

Directory of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows: 1959-2009



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Canada

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Education 
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Cover photos:

Front (l-r, from top row)

- **Zinta Zommers**, (Canada) Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil (Virology of Wildlife), University of Oxford, United Kingdom (2005-present), at a planning meeting for GEO-4, the United Nations Environment Programme's flagship report.
- **Achintya Dutta**, (India) Commonwealth Fellow (History of Public Health), School of Oriental and African Studies, United Kingdom (2002-2003), presenting at a medical history conference that he co-organised.
- **Hamish Nixon**, (Canada) Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil (Politics), University of Oxford, United Kingdom (1998-2002), at a research consultation on community-driven development and local governance initiatives in western Afghanistan (bottom left).
- **Preeti Kana Paul**, (Bangladesh) Commonwealth Scholar, MSc (Aquaculture), University of Stirling, United Kingdom (2005-present), by distance learning, completing a water analysis exercise.
- **Cornelia Ndifon**, (Nigeria) Commonwealth Scholar, MPH (Public Health (International)) University of Leeds, United Kingdom (2003-2004), at work at an HIV/AIDS care and treatment centre in Guyana.
- **Phutiane Alwyn Rapatsa**, (South Africa) Commonwealth Scholar, MSc (International Primary Health Care), University College London, United Kingdom (2006-present), by distance learning, performing an upper abdominal ultrasound on a patient.
- **Damjan Vukcevic**, (Australia) Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil (Statistics), University of Oxford, United Kingdom (2005-2008), and **Joanne Gale**, (Australia) Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil (Statistics), University of Oxford, United Kingdom (2005-2008), with the published results of their genetics study.
- **Clement Gonah**, (Nigeria) Commonwealth Scholar, MSc (Ceramic Science and Engineering), University of Sheffield (2003-2004), working on his award-winning glass waste processing machine.
- **Harriette Smith**, (Saint Lucia) Commonwealth Fellow (Public Health), St Lucia Diabetes Project, United Kingdom (2006), attending to a patient's feet in her role as a Family Nurse Practitioner.
- **Ruth Lugwisha**, (Tanzania) Commonwealth Fellow (Environment Governance), Environment Agency, United Kingdom (2007), examining landfill liner used in modern landfills in the UK (left).

Back (l-r, from top row)

- **Buba Ahmed**, (Nigeria) Commonwealth Fellow (Agricultural Entomology), Swansea University, United Kingdom (2006-2007), conducting research into environmentally-friendly alternatives to chemical pesticides.
- **Charles Melnyk**, (Canada) Commonwealth Scholar, PhD (Plant Biology), University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (2006-present), researching the role of small RNAs as regulators of leaf form and development.
- **Anoja Wickramasinghe**, (Sri Lanka) Commonwealth Scholar, PhD (Forest Ecology), University of Sheffield, United Kingdom (1980-1983), distributing plants to remote communities to aid sustainability.
- **Lynn Kuok**, (Singapore) Commonwealth Scholar, PhD (Political Science), University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (2007-2008), studying ethnic relations in South East Asia.
- **Benson Kuria**, (Kenya) Commonwealth Scholar, Split-Site PhD (Plant Ecology), University of Nottingham, United Kingdom (2007-present) [Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya], examining plants as part of his research into potential biofuel species.
- **James Brandful**, (Ghana) Commonwealth Scholar, Split-Site PhD (Molecular Virology), University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (2006-2007) [University of Ghana], analysing samples as part of his research into HIV/AIDS in Ghana.
- **Julia Latham**, (United Kingdom) Commonwealth Scholar, MSc (Biological Sciences), University of Auckland, New Zealand (2004-2007), with a kiwi, the subject of her Master's study.
- **Pamela Chilubanama**, (Zambia) Commonwealth Scholar, PhD (Environmental Law), University of Manchester, United Kingdom (2007-present), at the 2007 Welcome Day for newly-arrived Scholars and Fellows in the UK.
- **Monirul Khan**, (Bangladesh) Commonwealth Scholar, PhD (Wildlife Biology), University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (2000-2004), in the Sundarbans mangrove forest in Bangladesh, working on the conservation of tigers.
- **Adonna Jardine-Comrie**, (Saint Vincent and The Grenadines) Commonwealth Scholar, Split-Site PhD (Education for Sustainable Development), University of Liverpool (2007-2008) [University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica], researching the formal and informal curricula of Jamaican schools.

