

Annual report

For the year ending 30 September 2021



**Connecting
Innovating
Transforming**



Annual report

For the year ending 30 September 2021

62nd Annual Report to the Secretary of State for
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

For the year ending 30 September 2021

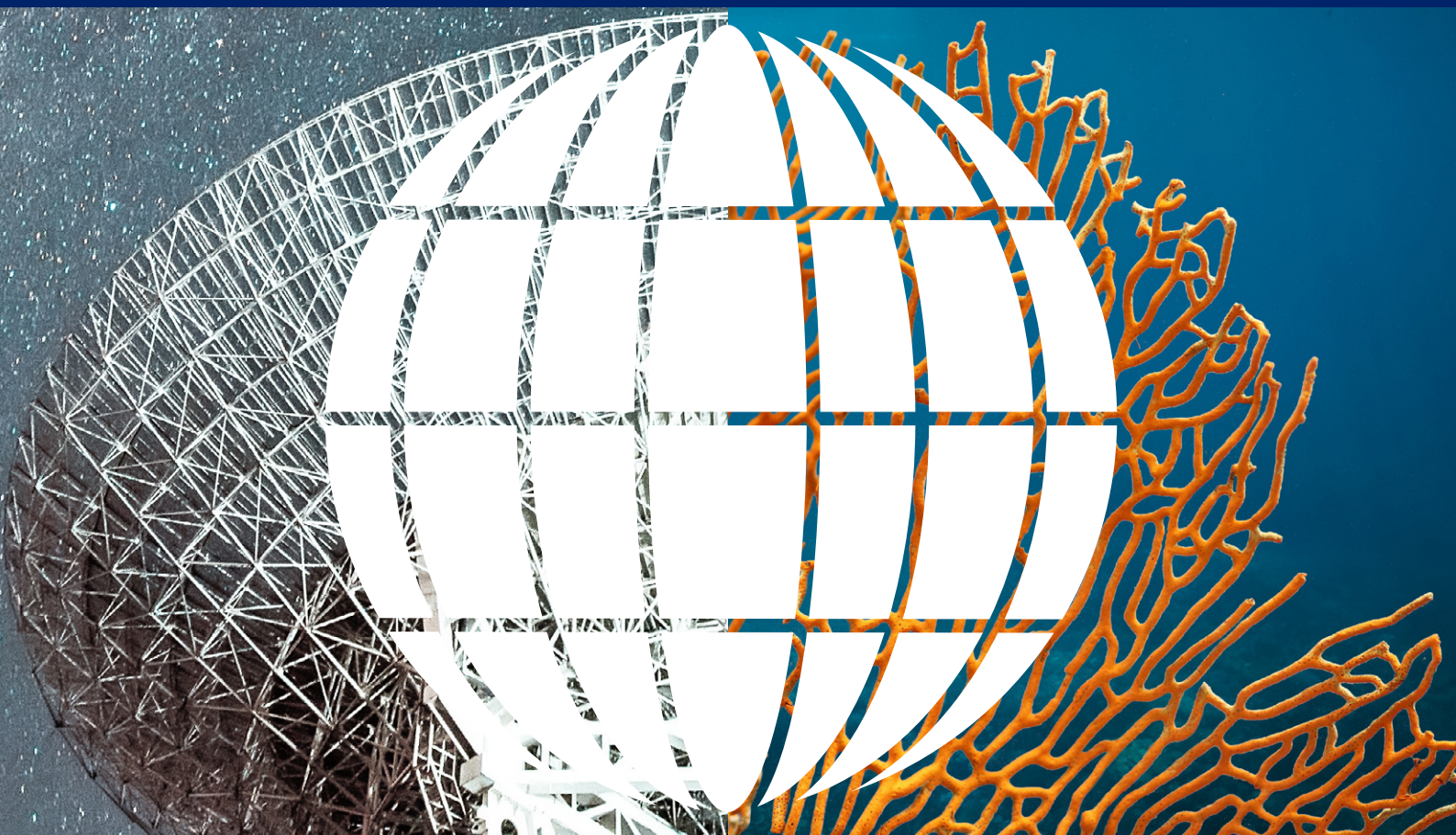
**Presented to Parliament pursuant to Paragraph 5 (2) of Schedule 2 of the International
Development Act 2002**

Connecting • Innovating • Transforming

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The Department for International Development merged with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 2 September 2020 to form the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The functions of the Secretary of State for International Development were transferred to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs. This report is laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to info@cscuk.org.uk

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Foreword

The theme for 2021's Commonwealth Day was 'Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming'. Countries across the Commonwealth are connecting, innovating, and transforming to help achieve some of our biggest common goals: protecting natural resources, boosting trade, tackling climate change, promoting good governance.

This ambition is credible because Commonwealth countries are connected by deep-rooted networks of friendship and goodwill. The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission has, throughout its 62-year history, been founded upon and strengthened those networks. We enable change and sustainable development across Commonwealth nations by facilitating development of the skills, instincts, abilities, resources, and transformative processes that organisations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive.

I am, paradoxically, both humbled and proud to have played a role in those Commonwealth and development networks as Chair of the CSC for the past 7 years. Proud because the CSC keeps making a difference, keeps improving and innovating; because the Commissioners and secretariat responded with humanity and imagination to find all ways possible to support Scholars adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Humbled because I know the real achievements are those of others, not me. It is Scholars who have strived for years to achieve brilliant results in their education despite deprivation and difficulty that would have floored me. It is Alumni who return to challenging work environments with limited resources and nevertheless are truly innovators and agents of transformation. The brilliance of my fellow Commissioners, successful academics and entrepreneurs, is freely shared and underpins the CSC's successful evolution.

Connecting

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission has always been well-connected to its Scholars, Alumni, partner governments, universities and nominating agencies throughout the Commonwealth. The COVID-19 pandemic taught us and obliged us to adapt and improve. We transferred resources temporarily from in-person event management to boost communication and engagement through our online channels, and increased our video conferencing provision, which enabled Scholars to continue to connect with each other and discuss development issues with far more Alumni during their studies than usual.

We have also enhanced the development training programme for Scholars, delivering more workshops than ever before (see pages 12 and 13 for more information). In the academic year 2020-21, we bolstered support for Scholars' mental wellbeing through the delivery of online workshops and providing readily accessible tools and resources. In those difficult times we wanted to increase awareness of mental health issues and provide more support for our Scholars in an unusually challenging and socially isolating year.

In March, the British Council hosted Interchange 21, a new online event designed to connect Scholars and Alumni and learn about the work and impact which Alumni are delivering. We were delighted to welcome Alicia Herbert OBE, Director for Education, Gender and Equality, and Gender Envoy at the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). We were very glad to hear Alicia's insights, which highlighted particularly relevant points in the run-up to the CSC's Programme on Girls' Education. Over 30 Alumni representing a range of development issues presented at the event, from the impact of COVID-19, echocardiography, and childhood blindness to food security, cultural confidence, cyber awareness, and climate resilience. In total, over 500 Scholars and Alumni participated via online chats and open Q&A sessions over the two days. We are all indebted to all the wonderful speakers, presenters and moderators who contributed to Interchange 21 and to guests from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), CSC, FCDO, and British Council who joined to support the event. And of course, we also thank the typically lively Commonwealth Scholars and Alumni who attended.

It is always the meetings with CSC Scholars and Alumni which inspire me, and all CSC Commissioners. The largest event in the CSC calendar - the Welcome Event - involving hundreds of newly-arrived Scholars, fizzes with enthusiasm and potential. It is a powerful demonstration of connectivity, as Commonwealth Scholars, CSC partners, university contacts and academics, Government representatives, and diplomats gather to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the Scholars and start building their community of agents for change. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic events such as these have been held online, nevertheless our Scholars and Alumni report they have met a valued contact through the Welcome event, or that a chance remark has inspired a new research pathway, or that they have met fellow Scholars with whom they have gone on to make close friendship and support bonds.

Innovating

Commonwealth Scholarships are future-focused, with a specific emphasis on strengthening community resilience in new and inspiring ways in the face of increasingly frequent threats. Our Scholars consistently demonstrate their dedication towards innovative solutions and advocate for further developed ways of working.



Richard Middleton, pictured here in 2019 with the Rwanda Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association

On page 19 of this Report, we learn how an Alumnus, Ginika Okoroafor, is supporting remote communities to install solar-powered home systems. On page 21 Forhad Uddin Hasan Chowdhury summarises how he has helped train thousands of healthcare workers online and has developed a new COVID-19 screening tool, and Reasat Faisal on page 27 explains how his data mapping of slums in Bangladesh is maximising aid efforts and proving invaluable for disaster preparation.

2021 is the year of COP26, which will have been hosted in Glasgow when you read this, but after I am writing. In recognition of this, the CSC joined with the ACU, Chevening, and Marshall Scholarship schemes to deliver a programme of activities throughout the year dedicated to our Scholars' innovative efforts to tackle climate change and mitigate its effects. These activities have included workshops, presentation and 'hackathon' competitions, relevant news profiles of Scholars and Alumni, Alumni funding opportunities for local community action, social media pledge campaigns, and the production of an issue of Common Knowledge magazine dedicated to current Scholars and Alumni's work on various development issues related to climate change.

Transforming

Commonwealth Scholars are selected because they have a passion for contributing to change in their country, and in the world, as well as being academic achievers. The Scholarship scheme is a catalyst for global change, and through the study, degree achievement, and CSC Programme support, Commonwealth Alumni become influential agents of economic and social development.

Commonwealth Scholarships provide transformational opportunities for sustainable development and change. Scholars

partner with countries and organisations and extend their influence to enable others to create change, co-creating global solutions. The issues of inequality, including barriers to equality – a key aspect to consider when tackling the challenges in international development - are increasingly at the forefront of global concerns. Education, as a key enabler of all the other SDGs, allows us to make informed decisions and take transformative action. We support Scholars and Alumni from all backgrounds to find solutions for the challenges of today and the future.

In 2021, the CSC began the first year of a special Professional Fellowship programme to fund 25 mid-career professionals to promote Girls' Education, as part of the UK government's ambitious initiatives to get 40 million more girls in primary and secondary school in low-income countries by 2025 and improve learning levels, so girls can achieve their full potential and lead the evolution of their communities

Protus Yabunga Musotsi, featured on page 21, is working on a new mobile app to overcome sexual health barriers in Kenya and facilitate increased access to family planning methods, which will ultimately enhance the life opportunities and ambitions for countless women. Sophia Imite highlights her work on page 23 in encouraging women entrepreneurs in the energy sector, and Hamna Iqbal Baig on page 25 explains how she is driving change by bringing gender inequality issues to the forefront of societal consciousness through journalism.

These are just a few examples of the ways in which our Scholars are transforming their organisations, communities, and the world at large. The brief examples included in this Report serve to highlight the breadth of the Scholars' work and impact while maximising the skills, knowledge, and connections gained from their Scholarship. Commonwealth Scholarships are, by design, forward-looking, dynamic, and relevant. They facilitate our Scholars' outstanding potential to effect impactful change locally, nationally, and internationally, and tackle the world's most pressing challenges.

Richard Middleton

Chair
Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Middleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

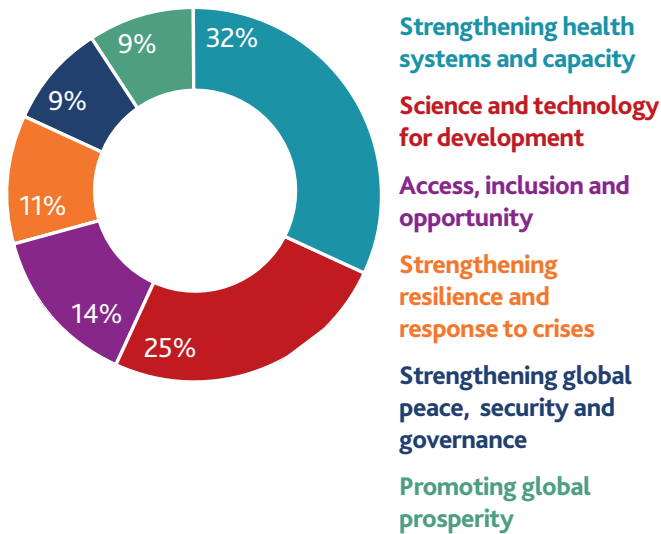
We have the honour to submit pursuant to Schedule 2, Section 13, Clause (5) 2 of the International Development Act 2002, the following report of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom for the year ending 30 September 2021.

2020 - 2021

Key performance indicators

as agreed in the 2020-2021 Business Plan

Awards taken up by CSC development theme



The CSC agreed seven key performance indicators which were used to measure success against our objectives and priorities:

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

57% of FCDO-funded scholarships were awarded under the 'Science and technology for development' and 'Strengthening health systems and capacity' themes, with all FCDO-funded scholarships awarded under six development-related themes.

2. 90-95% of new FCDO-funded awards will be made to citizens of least developed and lower middle-income countries and fragile states as recognised by FCDO.

97% of 2020 FCDO-funded awards taken up were for citizens of least developed and lower middle-income countries and fragile states.

3. Selection committees will ensure that, all other things being equal, excellent candidates demonstrating social or economic disadvantage or who are from marginalised or underrepresented communities receive preference, with an increased proportion of candidates from a disadvantaged background being selected year on year.

94% of award holders would have been unlikely to study the same programme in the UK.

4. There will be an aggregate 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 FCDO-funded Commonwealth PhD Scholarships.

