

Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowships

United Kingdom Awards 2011

This prospectus and a link to the Electronic Application System (EAS) are available on our website at www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/academic_fellowships.asp



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SCHOLARSHIPS

INTRODUCTION

Since their inception in 1959, some 26,000 individuals have benefited from the award of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships to pursue advanced academic study in other Commonwealth countries. About two thirds of awards have been tenable in the United Kingdom. The vast majority of award holders have returned to make a significant contribution to their home countries, in many cases at the highest level, making the award scheme one of the largest and most prestigious in the world.

This prospectus describes the Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowships offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries in 2011-2012. Separate programmes and prospectuses exist for the Commonwealth Scholarships, scholarships offered by distance learning and on a shared funding basis, and for short mid-career professional fellowships offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. Please visit the CSC website at www.cscuk.org.uk for details of these programmes. For information on Commonwealth Scholarships offered by other Commonwealth countries, please visit the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) website at www.csfp-online.org

The secretariat of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), which is responsible for all matters concerning selection and academic studies. The British Council is responsible for payments to fellows, and for arranging travel, reception and other support services for them.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply for a Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship, candidates should:

- Be Commonwealth citizens, refugees, or British protected persons
- Be permanently resident in a developing Commonwealth country
- Be available to commence their Fellowship in the United Kingdom on 1 October 2011. Any other start date will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances
- Have been employed for at least five years as an academic staff member of a university in a developing Commonwealth country
- Be in the employment of the nominating university

AND

- Hold a doctorate

OR

- In the fields of medicine and dentistry, have qualified as a doctor or dentist before 1 October 2001

The Commission wishes to promote equal opportunity, gender equity and cultural exchange. Applications are welcome from the many different races and origins that comprise the Commonwealth's rich variety of cultures, traditions and institutions.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Nominations for Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowships may be made by invitation through the following channels:

- The Executive Head of an eligible developing country university on whose staff the applicant serves
- In the case of Bangladesh and India, nominations are made through the University Grants Commission; in Pakistan, through the Higher Education Commission; and in Sri Lanka, through the Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education
- The Executive Head of selected developing country research institutes on whose staff the applicant serves

A full list of universities/research institutes invited to nominate can be found on the CSC website. Those wishing to be considered for inclusion in the list of institutions invited should contact the Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (c/o The Association of Commonwealth Universities, Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HF).

Applications must be submitted using the Commission's Electronic Application System (EAS), a link to which is available on our website at www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/academic_fellowships.asp. All applications must be submitted to and endorsed by one of the approved nominating bodies detailed above. Please note that all Fellowship candidates must complete their application using the EAS by 7 December 2010.

The Commission regrets that it is unable to accept nominations from other organisations or applications directly from individuals, and that these cannot be acknowledged.

TENURE AND PLACEMENT

Awards are tenable at any approved UK university or higher education institution for a specific programme of academic collaboration, skills updating and networking designed to enhance teaching and future research capabilities and are not restricted to particular subject areas. It is expected that the programme will be closely related to the academic work an individual will return to on completion of the award. Awards are not available for study towards a higher degree and will not be given to support discrete research projects. Awards are tenable for **six months** only.

The final decision on institution of study will be made by the Commission, which reserves the right to overrule any preferences expressed by the candidate at the application stage. Applicants are, however, expected to identify up to three institutions that they consider appropriate to carry out the proposed study programme on the application form, and explain the reasons for their selection. This is important since the Commission will not change the institution for which the candidate has been provisionally selected after the Commission's selection committee has met, unless exceptional information becomes available that could not have been foreseen at the time of application. Candidates **must**, in advance of any fellowship application to the Commission, have made contact with up to three potential host universities in the United Kingdom and secured the agreement of an academic at each to act as a host for the Fellowship. The outcome of all such communications should be reported to the Commission.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations for 2011 Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowships tenable in the United Kingdom are required to arrive with the Commission no later than 21 December 2010, in electronic format. Universities and other nominating bodies will have organised their own competitions in advance of this, which will have earlier deadlines and local rules for application, which you are strongly advised to check.

In order to ensure a competitive process in the United Kingdom, the Commission normally seeks approximately three times more nominations than there are Fellowships available. Following this deadline, each nomination is first considered by a member of the Commission's panel of advisers with expertise in the subject area concerned and then by the Commission's selection committee in competition with other applicants.

Applications are considered according to the following selection criteria:

- Academic merit of the candidate
- The quality of the proposal
- The likely impact of the work on the development of the candidate's home country.

VALUE OF AWARDS

Each Fellowship provides:

- Approved airfare to the United Kingdom and return on expiry of the Fellowship (the cost of journeys made before final award confirmation will not normally be reimbursed, nor can fares be paid for a Fellow's dependants)
- A research support grant fixed according to subject
- A personal maintenance allowance at the rate of £1350 per month (£1674 per month for those studying at institutions in the London Metropolitan area)
- A grant towards the expenses of preparing reports and other written work
- An initial arrival allowance, incorporating an initial clothing grant for Fellows from tropical countries
- A grant for expenses for approved travel within the United Kingdom or overseas
- Candidates should note that there is no marriage or child allowance available. A Fellow who is widowed, divorced or a lone parent and accompanied by children for whom she/he is legally responsible, will receive an allowance in respect of the first accompanying child and child allowances for the second and third accompanying children. The level of financial support given towards the costs of family maintenance in the UK is under review and is subject to change in terms of both eligibility and rate availability.

More information can be found about the terms and conditions of the Fellowships in the Handbook for Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, available on the CSC website.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Applicants should be aware of the following general conditions:

- Candidates will be notified of their provisional selection by the Commission, that is selection for award subject to the Commission agreeing the terms of admission to the university/institution
- Candidates will be given a formal Notification of Award, the offer of a Fellowship, as soon as terms of admission to the university/institution have been agreed
- The Commission will require a medical report before an award can be confirmed
- Formal confirmation of an award will be issued when all conditions of the Notification of Award have been met
- Fellows will be expected to take up the award from the date stated by the Commission in its Notification of Award
- Fellows will be required to sign an undertaking to return to their home country as soon as their award comes to an end with a view to resuming or taking up the university appointment in connection with which they were nominated
- Fellows will be expected to reside in the United Kingdom throughout their award, and to seek prior approval for any proposed visits abroad
- Fellows may not undertake paid employment during their award
- A Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship cannot be held concurrently with any other award
- The Commission reserves the right to publish the names of candidates provisionally selected for awards on the CSC website. By applying for an award, the candidate gives consent for such publication in the event that his/her application is successful

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants in medicine and dentistry whose programme requires them to practise clinically, or to work in a laboratory department reporting on samples from patients, must state how the skills acquired by the study programme will be put into practice post-award. Such applicants can be considered only if they are eligible for registration with the General Medical Council or the General Dental Council. Information about current conditions for registration can be obtained from the GMC and GDC websites: www.gmc-uk.org and www.gdc-uk.org

Please note that the GMC currently requires applicants for registration to obtain an overall score of 7.0 in the academic IELTS test, with minimum scores of 7.0 in speaking and 6.0 in listening, reading and writing.



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