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Foreword

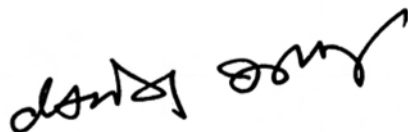
The decision of Commonwealth Education Ministers, at their first conference in 1959, to establish a programme of scholarships and fellowships said much about their aspirations for the newly expanded Commonwealth. Even the most optimistic, however, could not have anticipated the long-term benefits of their foresight.

50 years later, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) has supported some 26,000 individuals. Citizens from all Commonwealth countries have benefited, while over 20 countries have hosted awards. The overwhelming majority have returned to their home country to make a huge difference. Many have risen to the very highest ranks of their chosen professions.

The CSFP has become one of the cornerstones of Commonwealth collaboration. It is another of the most distinctive Commonwealth 'brand names'. A huge debt of thanks is due to the United Kingdom, which undertook to be the largest contributor in 1959 and whose support remains vital. But thanks are also due to countries such as Canada, where the idea for the scheme originated, and to India and New Zealand, who with Canada have been among the most consistent contributors. We are in debt to *all* those countries which have supported awards. The numbers may not have been as great, but the ability of students from, say, Africa to study in Malaysia, Brunei, or the Caribbean says much about the relevance of the modern Commonwealth.

This new *Directory* of alumni is a unique testament to these achievements. The number of career profiles has doubled since the first edition produced in 2003, and the number of names listed has increased from 20,000 to over 25,000. The essential message of the first *Directory*, though, is reinforced. Commonwealth Scholarships have been a wonderful investment, producing real leaders. I hope that governments and Commonwealth agencies will make use of the contacts provided to involve our alumni still further.

In June 2009, at the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Kuala Lumpur, Education Ministers will consider proposals to take the CSFP into its next half century. These will aim to make the Plan even more international, flexible and relevant than ever, with a new endowment fund to be set up to allow more low and middle income countries to host scholars. We are calling the appeal the 'once in a lifetime' appeal: we will make one approach to new donors, and offer one, magnificent, once-in-a-lifetime chance for those who win awards, and thereby see a world of opportunity unfolding. It is a huge task, but Ministers have given us firm foundations on which to build. We can only ask that they show as much foresight as their predecessors of fifty years ago.



Kamallesh Sharma
Commonwealth Secretary-General

Preface

Scholarship providers have never been under greater pressure to demonstrate the impact of their investment. Following the subsequent careers of award holders, through alumni programmes, is an obvious route to meeting this need.

This, the second edition of the *Directory of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows*, provides more evidence about the progress of former Commonwealth Scholars than has ever been assembled in one place before. The pages that follow contain some 3,700 career profiles of former award holders, and the names and dates of 25,000.

The *Directory* will be of immense use to national governments, the Commonwealth Secretariat and other Commonwealth and international organisations in identifying former award holders and possibly involving them in their work. What, though, does it tell us about the wider impact of the scheme?

What does the *Directory* tell us?

Governments offer scholarships for a variety of reasons. When the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) was established at the first ever Commonwealth education conference in 1959, it was intended first and foremost to support individuals. Awards would ‘recognise and promote the highest level of intellectual achievement’. Subsequently, some donor countries have aligned their awards more closely to international development objectives. Others have actively sought to identify ‘future leaders’ – individuals whose friendship and influence would be useful to the host country in future years. More recently, as global competition for talent has intensified, host governments have seen scholarships as a way of maintaining the international profile of their universities and even attracting highly qualified individuals in the long term.

All of these factors play a role in Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships. Canada, for example, has in recent years introduced postdoctoral fellowships to its portfolio, an idea also being trialled in South Africa. The United Kingdom has added distance learning awards and short-term fellowships for mid-career professionals to its longstanding support for postgraduate work. This flexibility is welcome, and was anticipated by the founders in 1959, in their far-sighted statement that the Plan should be sufficiently flexible to respond to future needs.

It is fair to say that, over the 50 years of their existence, the objectives of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships have moved more towards those of society than the individual. The emphasis on individual merit, however, remains strong – and rightly so. However objectives may change, they are most likely to be achieved by individuals with high academic merit, combined with the motivation and the ability to make a real difference. Insistence on qualities such as these, combined with rigorous selection procedures, is largely responsible for the reputation that Commonwealth Scholarships enjoy today.