10% of Scholarship awards taken up for 2020 were for PhDs (10% and 12% in 2019 and 2018 respectively)

6% of awards taken up were for Split site Scholarships (8% and 6% in 2019 and 2018 respectively)

16% were for Agency Masters (20% and 22% in 2019 and 2018 respectively)

28% were for Shared Scholarships (31% in 2019 and 2018)

40% were for Distance Learning Scholarships (31% and 29% in 2019 and 2018 respectively)

5. That the gender balance of candidates selected for a FCDO-funded scholarship will be at least 45% female and 45% male.

50% of all candidates selected for FCDO-funded scholarships were female.

6. At least £4.5 million in 2020/21 in matching contributions will be generated through partnerships with UK universities.

£5.2m was generated in 2020/21 in matching contributions through partnerships with UK universities.

7. The Alumni Strategy will ensure alumni are engaged in activities designed to demonstrate their impact at a local, national, and international level and the contribution of their Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship in achieving positive change for the intended beneficiaries and end users.

See pages 14 and 15 for more details of Alumni engagement activities delivered in 2021-21.

Consolidated statement of income and expenditure

	2020/2021 Actual Spend		2019/2020 Actual Spend	
	£000	% (in-year)	£000	% (in-year)
FCDO Grant-in-aid programme	24,555	97%	26,895	96%
FCDO Grant-in-aid admin	423	2%	424*	2%
DFE Grant-in-aid programme	335	1%	415	1%
BEIS Grant-in-aid programme		0%	383	1%
Total Grant-in-aid to CSC	25,313	100%	28,117	100%

FCDO Programme Expenditure

Scholarships				
PhD research	7,472	32%	8,266	32%
Agency Master's	3,885	17%	4,597	18%
Split-site PhD	1,024	4%	1,606	6%
Shared Scholarships	4,425	19%	4,309	17%
Distance Learning	3,275	14%	2,985	12%
Award Extensions	351	1%		
Award Hardship	41	0%		
Scholar support	589	3%	487	2%
Total	21,065		22,250	

Fellowships				
Medical	75	0%	51	0%
Professional	25	0%	670	3%
Total	100		721	

Other Programme Expenditure (FCDO)

Evaluation	282	1%	286	1%
Engagement	927	4%	1,076	4%
Recruitment and Outreach	700	3%	734	3%
Time Limited Project	95	0%	265	1%
VAT	245	1%	231	1%
Total	2,249		2,592	

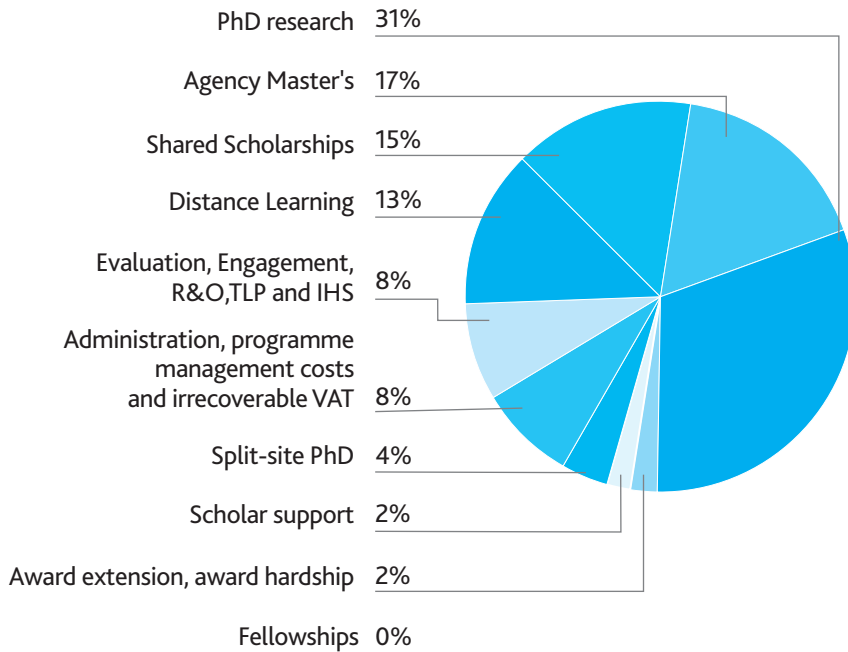
FCDO Programme Expenditure	23,411	100%	25,563	100%
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* This includes a return of £50,000 to FCDO for FY18/19 of unspent funding.

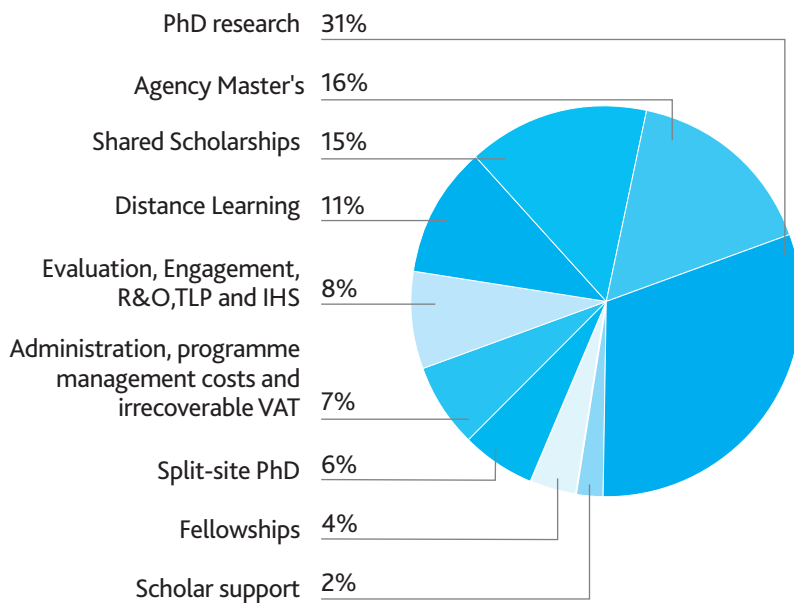
	2020/2021 Actual Spend		2019/2020 Actual Spend	
	£000	% (in-year)	£000	% (in-year)
OGD Programme Expenditure				
DFE Grant-in-aid (PhD research)	375	94%	313	44%
BEIS Grant-in-aid (Postdoc research)	23	6%	399	56%
OGD Programme Expenditure (Total)	398	100%	712	100%
CSC Administrative Expenditure (FCDO)				
Commission Costs via ACU	126	30%	124	29%
ACU Management Fees	177	42%	177	42%
BC Management Fees	71	17%	72	17%
VAT	50	12%	50	12%
Total	424	100%	423	100%
Programme Management Costs				
Programme Management Costs FCDO	1,000	81%	1,000	81%
Programme Management Costs BEIS	0	0%	0	0%
Programme Management Costs DFE	33	3%	33	3%
VAT	207	17%	207	17%
Total	1,240	100%	1,240	100%
FCDO Programme Expenditure	23,411	92%	25,563	91%
OGD Programme Expenditure	398	2%	712	3%
CSC Administrative Expenditure (FCDO)	424	2%	423	2%
Programme Management Costs	1,240	5%	1,240	4%
Total CSC Expenditure	25,473	100%	27,938	100%
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,063		55	
Increase in Trade Payables	(1,223)		124	
Total	25,313		28,117	

Notes

2020/2021



2019/2020



Notes

1. These figures were consolidated in FCDO's audited Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21.
 2. The CSC also engaged independent auditors to inspect the statement that the CSC submitted to FCDO. 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 2020/21, funds from DfE were channelled through FCDO, in line with government practice.
 5. The CSC holds no fixed assets.
 6. The CSC employs no staff.
 - 7a. Administration costs in respect of the FCDO Grant-in-aid, before adding VAT, increased by 0.2% to 1.5% of FCDO expenditure in 2020/2021, reflecting the overall reduction in programme resource compared with the prior year.
 - 7b. Combined costs of Administration and Programme Management, in respect of the FCDO Grant-in-aid before adding VAT, increased by 0.4% to 5.5% of FCDO expenditure in 2020/2021, reflecting the overall reduction in programme resource compared with the prior year.
 8. The contribution of UK Universities to CSC programmes, through maintenance payments and tuition fees, was a further £5.2m. 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

Sustainable Development Goals and Development 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 data below reflects the SDGs covered by Scholarships awarded in 2020 (up to 3 selected per Scholar)



CSC Development Themes

All Commonwealth Scholarships funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) are offered under six development themes.

Percentage of Commonwealth Scholarships applicable to each CSC development theme

The data below reflects the development themes of the 2020 Scholars

Strengthening health systems and capacity

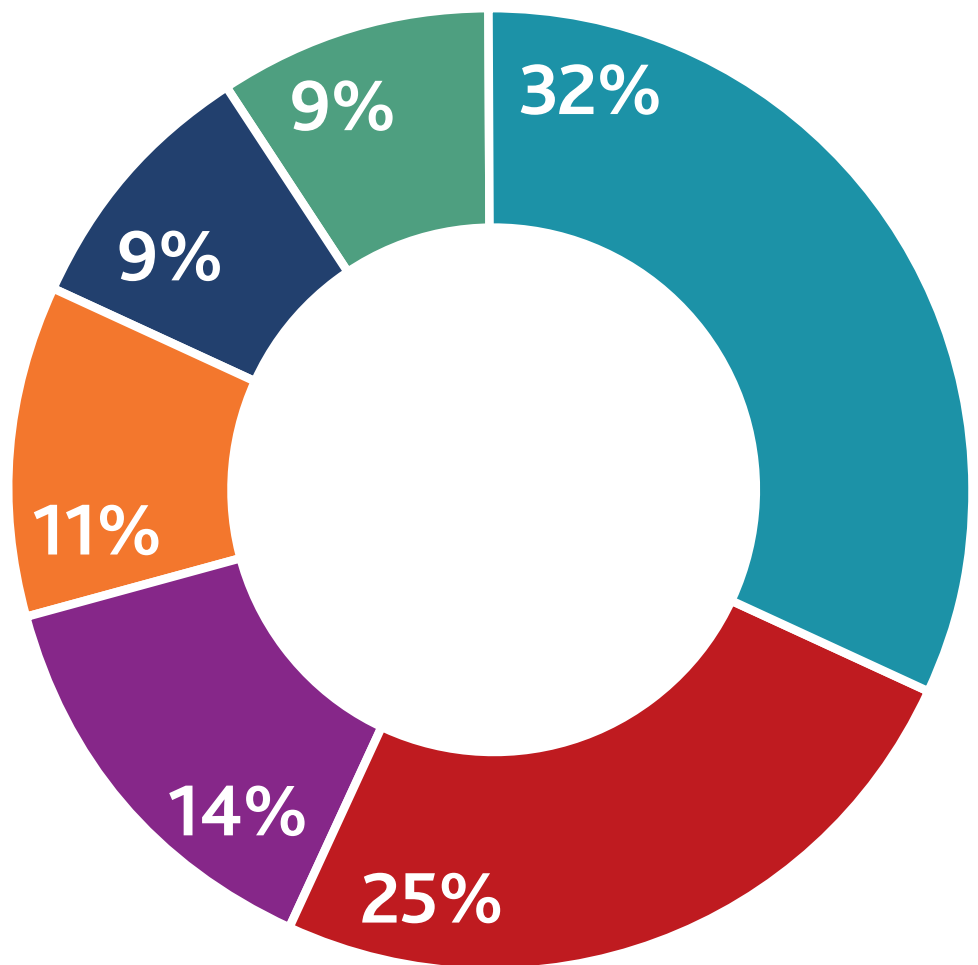
Science and technology for development

Access, inclusion and opportunity

Strengthening resilience and response to crises

Strengthening global peace, security and governance

Promoting global prosperity



Scholar engagement

The 'Leaders in Sustainable Development' Training Programme

Development training is a key part of the Commonwealth Scholarship award. The CSC aims to equip Commonwealth Scholars with the skills to achieve real development impact on their return home as well as create a community of motivated Commonwealth Scholars.

In the 2020-21 academic year, all Scholars on award were offered the opportunity to complete a 6-week online training course ('Understanding Development Impact') prior to attending one or more aligned workshops of their choice. Most of the 26 workshops offered through the Programme were run by AccessEd (a nonprofit organisation which works with researchers across the world) and INASP, an international development organisation with over 25 years' experience of working with a global network of partners in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

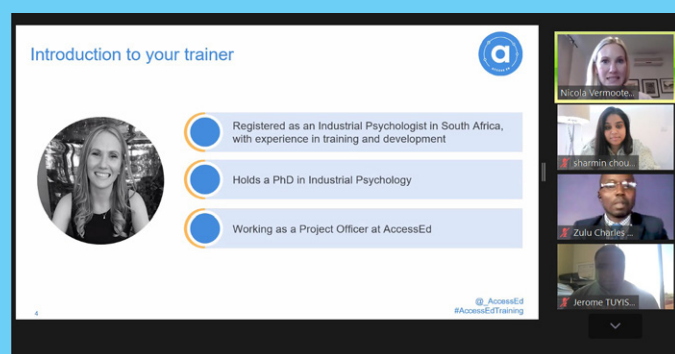
Scholar reflections on the 'Writing For Development' workshop

"It is a must-have training if one is serious about making a significant contribution towards research for sustainable development."

"I would definitely recommend this training to others because it not only helped me to understand the broader concept of research writing in the field of development but also gave Scholars a chance to critically engage and interact with each other and Katie has been a really motivational speaker. I look forward to more sessions by her on research writing for the development workshop"

Scholar reflections on the 'Preparing for Social Impact' workshop

"For young professionals like us, this training has many things to offer in order to work on figuring out the effective strategies for bringing sustainable social impact to my community and beyond."



