-in-aid programme	415	1%	415	2%	0%
BEIS Grant-in-aid programme	1,130	4%	601		
TOTAL GRANT-IN-AID TO CSC	27,989	100%	26,268	98%	7%
DFID PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE					
SCHOLARSHIPS					
PhD research	9,975	40%	10,195	43%	(2%)
Agency Master's	4,486	18%	3,867	16%	16%
Split-site PhD	1,195	5%	965	4%	24%
Shared Scholarships	4,275	17%	3,662	16%	17%
Distance Learning	2,689	11%	2,214	9%	21%
TOTAL	22,620		20,903		8%
FELLOWSHIPS					
Academic	112	0%	440	2%	(75%)
Professional	7	0%	889	4%	(99%)
TOTAL	119		1,329		(91%)
OTHER PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE					
Evaluation	253	1%	232	1%	9%
Engagement	750	3%	565	2%	33%
Recruitment and Outreach	305	1%	153	1%	99%
Time Limited Project	198	1%			
British Council	247	1%	237	1%	4%
VAT	218	1%	158	1%	38%
TOTAL	1,971		1,345		47%
DFID PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE	24,710	100%	23,577	100%	
OGD PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE					
DFE Grant-in-aid (PhD research)	384	27%	388	45%	(1%)
BEIS Grant-in-aid (Fellowship research)	1,055	73%	469		
OGD PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE (TOTAL)	1,439	100%	857	45%	68%
CSC ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE (DFID)					
Commission Costs via ACU	101	6%	128	8%	(21%)
ACU Management Fees	1,154	73%	1,154	72%	0%
British Council Management Fees	69	4%	67	4%	3%
VAT	250	16%	254	16%	(2%)
TOTAL	1,574	100%	1,603	100%	(2%)
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT COSTS (OGD)					
ACU management Fee BEIS	48	49%	91		
ACU management Fee DFE	33	34%	33	22%	0%
VAT	17	17%	26	17%	(35%)
TOTAL	98	100%	150	39%	(35%)
DFID Programme Expenditure	24,710	89%	23,577	90%	5%
OGD Programme Expenditure	1,439	5%	857	3%	68%
CSC Administrative Expenditure (DFID)	1,574	6%	1,603	6%	(2%)
OGD Programme Management Costs	98	0%	150	1%	(35%)
TOTAL CSC EXPENDITURE	27,821	100%	26,187	100%	6%
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	451		415		
Increase in Trade Payables	(283)		(334)		
TOTAL	27,989		26,268		

Notes

2018/2019



2017/2018

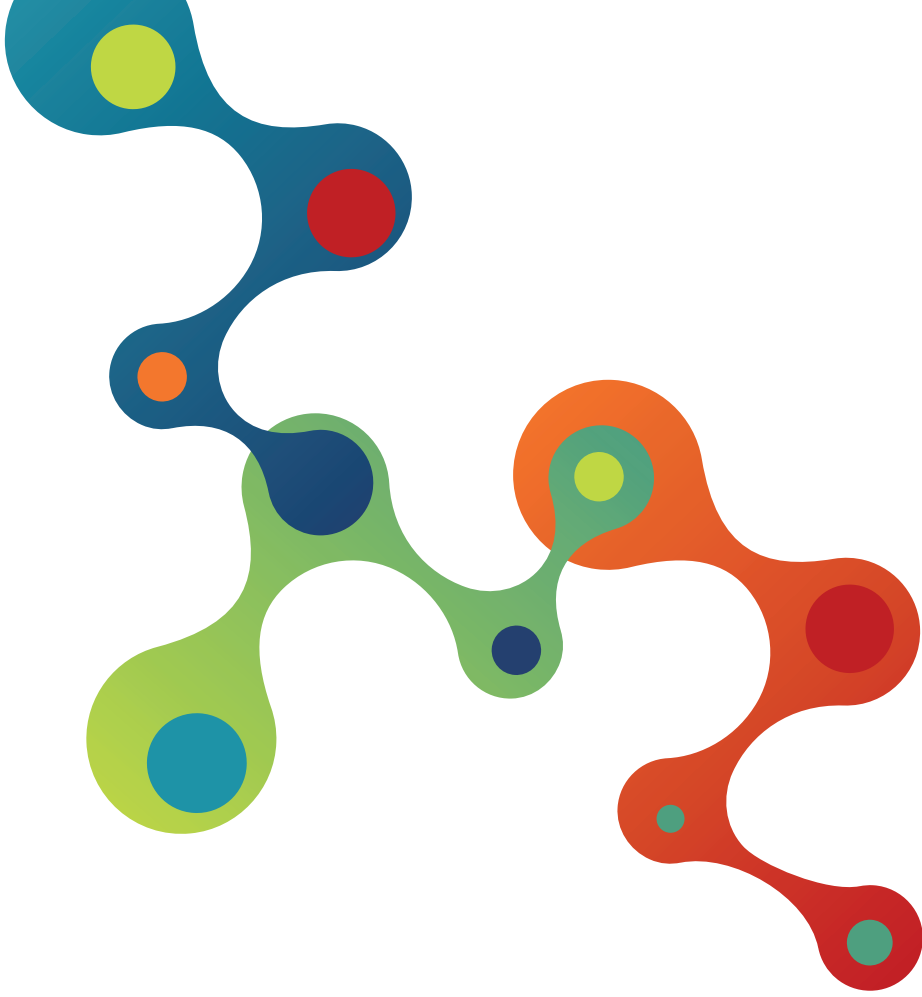


Notes

1. These figures were consolidated in DFID's audited Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19.
2. The CSC also engaged independent auditors to inspect the statement that the CSC submitted to DFID. This work found no exceptions to what was expected.
3. This activity is managed by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom.
4. In 2018/2019, funds from DfE and BEIS were channelled through DFID, in line with government practice.
5. The CSC holds no fixed assets.
6. The CSC employs no staff.
7. Administration costs in respect of the DFID Grant-in-aid, before adding VAT, reduced by 0.3% to 5.0% of DFID expenditure in 2018/2019.
8. The contribution of UK Universities to CSC programmes, through maintenance payments and tuition fees, was a further £4.76m. Such partnership contributions increase the number of awards available.
9. Having no VATable outputs, the CSC is not registered for VAT so cannot reclaim VAT on any of its inputs.

Key:

10. TLP : Time Limited Programmes
11. IHS : Immigration Health Surcharge





Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK



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