Higher education is the largest single career for alumni under the scheme. This is not surprising, for a number of reasons. The UK, in particular, reserves a proportion of its awards for young and mid-career academic staff from developing countries, with the express intention that they should return to their home institutions following their studies. For many recipient countries, universities are the obvious employer to best utilise high-quality talent. Against this background, Commonwealth Scholarships can proudly boast that they have continually supported higher education at a time – particularly in the late 1980s and 1990s – when the prevailing fashion amongst development agencies was not to do so. The success of the scheme in so doing is one of the most strikingly obvious features of the profiles listed in this volume.

Reading through the profiles, however, it is also clear that support for higher education contributes to a much wider impact. Not only are CSFP alumni responsible for teaching presumably millions of the next generation, but their research touches on virtually all areas of life. Hundreds of alumni, whose first career has been in academia, are used by governments and international bodies as consultants or specialist advisers; many move in and out of government during their careers. In a recent survey conducted by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom, 45% of the 2,226 respondents could cite at least one occasion on which they felt that they had influenced the thinking or policies of their government.

Yet it would be a huge mistake to regard the CSFP as primarily a means of supporting higher education. The profiles in this *Directory* provide the best possible evidence that Commonwealth Scholarships produce leaders in all walks of life – politics, civil service, law, business, journalism, literature and many, many more. And if this is true of the alumni of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, it is perhaps even more likely to be true of the modern breed of Scholars. Not only are selection committees now more likely to seek wider ‘leadership’ skills, but several of the new innovations, such as undergraduate awards in Canada and professional fellowships in the UK, are much less focussed on academic careers. Distance learning scholarships, introduced by the UK in 2002, explicitly target other careers of direct relevance to international development objectives. Taking all this into account, it is likely that the *proportion* of alumni in higher education will decline over the next decade, but that the overall *number* in the sector will remain significant.

Less tangible, but also evident, is the impact on wider international relations. The recent UK analysis found that over 90% of the 2,226 respondents maintained some sort of link with contacts in the UK, a remarkable figure considering many held their awards over 20 years ago. In total, 70% reported maintaining links with universities in the UK, 48% with professional associations, and 72% with social contacts. These findings are supplemented by significant anecdotal evidence. Perhaps even more striking are the records of the relatively small numbers of developed country Scholars to have studied in developing Commonwealth countries under the scheme, most typically in the 1960s and 1970s, many of whom retain a strong international element throughout their careers – whether in diplomacy, development or academia. That the number of such opportunities waned in the 1980s and 1990s, particularly with the decline in higher education itself in Africa, was a huge loss to the scheme. The decision of Commonwealth Education Ministers, at their triennial conference in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2006, to make the expansion of awards in low and middle income countries a priority for the Plan’s 50th anniversary through the creation of an endowment fund specifically for the purpose, is hugely welcome in this context.

An obvious indicator of impact is the extent to which Scholars and Fellows return to their home country after their awards. Study abroad is sometimes cited as a cause of brain drain, and a recent UK report suggested that some 40% of all postgraduate students aspire to stay following their study. Migration on this scale is not the experience of the CSFP. As our samples have grown over the years, surveys of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows who studied in the UK have constantly shown a figure of 85-90% working in their home country or region. An analysis from Canada in 2003 placed the figure a little lower, but still well over two-thirds. In both cases, there is every expectation that this figure will continue to be at least as high, due in no small part to the introduction of distance learning and short-term undergraduate scholarships by the respective host countries. There is, moreover, increasing evidence that the question of ‘whether the student has returned home’ is now too simplistic. An increasing number of talented people now divide their careers between countries, whilst many of those not working in their home country at the time of survey are still making huge contributions, often through research or working for international organisations.

A representative sample?

The career profiles presented in the *Directory* provide a striking testimony to the achievements of individual Commonwealth Scholars. However, given that some 26,000 individuals have held such awards, and over 16,000 in the UK alone, it is reasonable to ask whether the sample is a ‘representative’ one.

It is worth stressing that the profiles are not intended to be a ‘Who’s Who’ of only the most prestigious alumni, but rather to include all of those for whom we have the necessary records and permission. Data protection laws in the UK require that individual consent be given before any profile is published. In fact, the Commission’s alumni programme is in contact with almost 6,000 alumni in total – including many highly prestigious figures for whom we were unable to obtain the necessary consent in time for publication. It is also worth saying that, although the number of profiles in this *Directory* is about double that in the 2003 version, the main trends – such as sector of employment and country of origin – remain constant.