Scholars taking part in a 'Public Engagement' workshop on 27 May 2021

Virtual meet ups for new Commonwealth Scholars

From September 2020 onwards, the CSC held a series of informal virtual meet ups to enable Scholars to meet each other and discuss their hopes and expectations for their scholarship experience. Scholars also had the opportunity to meet CSC Programme Officers and ask questions about their scholarship.

Regional Network Activity 2020-21

The 12 CSC Regional Network Coordinators (RNCs) organised and hosted 35 events over the year, including in-person picnics and UK city tours over the summer. The virtual events ranged from meet-and-greets, CSC alumni-led talks, PhD research discussions, a research symposium, wellbeing webinars, a virtual yoga session, Earth Day competitions, cooking and storytelling competitions.

Events such as the London & South East talk by Alumnus Professor Victor Oladokun (2015 Commonwealth Fellow and Professor of Industrial and Production Engineering at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria) served as inspiring reminders to many Scholars about the value of their research work and their goal to make an impact in their home countries after their Scholarship.

Scholar welfare and opportunities to network were embedded at the core of the RNC virtual activities, and it was heartening to hear back from Scholars about their opportunities to connect and have fun with each other while restrictions on meeting up in-person were in place.



CSC Welcome Event for Commonwealth Scholars

On 11 December 2020 the CSC held an online Welcome Event for new Commonwealth Scholars. The Welcome Event was hosted by Richard Middleton, Chair of the CSC, and featured guest speakers Professor Rita Akosua Dickson, Dr Dominique Thompson, and Dr Joanna Newman, as well as a special address from the Minister for South Asia and the Commonwealth, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon.

The event provided Scholars the opportunity to meet those studying under the same CSC development themes as them and engage in discussion on a relevant topic during breakout sessions. The breakout sessions were expertly chaired by CSC Commissioners and staff as well as continuing Scholars and our new Regional Network Coordinators.

The CSC hosted a climate change and sustainable development workshop in the lead up to COP26

On 28 May 2021, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and Chevening co-hosted a workshop focusing on climate change, sustainable development, and climate mitigation. This workshop was delivered by climate and international development specialist and Managing Director of AccessEd, Katie Booth. The workshop, 'Approaching COP26: Climate change and sustainable development in a warming world', was part of an ongoing programme of events and activities on climate action organised across HMG Scholarships in the lead up to the COP26 Summit in November 2021.

We were pleased to welcome 35 Commonwealth and Chevening Scholars to reflect on the impact of climate change in their regions and the challenges of implementing mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The workshop built on Scholars' current knowledge and research on climate change and the discussions explored the scope of sustainable development in the context of their home countries. The key findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the COP26 Goals formed a major part of the discussions during the session.

The final section of the event featured a keynote address by Simeon Abel, Consultant at the World Bank Group and Co-founder of the online survey sharing platform PollPool, on disaster risk finance and the implications for climate change.

Scholars are involved in the ongoing programme of activities taking place ahead of COP26 including participating in the CSC's #OurClimatePledge social media campaign.

Commonwealth Scholars speak out on the future of international tertiary education

From 15-17 June 2021, the British Council hosted the virtual conference Going Global 2021, which this year was focused on the theme 'Reimagining international tertiary education for a post-pandemic world'. Going Global is a conference on international education that brings together leaders from across the world to debate the future of further and higher education.

This year, three Commonwealth Scholars – Protus Musotsi, Emraan Azad, and Amisha Pathak – were involved in discussions with the British Council to feed into the sessions on the future of international tertiary education. One Commonwealth Scholar, Emraan Azad, was chosen to speak in the plenary session of Going Global on 17 June.

During the focus group discussions, the Scholars were asked questions about their experiences of being international students during the COVID-19 pandemic, the differences between the UK education system and that of their home country, and what their ideal education system of the future should include.

Parliamentary Event for Commonwealth Scholars 2021

On 7 July 2021, the CSC and Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) Support Group hosted an online Parliamentary Event for Commonwealth Scholars, featuring talks by UK Parliamentarians (Paul Blomfield MP, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, and Baroness Sugg), and discussion with close to 50 Scholars on topics ranging from international relations to policymaking and supporting good governance. Stephen Twigg, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) also discussed the role of the CPA and spoke of the vibrancy and dedication of Commonwealth Scholars, whose keen interests in addressing contemporary challenges could be clearly felt by their insightful questions to Parliamentarians.

This annual event offers Scholars an introduction to the workings of the UK Parliament and brings together an audience of Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum who are united by their shared interests in furthering educational opportunities and supporting international development through the Commonwealth.

Alumni engagement

Alumni Advisory Panel

The CSC's Alumni Advisory Panel facilitates the participation of Commonwealth Alumni in consultation exercises and pilot studies to support the development of CSC activities. It also provides the opportunity for alumni to take a more active role in evaluation and monitoring work. The panel further offers a mechanism to draw on the wealth of research and other knowledge and skills available to the Commission through the CSC Alumni Network.

The inaugural panel, appointed in September 2019 until August 2021, comprised 101 members. As of March 2021, the panel comprises 100 members and represents the CSC's diverse range of schemes, countries, and subjects of study. In the report year, the panel have consulted on the following four activities: testing and feeding back on the re-developed CSC website; reviewing the Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize and opportunities to promote research and impact within the CSC's doctoral community; evaluating the Alumni Engagement Strategy 2018-2021 and providing insight to support future strategy development; and testing the CSC 'Apply' section of the website.

Feedback from the panel has informed developments on each of these activities and contributed to ongoing work across CSC teams.

'Working on the panel has been such great joy as I got to learn of the activities that happen and also being given an opportunity to share my views. More than ever this opportunity has taught me a lot about certain research methodology I was not exposed to prior to this as well understanding the many facets that we as alumni can contribute to.'

'Even without Covid, you as a person generally can feel isolated and not part of a community but with the panel you had an opportunity to be part of a peer group, providing an opportunity for others to understand someone else's path and experiences and I was given a great opportunity to share and it met my expectations.'

For information about the members of the Panel, please see pages 45-48.

Knowledge Hub webinar series

In July 2020, the CSC launched the Knowledge Hub webinar series, as part of the existing online Knowledge Hubs which connect Scholars and alumni working in similar disciplines. This series enabled them to network and exchange ideas to support a shared sustainable development outcome under the CSC's six themes. Nine webinars have been delivered over the past year, covering topics including: youth, sport and cultural interventions in preventing violent extremism; volcano monitoring in the Eastern Caribbean; and drone technology and agricultural development.



Screenshot of a Knowledge Hub webinar titled: 'Development of printable solar photo devices towards achieving net zero targets'

In-country events

The British Council, which supports some pre-award and alumni engagement activities in 14 countries, delivered 30 virtual and 10 face-to-face events, including 15 pre-departure briefings to incoming Scholars, plus panel discussion and roundtable events, and welcome home opportunities for returning Scholars.

Interchange 21

On 8 and 9 March 2021, the British Council hosted Interchange 21, a new online engagement event for Commonwealth Scholars and Alumni, organised on behalf of the CSC.

The objective of Interchange 21 was to create a space for Scholars and alumni to connect with one another and learn about the work and impact alumni are making in their individual fields post-Scholarship. The event marked two significant dates in the Commonwealth Scholarship calendar, Commonwealth Day and International Women's Day, and showcased the unity of purpose amongst Scholars and alumni in delivering sustainable development impact and improving the lives of vulnerable communities through education, research, and knowledge sharing.

Featuring presentations from 37 alumni across a range of development issues, the event brought together a wealth of expertise with over 500 Scholars and alumni attending over the two days, and 420 joining for the welcome and keynote on 8 March.

Alicia Herbert OBE, Director for Education, Gender and Equality, and Gender Envoy at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) delivered the event keynote, in which she discussed the FCDO's Strategy on Gender and Girls' Education. Following this, four Commonwealth Alumni participated in a panel discussion on 'Why is Girls' Education Important?'. The panellists, who each represented different sectors and fields of work, were all united in their approach to promoting and contributing to the empowerment of women and girls. The panellists also provided useful insights into their different country contexts, specifically India, Rwanda, Nigeria, and Uganda.

Alumni Community Engagement Fund (ACEF)

The Fund supports Commonwealth Alumni in raising awareness of key development issues at the community level through an event or engagement activity.

Each year, the CSC selects the focal themes and invites alumni to draw on their knowledge and skills in delivering a community engagement activity addressing the themes. In 2020/21, the focus was on two international days: World Water Day on 22 March and World Health Day on 7 April.

In 2020/21 ACEF was adapted to an online delivery method and alumni had the opportunity to design and create a video information session for their chosen community. The aim of the session was to communicate key information and raise awareness about valuing water or tackling a health concern.

Raising cervical cancer awareness in Uganda

Cervical cancer is the most common cancer amongst women in Uganda. In 2017, it was reported to be the number one cause of cancer-related deaths. Without a formal national screening programme available, there is limited awareness of the disease and the importance of screening to aid early detection. Instead, a number of myths and misconceptions have developed which prevent women and girls from understanding the health risks and preventative measures available.

Four Commonwealth Alumni who all work in the Kabarole District area created a video to raise awareness about regular cervical cancer screening to avoid late-stage diagnosis when treatment is no longer possible. The alumni hoped that the video encourages girls aged between 10 and 13 years to take up the HPV vaccination which can reduce their chances of developing cervical cancer. The group included lead organiser, Dorine Natukunda a Medical Clinical Officer, Irene Kabachaki, a registered nurse, and Rebecca Balinja and Euphrasia Kabahuma, both registered midwives.

The video has been screened in the health clinics where the alumni work and they estimate that at least 90% of women attending the clinics have viewed the video. They are pleased to report there has been an increase in the number of women visiting the clinics for cervical screenings and that HIV positive women have become more aware of the extent of the risks to them and have shown eagerness to take advantage of the screening services in addition to their anti-retroviral treatment services.



Screenshot of an ACEF video for World Health Day

CSC climate-focused activities

in the year of COP26



The CSC delivered a programme of events and activities on climate action ahead of the COP26 summit in November 2021. On these pages we have highlighted a selection of key activities under this theme and examples from two Alumni working in the field of climate change.

Climate Action webinar series

Between 25 October and 19 November 2021, the CSC Alumni Team will host a programme of webinars, delivered by Commonwealth Alumni, on their work, research, and contributions to tackling the climate crisis. Through 15 webinars the series will explore climate-related issues across 10 countries, including climate finance, gender security, climate change governance, clean and green energy, and public health.

HMG Scholarships Alumni Climate Change Hackathon

In October 2021, the Chevening, CSC, and Marshall scholarship programmes will bring their global alumni together to develop innovative solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges our planet faces in a climate-focused policy hackathon.

Alumni Community Engagement Fund

In 2021/22, the Fund's activities will address one of two themes: climate action and girls' education.

Open to a range of related topics exploring the impacts of climate change and actions, these activities will take place between September 2021 and March 2022 and will promote changes that can be made at individual and community levels in response to climate-related challenges.



Sirazoom Munira

2015 Commonwealth Shared Scholar

Bangladesh

MSc in Risk and Environmental Hazards
Durham University

Supporting Bangladesh's representation at COP26

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) is an international partnership of countries which are highly vulnerable to a warming planet. Founded in 2009, it currently comprises 48 member states, representing some 1.2 billion people from Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific, and the Caribbean. In 2015, CVF established the V-20, a dedicated international collaboration of finance ministers tackling the climate crisis by mobilising economic responses and programmes to leverage public and private finance for enhanced responses.

As a result of Bangladesh's leadership in issues related to climate change, the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) inaugurated its South Asia Regional Center in Dhaka to forge regional and global partnerships, including the CVF. In 2021, I joined the GCA as a Programme Officer in its global support programme to the Forum as the primary liaison point with the Bangladesh presidency across the breadth of the CVF and V20 streams of work. My role includes analysing intergovernmental policy processes, arranging representational engagements with liaison focal points, and conducting cutting-edge research to support the CVF Special Envoy and Expert Advisory Group in ensuring effective implementation of CVF activities.

My ongoing activities supporting the Presidency are focused on realising its priorities for COP26, along with other domestic and international key aims. These activities include taking urgent action to combat the climate emergency by safeguarding the 1.5 degree climate goal under the Paris agreement, and supporting the promotion of a successful United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP26 outcome.

My journey with the CVF Presidency has been one that has allowed me to contribute to strong long-term impact to forge both national and international development – just as I had envisioned as a returning Commonwealth Scholar to Bangladesh from the UK. Undeniably, the Commonwealth Scholarship had a multiplier effect in my professional development as it opened doors to many new opportunities. With my appointment to represent GCA and work with South Asia Regional Office, I am living my dreams to help make a difference in the lives of climate-vulnerable communities across the world.

Farewell event keynote speaker

Commonwealth Alumnus Dr Margaret Jones Williams, 1993 Scholar from Jamaica, delivered the keynote speech at the CSC's Farewell Event in July 2021. Drawing on her extensive professional experience as the United Nations Development Programme's Deputy Resident Representative for Suriname and former Head of Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Unit / Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Point in Lao PDR, she discussed the impact and consequences of climate change across global challenges, and the important role we must play to ensure we leave no one behind. At the end of her speech, Dr Jones Williams shared advice with Scholars on what they can do as individuals and as a community to raise awareness of climate change and mitigate or adapt to its impact. Dr Jones Williams observed that there were two main ways to tackle the problem of climate change: mitigation measures that reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions; and adaptation measures that "minimise the risks posed by climate change through policy, behavioural change or structural measures".



Dr Margaret Alison Jones Williams gives a keynote address during the Farewell event to Scholars in July 2021

Science and technology for development

“The work of Commonwealth Scholars highlights the worldwide need for Open Science and Open Innovation to facilitate new solutions to social challenges. Open Data, based on the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable), requires stable and efficient internet services and in turn stable, reliable, and affordable energy supplies such as from solar power. A focus on these enablers will allow countries to find the best local solutions for achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Professor John Wood, CSC Commissioner

89%

of respondents to the 2020 survey rated support from the CSC as 'excellent' or 'good' (the top two categories)

76%

reported a substantial change to their capacity for critical thinking as a result of their Commonwealth Scholarship

Lighting up remote communities through solar home systems in Nigeria

The lack of consistent electricity access is a fundamental challenge across rural and urban Nigerian communities. Currently, communities only have access to a few hours of electricity per day, and occasionally experience a total blackout. With the national grid unable to meet national demand, the government is looking to alternative energy solutions and encouraging renewable, decarbonised, and decentralised electricity generation through mini grids.

After completing my Commonwealth Shared Scholarship, I joined Inter Solar Energy Ltd. Abuja, an indigenous mini-grid and solar energy start-up which works to install affordable solar home systems in rural communities and provide alternative energy solutions. I offer technical support towards installation, servicing, and technoeconomic analysis of mini grids and solar home systems. I also participate in community engagement programmes to create awareness of the environmental and economic benefits when energy consumers adopt renewable energy technologies.

Following the installation of the mini-grids, some communities are experiencing electricity for the first time, students now study and do their homework in the evening, and businesses are benefitting economically from extended hours and more reliable services.

My Master's studies empowered me with technical knowledge in the science and engineering of extracting, converting, and conserving energy from renewable energy sources. I learned various aspects of renewable energy resource assessment, generation, distribution, integration, and storage technologies along with the acquisition of energy data analysis skills.

Renewable energy must make economic sense, so analysing and communicating the rate of return to mini-grid developers, policymakers, and communities is important in achieving its widespread adoption. Through my research, I was able to demonstrate solar power as an economically feasible energy source to further promote solar as a renewable energy source in Nigeria.

Bridging the digital divide for remote communities in Guyana

Many of Guyana's indigenous population live in forested areas and the hinterland, which cover approximately 70% of the country. Due to a lack of public infrastructure, these communities are remote and often cut off from services such as power and internet access. Community members are therefore unable to access e-government services, such as births and death registrations, and often face long, difficult, and discouraging journeys to nearby cities.

As a Senior ICT Engineer at the National Data Management Authority (NDMA) I share the responsibility for ICT across the Government of Guyana. I manage the NDMA's provision of over 360 free internet hotspots in public buildings, markets, schools, and ICT hubs. Due to the costs associated with delivering internet to remote communities, some of which rely on generators and renewable energy sources to provide power, private Internet Service Providers have been reluctant to invest. The NDMA is often the sole internet provider and aims to sustainably bridge the

digital divide by increasing the availability of government services and e-learning.

I was responsible for the design and implementation of small solar power systems for eight remote communities across Guyana. In one community, Orealla, with an approximate population of 1,000 people, under my guidance we transformed the solar installation into a hub to allow for the distribution of power through a network of equipment across the community, including a student dormitory, police station, medical outpost, and a community benab (an indigenous building for socialising). This enabled us to maximise power and internet delivery within the community and to critical services. To date, we have delivered over 1 Petabyte of data to over 200,000 devices across the country. Through the United Nations Development Programme's 'ICT Access and e-services for Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities' project, I am developing the technical specifications for solar power equipment for over 100 communities.



Ginika Okoroafor

2019 Commonwealth Shared Scholar
Nigeria

MSc Renewable Energy Development
Heriot-Watt University



Riyad Sattaur

2015 Commonwealth Scholar
Guyana

MSc Information Systems and
Technology
City, University of London



Strengthening health systems and capacity

'The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown a light on the importance of strong, prepared and resilient health systems – ones that can respond both effectively and equitably to the health needs of all people. The Scholars supported by the CSC have undertaken and implemented innovative and ground-breaking studies that not only respond to the immediate health crisis of COVID-19 but also seek to build future health systems that are fair and accessible. These values and principles will ensure that every person can realise their right to health and high-quality healthcare – and that lies at the core of tackling this and future pandemics.'

Professor Sarah Hawkes, CSC Commissioner



96%

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

99%

of award holders would recommend studying in the UK

Spreading knowledge and developing tools to tackle COVID-19 in Bangladesh

I work as a Registrar at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), which is the largest tertiary medical centre in the country and acts as a referral centre for 64 district hospitals. With my Master's in infectious disease, I was selected to lead a team to develop a 800-bed COVID-19 unit at DMCH, and to help develop the national COVID-19 clinical management guidelines, alongside managing the healthcare of severe-to-critical COVID-19 patients. I identified appropriate rooms for patients to be screened for COVID-19 and converted rooms for hospital staff to safely change in and out of personal protective equipment. I liaised with surrounding hospitals to take on routine treatments to ensure patients could still receive medical care. I have also provided training to over 5,000 doctors and nurses and approximately 20,000 healthcare workers on how to manage COVID-19 based on the best treatment practices of COVID-19 patients at other healthcare centres.

Pre-COVID, the undergraduate medicine syllabus I taught did not include training on managing pandemic healthcare, and existing healthcare workers were not

prepared. I designed an online training course to support these workers and am currently working with the Government's ICT department to train doctors to provide telemedicine support.

In March 2020, I designed a publicly available symptom-based COVID-19 screening tool which was published on the national COVID website and has been used by over one million people to date. The tracker has been uploaded to the tablets of over 15,000 community healthcare providers, who serve communities of up to 6,000 patients. As one of the lead clinicians I collaborated with a research team at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) to invent a low-cost, locally-made, and electricity-free device, OxyJet, which can provide high-flow oxygen and save the lives of critically ill COVID-19 patients. Some patients need very high-flow oxygen, requiring access to an expensive high-flow device, which most hospitals do not have access to, nor the trained staff to manage. Following trials at DMCH, the government has given a conditional approval to use 200 OxyJet devices across the country.

Using mobile apps to overcome sexual reproductive health (SRH) barriers in Kenya

Despite the recent renewed global focus on tackling adolescent SRH challenges, in 2019 it was reported that 51% of new HIV infections in Kenya occur among 15–24-year-olds. My research involves developing and testing innovative SRH interventions, as well as addressing and breaking the stigma around women and girls accessing contraception. While working recently as a research coordinator with Sentum Scientific Solutions (an international development organisation), I tested different technologies, including mobile apps, to overcome contraceptive access barriers, and address knowledge gaps through information provision on SRH for young people. I have been developing a mobile app (MaOptions), which aims to increase emergency contraceptive access by eliminating financial and lack of confidentiality concerns. MaOptions also provides access to family planning methods to help reduce unintended pregnancies.

In the future, I plan to develop and test new SRH access and education interventions in

rural areas as part of my PhD by leveraging technology such as e-messages via mobile apps, while protecting user privacy. I also plan to be at the forefront in advocating for adolescent SRH, gender equity in health, and in the long-term to promote a multi-sector, holistic approach among NGOs and local communities to achieve better public health outcomes. As a CSC Regional Network Coordinator, I organised events and collaborated with a wide range of people who complemented my academic research. This has helped me build my interpersonal skills which I will develop further when working with young people in Kenya. I believe it is essential for young people to play a key part in developing any solutions regarding health, and I would like to work closely with them via working groups to develop technologies. I believe technology is the way forward - it can be life-changing and will be instrumental in boosting Kenya's health sector development.



Forhad Uddin Hasan Chowdhury

2017 Commonwealth Scholar

Bangladesh

MSc Tropical and Infectious Disease
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine



Protus Yabunga Musotsi

2020 Commonwealth Shared Scholar

Kenya

Master of Public Health
University of Nottingham



Promoting global prosperity

'As the world gears up to build back better, level up and advance broadly shared global prosperity, it has become even more imperative to equip talented individuals worldwide with the knowledge and skills they need to create and support scalable entrepreneurial ventures, or champion a wider diffusion of such skills. This report's vignettes on how Commonwealth Scholars' entrepreneurial initiatives are facilitating job creation, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability are greatly appreciated. These initiatives need amplifying.'

Professor Kevin Ibeh, CSC Commissioner



96%

award holders think
Commonwealth
Scholarships and Fellowships
are prestigious

95%

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

Transitioning to clean energy for cooking in Nigeria

I am the CEO and Co-Founder of Satlatena Nigeria Ltd., and a clean energy entrepreneur/expert, environmentalist, and a global advocate for affordable clean energy access and women's empowerment. Satlatena distributes Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and cookstoves for residential and commercial purposes in rural and peri-urban communities of Nigeria. Although LPG is an efficient, abundant, and clean-burning cooking fuel, many rural communities still use biomass and firewood, resulting in high levels of deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and erosion. Wood burning increases levels of carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, including black carbon (soot), which can cause health problems.

Nigeria's government has introduced policies to make LPG cylinders and cookstoves affordable and available. Through my company we support households and businesses to make the transition to eco and socially responsible energy sources. One of the current barriers to adopting LPG as an alternative fuel is the cost of the cookstoves and accessories, therefore we distribute free or subsidised

cookstoves and LPG fuel to rural and hard-to-reach communities in collaboration with other partners. During the implementation of LPG within five communities, we carried out sensitisation campaigns and provided free demonstrations and training on how to use and manage LPG cookstoves.

There are economic benefits to LPG as well as environmental and health benefits. In rural communities, 40% of household income is spent purchasing firewood or charcoal. Following community comparative research, we found that LPG is a far cheaper and more energy-efficient fuel, meaning households can save income to support other activities, such as paying school fees. The efficiency of stoves also means women spend less time cooking, allowing them to seek other opportunities, including income-generating activities, or more formal employment. I have received support from stakeholders supporting women in the energy sector, including the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit and the African Development Bank. As a female entrepreneur in a predominantly male

Investing in sustainable entrepreneurship in Cameroon

The growth in small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Cameroon suggests that business and entrepreneurship is a thriving sector, yet many individuals lack the practical skills and knowledge to unlock their entrepreneurial potential and secure financing for sustainable, long-term business ventures. Whilst many SMEs recognise the importance of return on investment as a priority of traditional investors such as banks, there is less understanding of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as a means of leveraging investment and improving business credibility.

CSR requires not only guaranteeing sustainable business practice in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also promoting diversity and ensuring the rights of employees are upheld. My Scholarship has been critical to understanding the scope of investment opportunities available to entrepreneurs and the importance of good CSR to successful business ventures. I provided

business consultancy for a company, SIMBlock, and sought finance to improve their business operation model. This project enhanced my skills in diagnosing business problems and offering solutions-based approaches to challenges such as access to finance, poor communications, and articulating a coherent business plan. The recommendations to SIMBlock included improving their value proposition by highlighting how to align the company's objectives with CSR principles and the SDGs to bolster their reputation and attract investment partners.

The knowledge I have gained during my Scholarship will help me support young entrepreneurs involved in start-ups and SMEs by demystifying the financing of their business ideas and ensuring these businesses are both sustainable and socially responsible. Given the high number of informal entrepreneurs amongst university students, as a teacher I am well placed to offer competency-based instruction and practical guidance that supports



Sophia Imite

2012 Commonwealth Shared Scholar
Nigeria

MSc Natural Resources (Sustainable
Environmental Management)
University of Greenwich



sector in Nigeria, I encourage women who can serve as entrepreneurs in the LPG sector. We are now implementing a project in several states of Nigeria to distribute thousands of cookstoves and transition to LPG. We are also partnering with organisations developing and implementing carbon offset projects in rural and peri-urban communities in Nigeria and beyond.



Femshang Muanze Charles

2020 Commonwealth Scholar
Cameroon

MSc Entrepreneurship Financing
Henley Business School, University of
Reading



entrepreneurial success and self-reliance. Through teaching and advocacy which empowers women entrepreneurs, my work can both support economic growth and advance gender equality in Cameroon. Post-Scholarship, I am returning to start an NGO called "FOSTER GREEN" which aims to raise awareness among entrepreneurs of the need to be eco-friendly to widen their financial options.

Strengthening global peace, security and governance

'The knowledge, skills and academic and professional networks that Commonwealth Scholars develop enable them to contribute to, and as their careers develop, to lead the maintenance of international peace and security and the strengthening of democracy and good governance, nationally and internationally. Commonwealth Scholars are spearheading solutions to the world's most pressing problems - failed states, climate change, human rights, data security - and are an important force for good in a troubled world. While strengthening partnerships between the UK and the Commonwealth, our Scholars are at the cutting-edge of science, technology and innovation and are developing frameworks for the rule of law and good governance, that will serve for many generations to come.'

Dr Catherine MacKenzie, CSC Commissioner

94%

of Scholars and Fellows use the skills gained through their Scholarship in their employment 'all the time or 'often'

Strengthening government policies in the Pacific region

I am a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law and Social Sciences at the University of the South Pacific's Laucala Campus in Suva, Fiji Islands, teaching undergraduate students in politics and international affairs and postgraduate students in development studies. I also carry out consultancy work for regional governments and the donor community. Several of these consultancy projects aim to strengthen governance in Solomon Islands and the Pacific region.