One bias that is fairly easy to detect, however, is that of age. Over half of the new profile entries completed their awards since 2000. Most of these remain in early or mid career. This feature is likely to underplay, rather than exaggerate, the achievements of the scheme, since it is reasonable to assume that the majority have yet to obtain their most senior positions. In evaluating the impact of scholarships generally, it is important to recognise that, while the cost of awards is incurred within a relatively short period of time, the benefits accrue over a much longer period.

Secondly, the profiles listed here are primarily those of individuals who have held their Commonwealth Scholarships or Fellowships in Canada or the UK. This reflects both the fact that these two countries have been the largest donors to the Plan since its formation, and that they are the countries with the best developed alumni programmes. From the 'Register' section of the *Directory*, however, it will be seen that over 20 countries have offered awards at some stage over the 50 years of the Plan, and that some, such as India and New Zealand, are consistent contributors. No publication that fails to reflect this, or the contribution of other recent donors such as Jamaica, Brunei Darussalam, South Africa, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago and Malaysia, can fully reflect the diverse nature of the scheme. Happily, a number of other countries are now developing their own alumni activity. Together with the increase in awards in low and income countries anticipated following the 50th anniversary endowment fund appeal, we hope that this will provide for greater representation in future.

Looking to the future

We believe that the *Directory* provides one of the most comprehensive records of any international scholarship scheme ever produced. In many ways, however, it is intended to be starting point for other activities, rather than an outcome in its own right.

The *Directory* will, we hope, be widely used by governments, their High Commissions, international organisations and others to identify expertise and to maintain links, thus further increasing the impact of the programme. It will also help national governments and individual universities in developing their own alumni programmes. The contacts here also provide an excellent basis for more rigorous evaluation of the scheme, such as that on which the UK has already embarked.

Knowledge of our alumni also opens opportunities for new forms of communication with and between them. In the UK, an important feature of our alumni activity in recent years has been the development of networks based on profession, rather than home country. Nine such networks exist at the time of writing – in gender; health; education; governance, civil society and community development; environment; agriculture/rural development; science and technology; law; and faiths and civil society. These provide an excellent basis for electronic networking on issues directly relevant to the day-to-day careers of alumni, and are well supported. We look forward to developing these networks further.

We hope, too, that the concrete evidence of the *Directory* will provide member governments of the Commonwealth with the confidence to maintain and expand their own contributions. At a time when higher education is expanding, and its contribution to wider economic and social goals is recognised more widely than ever, the potential of the scheme has never been greater. It falls to Commonwealth Education Ministers, who meet for their 17th conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in June 2009, to demonstrate the same foresight as their predecessors did at the first such meeting 50 years ago.

Dr John Kirkland
Executive Secretary
Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom

London, March 2009

Acknowledgements

The collection of data for this *Directory*, and its organisation into the format produced here, has been a substantial exercise, spread over several months. Thanks are due to many individuals for contributing, in many cases fitting in the time to do so alongside their other duties.

Within the UK, production was coordinated by Julie Stackhouse and Jocelyn Law. It was, however, a genuine team effort involving ACU staff at various stages, including Sabina Ebbols, Selina Hannaford, Sarah Humphreys, Jonathan Jenkins, Natasha Lokhun, Nick Mulhern, Anna O’Flynn, James Ransom and Arvinder Sansoa. Editorial assistance was provided by Matt Grange and Paul Turner, and support from Melanie Christou, Gina Evans, Anna Gane, Nicola Seaton and Hannah Urbanczyk. The communications sub-committee of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission – Professor Tim Unwin, Dr Mark Collins, Dr Monica Darnbrough and Sir Brian Donnelly – also provided valuable input.

The Canadian survey was coordinated by Jennifer Humphries, Diane Cyr, Natalia Amiel and colleagues at the Canadian Bureau of International Education. That work was in turn facilitated by Chris Greenshields and Natalija Marjanovic of the Department for Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

Additional tracing activities were undertaken by Eugenia Asare, Lem Atanga, Sulieman Fye, Dineo Ketshogileng, Jackie Olang, Kay Raseroka and Jenny Unwin.

Updated information for the register was also provided by agencies in India, New Zealand, Malaysia and South Africa.

DFAIT also made a valuable financial contribution to the final production, as did the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom.