Between 2015-2017, I was engaged in a project to train and build public policy capacity among senior public servants in the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Vanuatu. The project targeted chiefs, directors, and senior public administrators, and focused on building analysis, problem identification, and public policy drafting skills. Many officers involved in the training had policies drafted or in place, however these were mostly developed by outside consultants due to a lack of in-house expertise in this area and did not necessarily address national needs. In

developing materials that were specific to the governments and countries, I provided real, relatable, and contextual examples which enabled officials to understand how policy approaches and development could be applied. In all three countries, participation was supported by the respective governments, demonstrating commitment to improving policy development and leadership in the region.

I am currently collaborating with researchers at the University of Birmingham in the UK and LaTrobe University in Australia as part of a research project into citizen state relationships in Solomon Islands, funded by the Development and Leadership Programme based at Birmingham, and the Australian government Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The project will seek to understand leadership in the context of the islands, and learn from successful leadership, which is often overshadowed by the recent history of corruption, conflict, and civil unrest.

The media: a global tool for social and political change

The news forms a significant pillar in upholding a democracy. Journalists have the power to drive change by bringing various developmental issues to the forefront of societal consciousness. I cover broad areas in my journalism, but I also have opportunities to delve deep into issues which are of particular importance to contemporary audiences. For example, through the mainstream broadcast media, informative documentaries, and long-form investigative articles, I plan to address gender inequality issues ranging from the underrepresentation of women in local newsrooms, to the 12 million girls who are out of school in Pakistan, and the gender pay gap across different industries around the world.

A measurable target is for me to double the coverage of core social issues such as girls' education in Pakistani media. The challenges I face are managing to influence and convince my editor or newsroom to allocate more airtime or column space to social issues. Greater networking, and an across-the-board effort which requires getting heads of all media channels together to bring about a systematic

change, alongside lobbying the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, will be required so that the increased media coverage can play a greater role in policymaking.

My Scholarship has been important in helping me expand my networks which will increase my influence: I am now connected to more researchers, policymakers, NGO members, advocacy group members, and international organisation members whom I can call upon to help pitch and provide expert knowledge and opinion on issues surrounding girls' education, femicide and gender inequality in Pakistan. I have also increased my knowledge of journalism ethics, which I want to encourage further in Pakistan. I have learned how to be sensitive when covering certain topics, the importance of fact-checking, and practised reporting stories to international audiences while ensuring that certain terms are universally understood. My next projects will focus on climate change, which clearly falls under the banner of solutions journalism: I will evaluate the latest proposed solutions and highlight whether they will work in the long run.



Gordon Nanau

2005 Commonwealth Scholar
Solomon Islands

PhD Globalisation, Ethnicity and
Governance
University of East Anglia



Hamna Iqbal Baig

2020 Commonwealth Shared Scholar
Pakistan

MA in Multimedia Journalism
University of Kent



Strengthening resilience and response to crises

'Global communities continue to face great challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to suffering crises from recurring natural disasters and threats from climate change. These challenges are complex with multiple effects, and solutions require innovative, often multi-systemic approaches. The research undertaken by Commonwealth scholars plays a crucial role in devising novel approaches and interventions to support vulnerable communities' resilience in the face of crises.'

Dr Christine Thurania-McKeever, CSC Commissioner

21%

of 2020 applicants stated 'current or former Scholar' as their source of information on Commonwealth Scholarships

829

alumni were added to the database

Rebuilding trust to tackle Covid-19 in Ghana

A particular challenge for policymakers in Africa involves the implementation of durable solutions to epidemics that meet the needs of the region's culturally diverse populations. In Ghana, Covid-19 is the latest in a series of health crises which interact in complex ways with existing humanitarian and economic challenges affecting people's livelihoods, wellbeing, and trust in public institutions.

My Scholarship research seeks to address this challenge by investigating the lived experiences of people in Ghana to understand how Covid-19 has affected their daily activities, employment prospects, and social relations, and to examine the efficacy of current government support measures. Whilst there have been challenges in conducting this research, particularly with surveying remotely located and marginalised groups with limited internet access, my hope is that my work can contribute to pragmatic policy interventions, which improve health risk co-ordination and communication, and help reformulate emergency governance and regenerate public trust

in governmental and non-governmental actors.

With my prior experience in acquiring development project funding, I will explore financing for these policy options focused on youth-led recovery. This will help to demonstrate the credibility of my research as a robust and multi-dimensional Covid-19 response. Achieving a Commonwealth Scholarship has been central to this research work; it has helped broaden my scope of knowledge and technical expertise in analysing humanitarian problems and formulating lasting solutions to issues such as conflict resolution, development aid provision, adaptation and recovery. My Scholarship has also expanded my career prospects in research and policy development, and disaster and crisis management, through specialist taught modules and the opportunity to attend conferences and events. Finally, as a Scholar I have built lasting networks with academics and peers within my discipline with the hope of undertaking a PhD in humanitarian response to further support my development ambitions.

Using urban slum data mapping to direct COVID-19 services in Bangladesh

Between 2018-2019, I was responsible for managing real-time data monitoring across approximately 400 slums in Bangladesh at the international development organisation BRAC. Recording the number of people living in slums is difficult due to the constant movement of people between slums and the influx of new dwellers. To improve data accuracy and better understand the demographics and slum conditions, I updated survey questions to gather qualitative data as well as quantitative data, including where the residents had travelled from and why to track the urban migration pattern, age and occupation, and the services available. We planned to share this data with the government and other relevant stakeholders and donors at the end of 2020 to inform longer-term support and relief for those living in slums across the country.

Following the first detected cases of COVID-19 in March 2020, Dhaka went into lockdown and individuals and volunteer groups mobilised to provide services and resources to those living in urban slums. But with no evident

coordination between these groups, lesser-known slums were not receiving aid and efforts were being duplicated in others. I created an interactive Urban Slum Map, an online database of urban slum dwellers of over 450 slums which individuals and organisations working to distribute relief used to plan effective and appropriate responses, reduce duplication, and maximise the reach of their collective aid efforts.

The database included the previously gathered quantitative and qualitative data and the geolocations of BRAC slum upgrading interventions. With the map, I became a focal point in connecting NGOs and other organisations and volunteers and providing information on the status of slums across the city. By liaising with those distributing aid, we were also able to introduce a colour coding system to show on the map to where aid had been distributed and the length of time before further aid and resources may be required. Going forward, the mapping can be expanded to support further interventions, such as disaster preparedness in slums and ongoing provision of relief and aid.



Richmond Amponsah

2020 Commonwealth Shared Scholar
Ghana

MA Development and Emergency Practice
Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP), Oxford Brookes University



Reasat Faisal

2016 Commonwealth Shared Scholar
Bangladesh

MA International Planning and Sustainable Development
University of Westminster



Access, inclusion and opportunity

'Inequalities in the distribution of resources and opportunities for many populations within and between countries are often system driven. Such inequalities have been further exacerbated by Covid-19. Commonwealth Scholarships support future leaders from low and middle income countries to build skills, knowledge and expert networks so that they bring an equity lens to their work, readdressing systems so that they are more inclusive, increasing access and removing barriers.'

Professor Nuala McGrath, CSC Commissioner



Boosting services for people with hearing loss in Nigeria

Deafness and hearing loss are widespread. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an estimated 466 million people worldwide have disabling hearing loss, and 1 in 4 people are expected to be living with some degree of hearing loss by 2050.

I am an otorhinolaryngologist at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital in Nigeria. Following my Commonwealth Scholarship, I established the first audiological medicine unit in the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital in August 2021. I have trained hospital personnel, including medical students and resident doctors, to increase unit support capacity, which will enable dedicated services to be provided to patients with hearing, speech, and balance

disorders at the hospital. I am currently working with colleagues and the Chief Medical Director to develop a training curriculum for residents at the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria to increase healthcare delivery for those with disabling hearing loss.

In 2014, I established and am president of the Hear-A-Voice Foundation, which raises awareness of hearing loss and provides free hearing assessments for those not otherwise able to access or afford these. During my Scholarship, I was able to collaborate with representatives from UK-based organisations providing hearing aid services. Following discussions and donations, the Foundation has been able to expand its services and can now provide and fit hearing aids to those most in need.

Advocating for the peaceful co-existence of diverse groups

Inclusivity, communal harmony, and equality of opportunities are fundamental to social progress, and are the driving forces behind regional and global peace. In post-colonial societies, a combination of strong international justice institutions and successful empowerment of marginal communities is integral to promote peace within international politics. Through my Scholarship I wish to identify the pitfalls of current justice mechanisms and suggest practical solutions. My career goals include involvement in consultancy and policymaking processes to assist the government in strengthening justice institutions such as the International Criminal Court and other human rights monitoring bodies.

I have observed how seriously the Rohingya people (in the makeshift camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh) consider the idea of justice in the whole context of forced displacement and statelessness. However, this perspective is not often duly considered in mainstream developmental dialogues by global stakeholders such

as UN agencies, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. I would therefore like to help empower marginalised groups such as ethnic and religious minorities, the LGBTQ+ community, and climate-induced displaced populations in community service-based learning processes, by which they will be able to build an understanding of various justice processes (e.g. repatriation and reparation), improve knowledge about how they can access legal aid, and communicate what justice looks like for them.

Justice cannot merely be imposed from the top by government-funded organisations. The work of justice institutions and the empowerment of marginalised groups are mutually dependent upon each other. The international networking opportunities that I gained during my Scholarship will help me share the outcomes of my developmental work to wider audiences at home and abroad.



Adoabi Elizabeth Osuji

2019 Commonwealth Scholar

Nigeria

MSc Advanced Audiology:
Audiovestibular Medicine
University College London



Emraan Azad

2020 Commonwealth Scholar

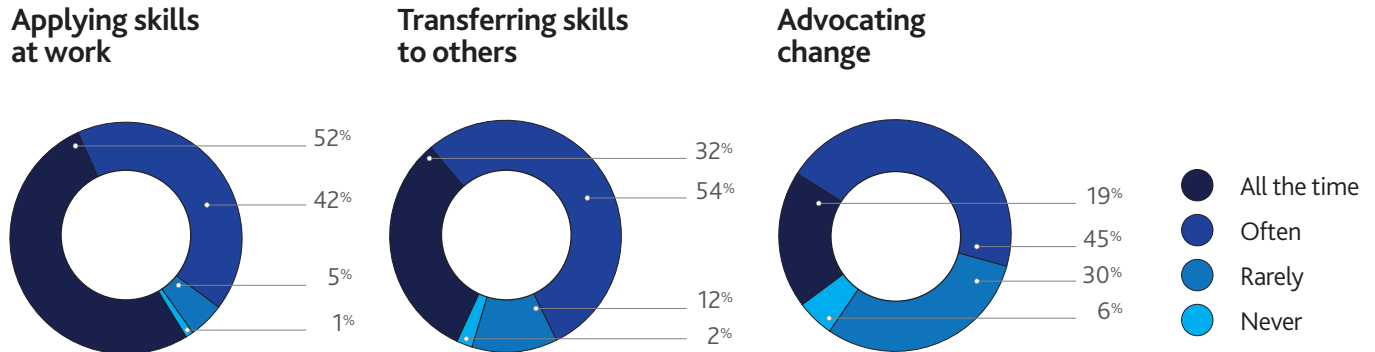
Bangladesh

LLM in Public International Law
University of Cambridge



2020-21 Indicators of Impact

Our alumni are using the skills gained from their award



97%
of 2020 FCDO-funded awards are for citizens of least developed and lower middle income countries and fragile states

95%
of award holders think awards are relevant to the needs of their home country

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:

- Health & Medicine
- Education
- Infrastructure & Engineering
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Climate Change, Environment & Conservation
- Science and Technology
- Economic Development
- Industry & Manufacturing
- Higher Education and Training
- Good Governance and Public Service

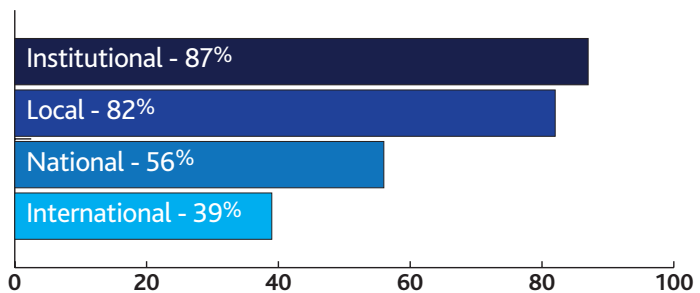
99%
of Scholars and Fellows have used the skills and knowledge gained and/or made changes in workplace as a result of their Scholarship

94%
of Alumni report continued contact with UK institutions and/or professional networks in the UK

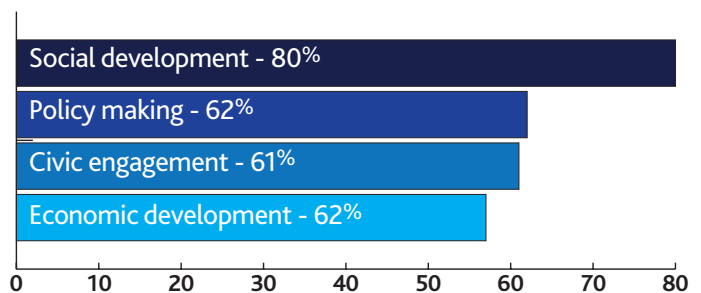
94%
of Scholars across all FCDO-funded programmes finishing awards in the report year returned to live/work in their home country or another low or middle income country

Our alumni are having impact on their institutions – and beyond

Level of impact reported

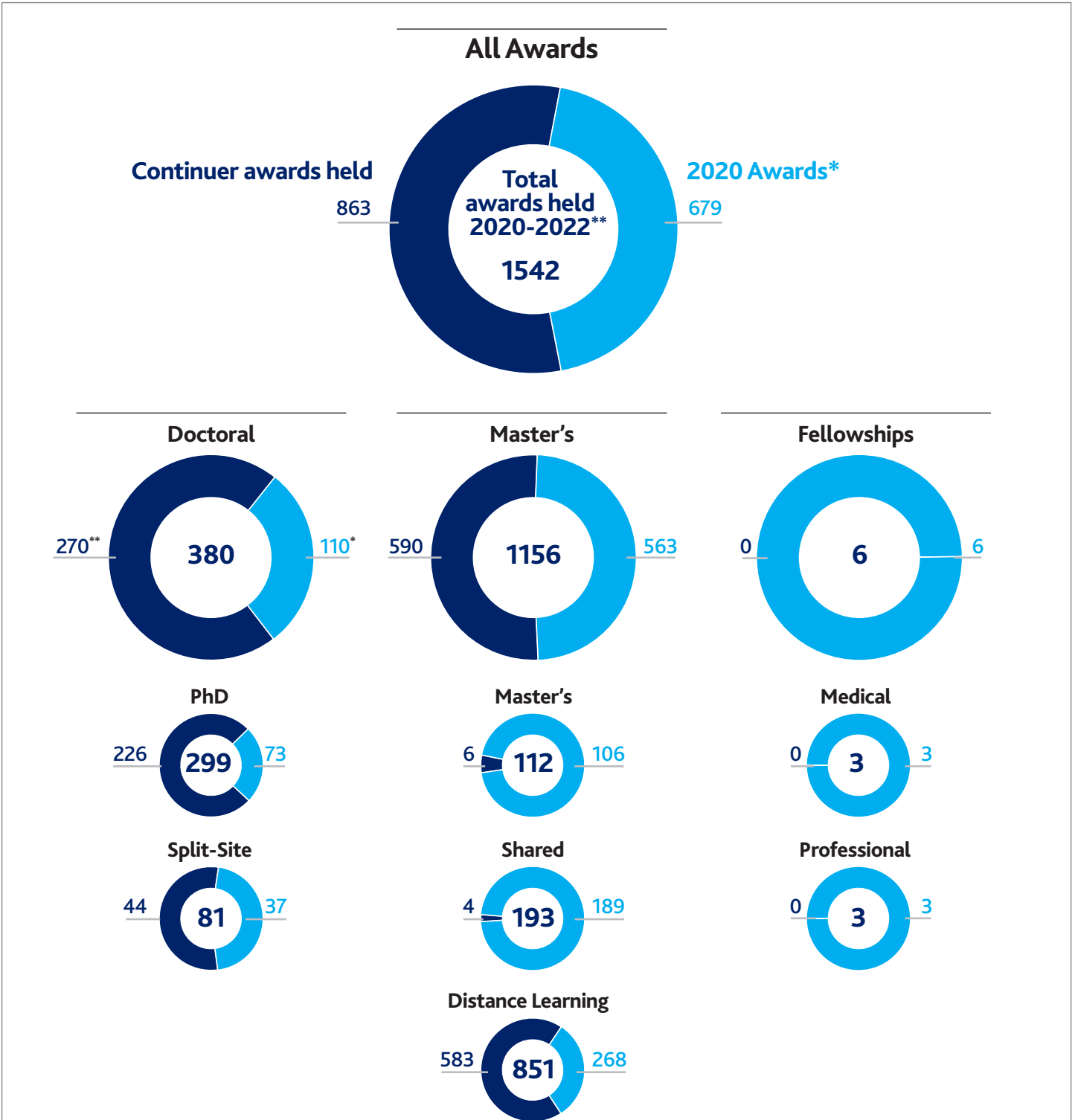


This impact happens in different ways



Our awards

The charts below show the total number of awards held (divided into continuers and new awardees for 2020), followed by charts showing award numbers by programme.



*Includes 5 awards funded by DfE

** Includes 14 awards funded by DfE

Figures for 2020 include 5 award holders selected in 2019 who deferred taking up their award to 2020.

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 Scholarships and Loans Board

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

Ministry of Education

Kenya

Public Service Office

Kiribati

National Manpower Development Secretariat

Lesotho

Department of Human Resource Management and Development

Malawi

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

Ministry of Education

Nauru

Federal Scholarship Board

Nigeria

Higher Education Commission

Pakistan

Department of Personnel Management

Papua New Guinea

Higher Education Council

Rwanda

St Helena Education & Employment Directorate

Education Learning Centre

Saint Helena

Department of Education, Innovation and Gender Relations

Saint Lucia

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

Training & Scholarships Coordination Unit (TSCU)

Ministry of Education

Vanuatu

Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Board

Zambia

Overall top ten National Priorities

(and the percentage of Agencies who listed each as one of their top five)

Health & Medicine	68%
Education	52%
Infrastructure & Engineering	45%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	41%
Climate Change, Environment & Conservation	39%
Science and Technology	36%
Economic Development	32%
Industry & Manufacturing	23%
Higher Education and Training	20%
Good Governance and Public Service	18%

NGOs and Charitable bodies

Canon Collins Trust
UK

The Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum
UK

Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)
Kenya

HALI Access Network
Kenya

Wellcome Trust
UK

Windle Trust International
UK

Academic advisers

Our selections were guided by a panel of nearly 300 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. Qammer H Abbasi	Dr. Amanda Callaghan FSB, FRES, SFHEA	Dr. Leslie Anne Duvic Paoli	Dr. Thomas Obel Hansen
Dr. Purva Abhyankar	Professor Mike Calnan	Professor Caroline Dyer	Professor Jenny Harding
Professor Sinan Acikgoz	Dr. Christine Campbell	Professor Mark Eisler	Dr. Michael Harker
Dr. Omar Al Tabbaa	Dr. Matthew Campbell	Professor Sherif El Khamisy FRSC, FRSB	Professor Catherine Harper
Professor Ashraf Alam	Dr. Wayne Carter	Professor Robert Elliott	Professor Jackie Harrison
Dr. Fabrizio Alberti	Professor Justin Champion	Dr. Charis Enns	Professor Oubay Hassan
Professor Stuart Allan	Dr. Frederick Changwony	Dr. Hannah Ensaff	Professor David Hassan
Dr. Christopher Allen	Professor Tracey Chapman	Dr. Rob Ewing	Professor Daniel Haydon
Professor Tim Allen	Professor Nic Cheeseman	Dr. Raziyyeh Farmani	Dr. Alan Javier Hernandez Alvarez
Professor Henrice Altink	Dr. Ernest Chi Fru	Professor Helen Fenwick	Professor Malcom Higgs
Professor David Anderson	Dr. Simeon Coleman	Professor Fragkiskos Filippaios	Professor Allan G. Hill
Professor Annie S Anderson	Professor David Collins	Professor Clare Finburgh Delijani	Professor Mark Hodson
Professor Ivan Andonovic	Professor David Collison	Professor Leslie Firkbank	Professor Michael Holdsworth
Professor Ruth Andrew	Dr. Kieran Michael Conroy	Professor Andrew Fleming	Professor David Hopkins
Professor Simon Andrews	Professor Stephen Coombes	Dr. Johann Fortwengel	Dr. Mathew Horrocks
Professor James Annett	Dr. William Coombs	Professor John Fossey	Dr. Alton Horsfall
Professor Timothy Arnett	Dr. Martin Crapper	Dr. Nunzianda Frascione	Dr. Mamdud Hossain
Dr. Salma Ayis	Professor Richard Craster	Professor David Fraser	Professor Zhu Hua
Dr. Juan Baeza	Professor John Crowe	Professor Laura Galloway	Dr. Stephen Hurt
Professor Liz Baggs	Dr. Alan Cuthbertson	Dr. Lucia Garcia Lorenzo	Professor Tom Hutchinson
Dr. Hamed Bahmani	Dr. Parviz Dabir Alai	Professor Sayantan Ghosal	Dr. Jaci Huws
Dr. Susan Barker	Professor Jo Darkwa	Dr. Emanuele Giorgi	Professor Munir Iqbal
Dr. Kashinath Basu	Professor Gail Davey	Professor Richard Giulianotti	Dr. Venkat Iyer
Professor Paul Beaumont	Professor Simon Davies	Professor Jon Gluyas	Professor Parmjit Jat
Professor Steve Beeby	Professor Simin Davoudi	Dr. Cristina Gonzalez Longo	Professor Nick Jenkins
Dr. Bibek Bhatta	Professor Jonathan Dawes	Professor Jonathan Goodhand	Dr. Michael Jennings
Professor Sanjoy Bhattacharya	Professor Susan Dawson	Professor Nandini Gooptu	Professor Mark A Jobling
Dr. Richard Blanchard	Professor Antonella De Santo	Dr. Neil Gordon	Professor Ian Jones
Dr. Barbara Bompani	Professor Veronica Della Dora	Professor Paul Gready	Professor Robert Kalin
Dr. Christine Bosch	Dr. Nicola Desmond	Professor Peter Gregory	Professor Uma Kambhampati
Professor Michael Bowe	Professor Prasanta Kumar Dey	Professor Fares Haddad	Professor Kevin Keasey
Professor Chris Bowen	Dr. Xavier Donadeu	Professor Geoff Haddock	Dr. Jonathan Kennedy
Dr. Naomi Brooks	Professor Han Dorussen	Professor Malcolm Halcrow	Professor Brendan Kenny
Professor David Brown	Professor Isabel dos Santos Silva	Professor Gerard Hamill	Dr. Mohamed Khamis
Professor Andrew Brown	Dr. Alex Douglas	Dr. Daniel Hammett	Professor Hafiz Khan
Professor Nick Brown	Professor Robert Dryfe	Professor Robert Hampson	Dr. Janine Kirby
Dr. Emma Burnett	Dr. Byron Dueck	Dr. Sally Hancock	Professor Susan Kirk

Dr. Charles W. Knapp	Dr. Christopher McHugh	Professor Sudipta Roy	Professor Ian Thompson
Professor Richard Kneller	Dr. Paula Misiewicz	Professor Jonathan Rushton	Professor Allen Thurston
Dr. Geoffery Zain Kohe	Dr. Alex Money	Dr. Wilber Sabiiti	Professor Iain Todd
Professor Paul Kong Thoo Lin	Professor Arumugam Nallanathan	Dr. Monower Sadique	Professor David Toll
Professor Jozef Konings	Professor Richard Napier	Dr. Juan Sagaseta	Professor Howard Tumber
Professor Konstantinos Kontis	Dr. Talat Nasim	Professor Neil Sandham	Dr. Liam Turner
Professor Panicos Kyriacou	Professor Penelope Nestel	Professor Mark Sandler	Professor Nick Tyler
Professor Ilias Kyriazakis	Professor Stephen T Newman	Dr. Gurchathen Sanghera	Professor Elaine Unterhalter
Dr. Ka Po Lam	Professor Sarah O'Brien	Dr. Devendra Saroj	Dr. Heini Vaisanen
Dr. Emma Lane	Dr. Haruko Okamoto	Dr. Nick Savage	Dr. Hans Vandierendonck
Dr. Gloria Chepngeno Langat	Dr. Tjeerd Olde Scheper	Dr. Neetesh Saxena	Professor Ann Varley
Professor Jane Langdale	Dr. Bukola Onarinde	Dr. Sean Semple	Dr. Kumar Vinod
Professor Susan Lanham New	Dr. Josue Ortega	Professor Bhaskar Sen Gupta	Dr. Brigitte Vollmer
Professor Hadi Larjani	Professor David Osrin	Professor Jane Setter	Professor Zia Wadud
Dr. King Hang Aaron Lau	Professor Bikash Pal	Dr. Graeme Shannon	Professor David Walker
Professor Mike Lean	Dr. George Palattiyil	Professor Suleiman Sharkh	Dr. Darren Walter
Professor Siow Ming Lee	Dr. Donald Maxwell Parkin	Dr. Tania Sharmin	Dr. LiLiang Wang
Dr. Yuhua Li	Dr. Edoardo Patelli	Dr. Katie Shaw	Professor Richard Washington
Dr. Pavel Loskot	Dr. Chris Paterson	Dr. Siddharudha Shivalli	Dr. Bethany Waterhouse Bradley
Dr. Antonio Miguel Loureiro	Professor Sheila Patrick	Dr. Javed Siddiqui	Dr. Andrew Watson
Professor Julie Lovegrove	Professor Helen Petrie	Dr. Sajid Siraj	Dr. Emily Webb
Professor Nicola Lowe	Professor Richard Phillips	Dr. Tom Sizmur	Dr. Landis Jared West
Professor Daniel Mackay	Dr. Kim Picozzi	Professor Lesley Smith	Dr. Gabrielle Wheway
Dr. Sean Mackay	Professor Kypros Pilakoutas	Dr. Jake Snaddon	Professor William Wisden
Professor Douglas C MacMillan	Professor Martin Powell	Dr. Panos Sousounis	Professor Geof Wood
Professor Gopal Santana Phani Madabhushi	Professor David Pyle	Dr. Heidi Stoeckl	Professor Adrian Wood
Professor Koushik Maharatna	Dr. Aleksandar Radu	Professor Jane Stuart Smith	Dr. Gaston Yalonzky
Professor Wolfgang Maier	Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman	Professor Stephen Sturzenbaum	Dr. Fred Yamoah
Ms. Karen E. Makuch	Professor Vivek Ranade	Dr. Hongjian Sun	Dr. Junli Yang
Dr. Baljinder Mankoo	Dr. Orsola Rath Spivack	Dr. Sirin Sung	Dr. Longzhi Yang
Dr. John Mason	Dr. J. Arjuna Ratnayaka	Professor Susan Taylor	Dr. Pamela Yeow
Dr. Amanda Mason Jones	Professor Paul Rea	Professor Neil Taylor	Dr. Gabriela Zapata Lancaster
Dr. Gerard McCann	Professor Emily Reid	Professor Peter Taylor	Dr. Sharif Zein
Professor Peter McElevay	Dr. Gwendolen Reilly	Dr. Kasim Terzic	Professor David Zhang
Dr. Alison McFadden	Professor Nigel Richards	Dr. Vijay Kumar Thakur	Professor Valentina Zharkova
Professor John McGrady	Professor Jane Rickson	Dr. Chandra Thapa	Professor Peilin Zhou
Professor Jim McQuirk	Professor Joseph Robson	Professor David Thomas	

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 £5.2 million. In the report year, Commonwealth Scholars studied at 96 UK universities.