Thanks are due to all of the above, but perhaps our greatest gratitude should be reserved for the hundreds of individuals throughout the world who have taken the time to complete their questionnaires, or provide information regarding other alumni. It is their enthusiasm, most of all, which has made the project worthwhile.

Notes on the data

Profiles

This data has been compiled from questionnaires returned, mostly online, to the Commonwealth Scholarship agencies in the UK and Canada. For studies in the UK, our existing information on the individual's award has also been used.

Country

The country given in brackets after an individual's name refers to the country of nomination (which is not always the same as country of origin).

Scheme

Commonwealth Scholar refers to all studies at undergraduate, Master's or doctoral level, and includes early postdoctoral research awards. Where studies were conducted by distance learning, this is indicated at the end of the award information. Where the award was for a split-site PhD, the UK institution is included in the profile and the home (degree-awarding) institution is indicated in square brackets at the end of the award information. Commonwealth Fellow refers to continuing professional development awards, including those to academics for training and research at postdoctoral level. Both categories contain other award types such as Medical Scholarships and Medical Fellowships.

Course of study

For studies in the UK, degree, subject, institution and dates of award are taken from existing data and reflect what our records show was studied while on award, and not necessarily qualifications gained. For award holders studying in other countries, we have taken information on studies directly from respondents.

Institution

Institutions are generally referred to by their current names, which may have changed since the period of award.

Dates of study

Dates of study for those who studied in the UK mainly reflect our records of the period of the award, rather than the period that the award holder was in the country. For those who studied in Canada, if an award holder has had two awards and only one set of dates is shown, this includes both awards.

Currently/Previously

This refers to employment, other offices and memberships. Respondents were not specifically asked to provide information in separate sections for current and previous positions so, as far as possible, this has been ascertained from the data given on the questionnaire. In the case of reprinted profiles (see below), where a country is not stated, posts and awards were usually held in the country of nomination.

Awards and Honours

Information in this section to some extent reflects what each individual has chosen to include in the questionnaire. National awards and distinctions can be found in this section, rather than being included in the name of the individual.

Information omitted

For the sake of brevity, not all information given on questionnaires has been incorporated into the *Directory*.

Reprinted profiles

We have reprinted profiles that appeared in the 2003 edition of the *Directory* where the respondent did not reply to requests to provide updated information for this edition, unless we have been notified that the individual is deceased. These are marked with a *.

Register

This section lists the names of nearly all award holders under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. This data is compiled from our records for studies in the UK, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan reports up to 1992, and data provided by certain country agencies post-1992. The listing is not complete, as we do not yet have data on all scholars studying in all countries post-1992.

Country

Award holders are listed by host country, followed by country of nomination. Countries are referred to by their present names. However, in some cases, it was not possible to determine the corresponding individual present-day location. For example, in some instances, the Plan reports listed a region or two countries combined. In the case of pre-1971 award holders listed as nominated by Pakistan, it was not possible to determine whether they were from what is now Bangladesh. Hong Kong was part of the Commonwealth until 1997. Some former protectorates are included in the Plan reports that are not part of the present-day Commonwealth.

Names

Names were presented in different ways in the Plan reports, and in some case no forename was given. We have incorporated changes of name where this is known.

Years

The year, which follows the name in brackets, in most cases refers to the year in which the award was made, and may not always be the year in which the award holder travelled to their host country. Where we had sufficient information to positively identify them, individuals holding more than one award are listed once with multiple years.

Profiles

The † symbol at the end of an entry indicates that this individual has an entry in the Profiles section of the *Directory*.

When Commonwealth education ministers, at their first ever conference in 1959, approved plans for a new scholarship programme between member states, they could not have imagined the impact of their decision. 50 years on, over 26,000 individuals have benefited from the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP). Many have gone on to be leaders in their chosen field.

This *Directory* represents the most comprehensive record of these achievements. It contains some 3,700 career profiles of alumni, and the names, countries and years of over 25,000, from every corner of the Commonwealth.

In addition to recording their achievements, the *Directory* aims to be a tool for further networking and collaboration, building on the extensive professional networks and communications systems already in place. It is intended to be used extensively by international organisations, governments and alumni themselves, to further collaboration, careers and the wider objectives of the Plan.

The CSFP is exceptional amongst international scholarship schemes, in that it is regularly reviewed by a ministerial conference. As education ministers celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Plan in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June 2009, the *Directory* aims to provide valuable evidence which will help them match the foresight of their predecessors.



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