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

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 4 UK organisations.

Birmingham Children's Hospital
Knowledge for Change
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
University of Salford

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, 99 overseas organisations either nominated candidates for or partnered with a UK university on Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships.

- Asian University for Women, **Bangladesh**
 Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, **Bangladesh**
 Bangladesh University of Textiles, **Bangladesh**
 Khulna University, **Bangladesh**
 Sylhet Agricultural University, **Bangladesh**
 University of Chittagong, **Bangladesh**
 University of Dhaka, **Bangladesh**
 University of Rajshahi, **Bangladesh**
 Commonwealth Association of Museums, **Canada**
 University of eSwatini, **Eswatini**
 Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, **Ghana**
 Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, **Ghana**
 University for Development Studies, **Ghana**
 University of Ghana, **Ghana**
 University of Health and Allied Sciences, **Ghana**
 Aligarh Muslim University, **India**
 Anna University, **India**
 Calcutta Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology, **India**
 Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur, **India**
 Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, **India**
 Indian Institute of Science, **India**
 Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, **India**
 Indian Institute of Technology, **India**
 Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, **India**
 Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, **India**
 Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, **India**
 Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, **India**
 Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, **India**
 Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, **India**
 Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, **India**
 Jawaharlal Nehru University, **India**
 National Institute of Technology, Warangal, **India**
 Panjab University, **India**
 Tata Institute of Social Sciences, **India**
 University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Panjab University, **India**
 University of Delhi, **India**
 Vellore Institute of Technology, **India**
 University of Technology, Jamaica, **Jamaica**
 University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, **Jamaica**
 African Centre for Population and Health Research Centre, **Kenya**
 African Centre for Technology Studies, **Kenya**
 Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, **Kenya**
 University of Nairobi, **Kenya**
 University of Malawi, **Malawi**
 Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, **Malaysia**
 Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, **Malaysia**
 Rushmore Business School, **Mauritius**
 University of Mauritius, **Mauritius**
 African University of Science and Technology, **Nigeria**
 Ahmadu Bello University, **Nigeria**
 Ebonyi State University, **Nigeria**
 Ekiti State University, **Nigeria**
 Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, **Nigeria**
 Federal University of Technology, Akure, **Nigeria**
 Federal University of Technology, Owerri, **Nigeria**
 Kano University of Technology, Wudil, **Nigeria**
 Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, **Nigeria**
 Obafemi Awolowo University, **Nigeria**
 University of Ibadan, **Nigeria**
 University of Ilorin, **Nigeria**
 University of Jos, **Nigeria**
 University of Lagos, **Nigeria**
 University of Nigeria, **Nigeria**
 University of Port Harcourt, **Nigeria**
 COMSATS University Islamabad, Abbottabad Campus, **Pakistan**
 Fatima Jinnah Women's University, **Pakistan**
 Information Technology University, **Pakistan**
 International Islamic University, **Pakistan**
 Lahore College for Women, **Pakistan**
 Lahore University of Management Sciences, **Pakistan**
 Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, **Pakistan**
 N. E. D. University of Engineering and Technology, **Pakistan**
 National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, **Pakistan**
 National University of Sciences and Technology, **Pakistan**
 National University of Sciences and Technology, **Pakistan**
 Quaid-i-Azam University, **Pakistan**
 University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, **Pakistan**
 University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, **Pakistan**
 University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar, **Pakistan**
 University of Sindh, **Pakistan**
 University of the Punjab, Lahore, **Pakistan**
 Papua New Guinea University of Technology, **Papua New Guinea**
 University of Goroka, **Papua New Guinea**
 University of Rwanda College of Medical and Health Sciences, **Rwanda**
 University of KwaZulu-Natal, **South Africa**
 University of Pretoria, **South Africa**
 University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, **Sri Lanka**
 University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, **Sri Lanka**
 Institute of Financial Management, Dar es Salaam, **Tanzania**
 Makerere University, **Tanzania**
 Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, **Tanzania**
 The College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), **Tanzania**
 University of Dar es Salaam, **Tanzania**
 Kulika Educational Trust, **Uganda**
 Makerere University, **Uganda**
 Mbarara University of Science and Technology, **Uganda**
 National Environment Management Agency, **Uganda**
 National Water and Sewerage Trust, **Uganda**
 University of Zambia, **Zambia**

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 Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) is the lead department and main sponsor. Other financial contributions (received during the period of the report) have been from the Department for Education (DfE), for scholarships for candidates from high income countries. 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 FCDO 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 FCDO, 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 officers 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 Morag McDonald (Deputy Chair)

Page 42 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 office at Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HF serve as the CSC's headquarters.

Some pre-award and 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 FCDO 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 serious personal data incidents in 2020-21.

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 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 and make judgments and estimates on a reasonable basis.

The CSC has regard to the Framework Document, agreed between the CSC and FCDO, which sets out finance and accounting requirements in meeting these obligations. The Permanent Secretary and Accounting Officer of FCDO 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.

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 awards.

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 except an honoraria of £300 for selection meetings only. 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 financial 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 normally 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 2020-21

Mr Richard Middleton (Chair) 100% 3/3

Professor Madeleine Arnot 100% 3/3

Professor Anne Anderson 100% 1/1 (to end of December 2020)

Professor Brian Faragher 100% 1/1 (to end of December 2020)

Professor Sarah Hawkes 66% 2/3

Professor Paul Jackson 33% 1/3

Ms Emma Judge 100% 3/3

Professor Catherine MacKenzie 100% 3/3

Professor Nuala McGrath 100% 3/3

Professor Morag McDonald 100% 3/3

Professor Alfredo Saad Filho 66% 2/3

Professor Mary Stiasny 100% 1/1 (to end of December 2020)

Dr Christine Thuranira-McKeever 100% 3/3

Professor John Wood 100% 3/3

Ms Anisa Dhanji 100% 1/1 (1 March to 14 June 2021)

Professor Kevin Ibeh 100% 2/2 (from 1 March 2021)

Professor James Smith 100% 2/2 (from 1 March 2021)

Professor Parmjit Jat 100% 2/2 (from 1 March 2021)

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 FCDO 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 CSC's Counter Aid Diversion Strategy (CADS) with oversight of this and monitoring at each meeting of the CADS Action Plan
- Its oversight of Safeguarding, Anti-fraud measures and GDPR

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

The Chair has individual conversations with Commissioners each year. These meetings focus on Commission performance and individual contributions. The Chair had review meetings with each of the four Commissioners due for reappointment during the period of this report in order to make recommendations to the Minister. Commissioners also had the opportunity to relay via FCDO any feedback on the performance of the Chair. The Commission has taken forward the recommendations provided by FCDO IAD in their audit of Commission Board Effectiveness and has developed a process for annual review of Commission effectiveness from 2021.

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 2020/21, 89% 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 FCDO'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 FCDO on risk management issues and in the year of report commissioned an audit of Board Effectiveness from FCDO Internal Audit Department in order to build on the work undertaken following the previous audit of CSC Governance. 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 after mitigation in 2020/21, although Covid-19 posed a significant risk during the period, which the Commission had to monitor closely and take action to mitigate the effect both on its Scholars and operations.

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 2020 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 FCDO 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 FCDO's Scholarships Unit, 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 FCDO, FCDO's 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 results of such reviews, on the effectiveness and fitness for purpose of systems of internal control by the ARM Committee.

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, and FCDO IAD undertook an audit of GDPR during the 2020/21 financial year with all recommendations from that being taken forward.


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.

C) Parliamentary 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

Membership of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

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 Morag McDonald

Deputy Chair, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK and Chair, Finance Committee Dean of College of Environmental Sciences & Engineering at Bangor University

I am Professor of Ecology and Catchment Management at Bangor University. I have been an active researcher in international environmental issues for over 25 years, with broad research expertise in forest restoration through fallow management. I have field experience in 14 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Professor Madeleine Arnot

Chair, Awards Policy Committee and Lead Commissioner Education Programme Emerita Professor of Sociology of Education, Jesus College, University of Cambridge

As a sociologist, I have had over 40 years' experience supervising international graduates on social justice and inclusion in education, especially in relation to gender, ethnicity/'race' and social disadvantage and have advised on gender equality policies and citizenship education. I directed a five-year DFID funded research project in Kenya, Ghana, India and Pakistan on youth, poverty and citizenship and currently edit a monograph series on 'Education, Poverty and International Development'. In recent years, I have focused on the education of displaced youth and founded the Centre for the Study of Global Human Movement at

Cambridge. As CSC lead on Education and Training, I am keen to support innovative teaching and research partnerships across the Commonwealth.

Professor Sarah Hawkes

Professor of Global Health, University College London

I am Professor of Global Public Health at UCL, where I also lead the Centre for Gender and Global Health. I undertake research on the evidence-to-policy process and work with both the multilateral systems and national governments to promote gender-responsive policies to improve health.

Professor Paul Jackson

Chair, Evaluation and Monitoring Committee and Lead Commissioner Knowledge Hubs Professor of African Politics and Director of Research, College of Social Science, University of Birmingham

I have a lot of experience of working with Commonwealth Scholars at postgraduate level in Birmingham and internationally. I am Director of Research for the social sciences and a researcher with extensive experience across the Global South, specialising in post-conflict governance. I also sit on several international committees, including the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration, where I am responsible for monitoring SDG16 and am a member of the UK Research Excellence Framework panel for Development and Anthropology.

Emma Judge

Lead Commissioner Development Impact Interim Director of Sense International / International Development Consultant

I am an international development consultant and published author, with a special interest in disability, health and education. I have spent more than 25 years 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, and strengthening pathways to impact using an evidence based approach. I am currently serving as the Interim Director of Sense International, an INGO working with people with deafblindness in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

Dr. Catherine MacKenzie

**Chair, Audit & Risk Management Committee
Dean of Degrees, Green Templeton College Oxford &
Director of Studies in Law, Clare Hall Cambridge**

As a former Commonwealth Scholar myself (UK to Australia 1995- 99), I have a long term commitment to upholding the values of the Commonwealth and to ensuring that CSC continues to play an important role in the UK's development aid strategy, helping to build a safer, healthier and more prosperous world. My research, in international environmental law, corresponds closely with the SDGs and as a barrister, I have a particular commitment to upholding the rule of law and promoting good governance. I also serve as a Governing Master of the Bench of Inner Temple (Inn of Court for barristers), have leadership roles in legal, architectural and agricultural education and training and have worked with the United Nations, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

Professor Nuala McGrath

**Lead Commissioner Equity and Access
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 subSaharan Africa and training future global health specialists.

Professor Alfredo Saad-Filho

**Professor of Political Economy and International
Development, and Head of Department of
International Development at King's College London**

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

Dr. Christine Thuranira-Mckeever

**Director of Distance Learning, Royal Veterinary College
(RVC), University of London**

In my role, I work with post graduate students from around the world and have supported many cohorts of Commonwealth Scholars over the last ten years. As part of this work, I also regularly engage with institutions in the global south to create partnerships to support students and in so doing, help strengthen their institutional capacity. My academic background is in agricultural economics and I spent the early part of my career working in international development.

Professor John Wood CBE, FREng

I am a materials scientist by background focusing on non-equilibrium processing of materials. I have held academic posts at several UK universities and ended my academic career as Principal of the Faculty of Engineering at Imperial College in London. Before that I was seconded from Nottingham University to the Central UK laboratories as Chief Executive and became heavily involved in international research policy and research infrastructures including as a founder director of the Diamond Light Source. After Imperial College I was appointed Secretary-General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities. I remain a consultant to CERN in Geneva. I am a member of Brunel University Council. I hold a number of honorary professorships at UK universities. I chair the advisory board of the Spanish Energy Institute.

Professor Kevin Ibeh

(from 1 March 2021)

**Lead Commissioner Marketing, Communications and
Brand
Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) and Professor
of Marketing and International Business at Birkbeck,
University of London.**

I started my academic career in Africa and I have particular interest in advancing internationalisation and international entrepreneurship activities among firms in Africa, the Global South and beyond, as a route to facilitating sustainable economic development. My consulting and advisory work with the World Bank, the OECD, UNCTAD, and others has focused on the above themes, including the emergence of African multinationals. I am Lead Series Editor of the Palgrave Series of Entrepreneurship in Africa and the immediate past chair of the Universities UK sub-Saharan Africa policy network. In addition to senior leadership roles in the UK HE sector, I have served and continue to serve in expert capacities for universities and organizations across Africa, Asia, Australasia, the Caribbean, Europe, and North America.

Professor Parmjit Jat

(from 1 March 2021)

Professor of Molecular Cellular Biology in the UCL Institute of Prion Diseases at UCL, MRC Investigator within MRC Prion Unit at UCL and Departmental Graduate Tutor

I am an MRC Investigator and lead the Cell Biology Programme. I am also the Departmental Graduate Tutor responsible for the Unit 4yr PhD programme.

Before joining the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology to work closely with the MRC Prion Unit, my research interests were focussed on disorders of cell growth including cancer with an emphasis on cell immortalisation. I developed the "Immortomouse", a novel H-2Kbtsa58 strain of mice that can be used to derive conditionally immortal cells from a wide variety of tissues.

Since joining the Prion Unit, I have maintained my research interest in cancer but have focused on prion research and led the development of in vitro cell models for propagating human prions in culture and investigating how they cause neurodegeneration.

Professor James Smith

(from 1 March 2021)

Vice Principal International and Professor of African and Development Studies at the University of Edinburgh

I am responsible for shaping and implementing the University's Internationalisation Strategy, activities and collaborations. I am a former director of the University's Centre of African Studies and Global Development Academy. Prior to joining the university in 2003 – initially as a research fellow – I worked at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and Oxfam Southern Africa.

My research focuses on the role of science, technology and innovation in poverty alleviation. My current work examines research into and control and treatment of African trypanosomiasis in both humans and animals across the tsetse fly belt of Africa.

Professor Anne Anderson OBE

(to end of December 2020)

Deputy Chair, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

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 Brian Faragher

(to end of December 2020)

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 SubSaharan Africa and Central Asia.

Professor Mary Stiasny OBE

(to end of December 2020)

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.

Anisa Dhanji

(1 March to 14 June 2021)

I practiced as a solicitor specialising in intellectual property/commercial law until my appointment as a Judge in 2000. I have served on the Board of the International Association of Women Judges, representing them at international events, and delivering training for women judges. I have also served on the Board of Focus Europe, which supports emergency disaster relief in the developing world.

Alumni Advisory Panel

The CSC's Alumni Advisory Panel facilitates the participation of Commonwealth Alumni in consultation exercises and pilot studies to support the development of CSC activities, and provides the opportunity for alumni to take a more active role in evaluation and monitoring work. The panel also provides a mechanism to draw on the wealth of research and other knowledge and skills available to the Commission through the CSC Alumni Network.

Recruited in August 2019 for the term 2019-2021, the panel comprises 101 Commonwealth Alumni and represents the CSC's diverse range of schemes, countries, and subjects of study. In the report year, the panel have consulted on the following four activities: providing feedback on the CSC's online development module, 'Understanding Development Impact'; providing insight into distance learning experiences to inform the development of a review into the CSC's distance learning programmes; taking part in a review and validation activity on the recent Diary Studies pilot project; and sharing feedback on return experiences immediately post-Scholarship and any challenges and enabling factors to impact experienced, to inform on the support provided to Scholars at this award stage.

Feedback from the panel has informed developments to each of these activities and contributed to ongoing work across CSC teams.

The below members comprise nearly the entire Panel and have agreed to have their names published in this year's Annual Report to Parliament:

Professor Fati Astapawa Adama

Department of Agricultural and Environmental Engineering,
Faculty of Engineering, Modibbo Adana University, Yola
Adamawa State Nigeria

2007 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Nigeria

Stephen Adombire

Head of Nursing (Ag.), Sandema Hospital, Ghana Health
Service

2017 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Ghana

Dr Emmanuel M. Akpabio

University Lecturer, Department of Geography & Natural
Resources Management, Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Uyo, Nigeria

2004 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Nigeria

Professor Margaret Akpomi

Lecturer, Rivers State University, Portharcourt, Nigeria

2007 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Nigeria

Professor Upali S. Amarasinghe

Professor Emeritus, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

1999 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Sri Lanka

Ram Niwas Arya

HDR Student, The University of Sydney

2002 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from India

Dr Enowntai Nkongho Ayukotang OD, MPHEC, FAAO

Lecturer, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Buea,
Cameroon

2016 Commonwealth Scholar from Cameroon

Babalola Olusola

Head, Strategic Planning and Partnerships, Emerging
Markets Telecommunication Services Limited, Nigeria

2006 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria

Professor Callistus Welchy Baliddawa

Professor of Pest Management, Gulu University, Uganda

1980 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda

Yvonne Chigumira

Entrepreneur and Director, self-employed

2015 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Zimbabwe

Professor M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury

Professor, University of Dhaka

1997 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh

Dr Emmanuel Dugan

Research Scientist, Council for Scientific and Industrial
Research - Soil Research Institute

2008 Commonwealth Scholar from Ghana; 2016

Commonwealth Academic Fellow

Dr Saima Eman

Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Psychology,
Lahore College for Women University

2012 Commonwealth Scholar from Pakistan

Etsula Olive

Supply Chain Specialist/Consultant, Tenderzville Portal (K);
Deputy Chair, KISM Writers' Club, Kenya Institute of Supplies
Management

2009 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Kenya

Afolabi Fajemilo

Executive Director, Festus Fajemilo Foundation

2014 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Nigeria

Professor Dr Biswas Karabi Farhana

Professor, Department of Environmental Science and
Management, North South University

2001 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh

Dr Abdullah Al Faruque

Professor, Department of Law, University of Chittagong

2001 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh; 2009

Commonwealth Academic Fellow

Cherisse Francis

Doctoral Candidate, University of Warwick

2017 Commonwealth Scholar from Barbados

Dr Tusharkanti Ghosh

Chief TWT Design Specialist, Teledyne UK

1998 Commonwealth Scholar from India

Dr Chee Peng, HOR

Deputy Director (Clinical) and Clinician, Kepala Batas Hospital, Ministry of Health, Malaysia

2011 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Malaysia

Dr Samuel M. Imathiu

Senior Lecturer, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

2003 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Kenya

Dr Haseeb Md Irfanullah

Independent Consultant - Environment, Climate Change, and Research System, Bangladesh

2001 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh

Dr Md. Rashedul Islam

Associate Professor, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Bangladesh

2012 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Bangladesh

Dr Vijith Jayamanne

Professor in Food Science and Technology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka

2002 Commonwealth Scholar from Sri Lanka; 2015 Commonwealth Academic Fellow

Daniel J. Kirui

Regional Coordinator for Youth Affairs- Nairobi Region, State Department for Youth Affairs-Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs- Kenya

2010 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Kenya

Dr Judith Kabajulizi

Assistant Professor (Academic), Coventry University Business School

2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda

Tukiya Kanguya

Research Coordinator, Centre For Infectious Disease Research, Zambia

2016 Commonwealth Scholar from Zambia

Dr Kathiresan Ramanathan

Professor of Agronomy (Retired), Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, India

1997 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India

Professor Francis Kemausuor

Associate Professor, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

2005 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Ghana

Dr Kitiabi Reginah Kiti M.K

Private/Public Sector Development, Trade Facilitation Adviser; Senior Lecturer Management Practice and Finance, University of Nairobi, School of Business, Kenya

1999 Commonwealth Scholar from Kenya

Dr Patience Kiyuka

Postdoctoral Scientist, National Institutes of Health

2013 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Kenya

Deepa Kylasam Iyer

Researcher

2017 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from India

Dr Dacia Leslie

Research Fellow, The University of the West Indies, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economic Studies

2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Jamaica

Dr Mark Levick

Chief Executive Officer, Alvotech

1994 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia

Alphart Lungu

Policy and Advocacy Officer, SADC Malaria Elimination Eight

2015 Commonwealth Scholar from Zambia

Dr Thelma K. Tlhaselo-Majela

Executive Dean of Academic, Phronesis International College (PIC)

2001 Commonwealth Scholar from Botswana

Engr. Dr Muhammad Imran Majid, CEng, MIET, SMIEEE

Associate Professor & Head of Electrical Engineering Department, College of Engineering & Sciences, Institute of Business Management

2006 Commonwealth Scholar; 2017 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Pakistan

Mariam Malik

2012 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Pakistan

Susan Chinangwa Manyetera

Chief Quality Audit Officer, National Council for Higher Education

2013 Commonwealth Scholar from Malawi

Glory E. Mbah

Assistant Lecturer, Higher Teacher Training College (HTTC), University of Bamenda

2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Cameroon

David Mchembere

Head of Ethics and Integrity Department, Kenya Ports Authority

2014 Commonwealth Scholar from Kenya

Anna Mohase

Landscape Coordinator, World Wildlife Fund - Guianas Office (WWF-GUIANAS)

2013 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Guyana

Karen Moore

Senior Policy Analyst, Global Affairs Canada

1998 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada

Dr Ria Mukherjee

Specialist (Talent Development), Tata Consultancy Services

2013 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from India

Muhammad Umar Mukhtar

Research Fellow (Energy Transport & Environment), SAARC Energy Centre

2013 Commonwealth Scholar from Pakistan

Eng. Mary Mwogeza

Project Manager, Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited

2008 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda

Dr Wilma S. Nchito

Director, Research and Post Graduate Studies, University of Zambia

2009 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Zambia

Shephard Ndlovu

Senior Lecturer in Fire Safety Engineering, University of Central Lancashire

1997 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Zimbabwe

Dr Mercy Ebere Ndubueze-Ogaraku

Lecturer (Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics), University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

2017 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Nigeria

Ngeni Siphiwo

Deputy Chief Education Specialist: E-Teaching and Learning

2013 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from South Africa

Alex Uchenna Nwoko

Information Management Specialist, UNICEF Ethiopia

2015 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Nigeria

Dr. Chidinma Obieze

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust, Specialty Doctor

2016 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Nigeria

Professor Mark James Obwolo

Professor, Gulu University

1982 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Uganda

Onyegecha N. Ofurum

Director (Special Duties), National Business and Technical Examinations Board, Benin City

2014 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Nigeria

Dr Okot Nicholas

Economist, Bank of Uganda

2015 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda

Professor Victor Oluwasina Oladokun

Professor, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

2015 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Nigeria

Dr Olugbemi Olukolade

Clinical Psychologist, University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

2015 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Nigeria

Dr Ayomide Oluseye

Postdoctoral Fellow, United Nations University, International Institute of Global Health

2015 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Nigeria

Dr Jacob B. Omajali

Lecturer, Department of Chemistry and Biological Sciences, Thompson Rivers University

2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria

Peter Opio Ocheng

Lecturer, Uganda Martyrs University

2013 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Uganda

Dr Rachael Osagie

Academic Researcher, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State, Nigeria

2015 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Nigeria

Dr Francis Otto

Manager - Knowledge Hub, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

2013 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda

Dr Rotimi Owolabi

Public Health Physician and Global Health Researcher, University of Abuja Teaching Hospital

2014 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria

Dr Blessing Mbaebie Oyedemi

Lecturer, Micheal Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike

2017 Commonwealth Academic Fellow

Professor Lynne Pepall

Professor of Economics, Chair, Department of Community Health, Tufts University, USA

1976 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada

Monira Rahman

Founder, Innovation for Wellbeing Foundation

2012 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Bangladesh

RM Faizur Rahman

Police Super, Bangladesh Police, Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of Bangladesh

2008 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh

Dr Agrima Raina

Consultant- Adolescent Health, Ministry of Health and Family
Welfare, Government of India

2014 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from India

Dr Kavita Raja

Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology, Sree
Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology,
Government of India

2006 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from India

Professor Nandini Ramanujam

Full Professor (Professional), Co-Director Centre for Human
Rights and Legal Pluralism, Faculty of Law, McGill University

1990 Commonwealth Scholar from India

Dr Roshan Teewary Ramessur

Associate Professor, University of Mauritius

1985 Commonwealth Scholar from Mauritius

Dr Bushra Rashid

Professor, Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology, University of
the Punjab Lahore Pakistan

2012 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Pakistan

Dr Himmat Singh Ratnoo

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Maharshi
Dayanand University

1990 Commonwealth Scholar from India

Professor Louise Ravelli

Professor, University of New South Wales, Sydney

1987 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia

Dr S M Shameem Reza

Associate Professor in Mass Communication, University of Dhaka

2012 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh

Dr Amrita Saha

Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

2011 Commonwealth Scholar from India

Farah Naureen Samuel

Manager Programs and Partnerships, Code for Pakistan

2017 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Pakistan

Professor Shivakumara Swamy Siddaramappa

Associate Professor, Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied
Biotechnology, Bengaluru

1998 Commonwealth Scholar from India

Dr Milika Sobey

Program Manager, Pacific Islands, The Asia Foundation

2000 Commonwealth Scholar from Fiji

Momodou S.W Sowe

Principal Programme Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of
The Gambia

**2010 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from The
Gambia**

Andrew Sentoogo Ssemata

Scientist, MRC/ UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit, Entebbe

2011 Commonwealth Shared Scholar;

2016 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Uganda

Leticia Taimo

Senior Monitoring Evaluation Research and Learning Specialist,
Khulisa Management Services

2014 Commonwealth Scholar from Mozambique

James Wasagami

Senior Human Resource Officer, Ministry of Public Service,
Uganda

2017 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Uganda



Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK



Woburn House
20-24 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HF
United Kingdom
www.gov.uk/cscuk