



democratising access to higher education

Workshop on Commonwealth Shared Scholarships
Wednesday, 23 November 2022



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Project EduAccess

Access to higher education is a privilege most people from marginalised communities are systematically denied through cost, information and dispositional barriers.

Project EduAccess is a modest attempt to improve inclusivity in HEIs by removing these barriers for marginalized communities in South Asia.

We hope to achieve this by providing expert mentorship, support and guidance to learners in South Asia.

Meet your panelist



Jasmin Naur Hafiz

MSc Economics for Development

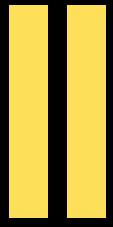
Commonwealth Shared 2022-23

University of Oxford



Commonwealth Shared Scholarship

- Commonwealth Shared Scholarships are offered in partnership with **select UK universities**.
- Supports candidates who would otherwise be unable to attend an education in the UK.
- Applicants must be a citizen, have been granted refugee status and/or be permanently based in a Commonwealth country
- Scholarship is awarded under six CSC developmental themes
- Candidates must apply **Once**: CSC
- Candidates can apply for more than one course and to more than one university
- Universities nominate a **select number of candidates depending on the university** by June.



CSC Development Themes

- **Theme 1: Science and technology for development**
- **Theme 2: Strengthening health systems and capacity**
- **Theme 3: Promoting Global Prosperity**
- **Theme 4: Strengthening global peace, security and governance**
- **Theme 5: Strengthening resilience and response to crises**
- **Theme 6: Access, inclusion and opportunity**



How to choose your course/s ?

- You can apply to multiple courses. Each requires a separate application. Essays can be repurposed.
- Tip 1: Scan through the relevant CSC theme
- Tip 2: Search for keywords relevant to your domain
- Tip 3: Check the University webpages for the given courses to track eligibility, deadline, and additional requirements.

Eligibility

- Available to start academic studies in the UK by the start of the UK academic year in September 2023
- By September 2023, hold a **first degree** of at least **upper second class** (2:1) honours standard, or a second class degree (2:2) and a relevant postgraduate qualification* (usually a Master's degree)
- Full transcripts detailing **all** higher education qualifications, including to-date transcripts for any courses currently being studied, with certified translations if not in English
- References from at least **two** individuals, on institutional letterhead or an email clearly showing the sender's details (for 2023, applicants need to self-upload references)

Application process

→ Mid Nov-Dec

Online Application (CSC)

- Essays
- College Application

→ June

Nomination of award

- References (3)

→ June - July

Confirmation of award

- Sign Declaration form
- Confirmation of Award

Essays- Overview

Common themes
around the
Commonwealth
application essays

1

Development Impact

Development Impact Statement in four questions - how your chosen developmental issue relates to global, national and local SDG goals and who are the intended beneficiaries

2

Study Outline

What you intend to gain from the course including a detailed overview

3

Career Goals

Career goals immediately after the award, short term (within 5 years) and long-term (lifelong goals)

4

Personal Statement

Space to connect your how personal circumstances/growth drives your interest

5

Voluntary and Leadership Experience

500 words (link your past experience with your chosen theme/course)

Development Impact

- Which CSC development theme are you applying under?
Select one out of the 6 themes.
- Select up to three Sustainable Development Goals that relate to your future development impact, starting with the most relevant.
Select the closest three SDGs out of the 17.
- **Development Impact has 4 parts.** An important selection criterion is the potential contribution that you will make to international development if you are awarded a scholarship.

Selection Criteria

Primary Indicator

- Extent of the need: how the plan of study/**research relates to development** in the sector and country
- Expected outcomes, the projected timeframe to achieve them and potential beneficiaries
- The way and extent to which the candidate proposes to **apply new skills and qualifications**; how does this relate to development

Secondary Indicators:

- Reference to a **national development priority or capacity shortage**
- Reference to the selected CSC theme
- Extent of the benefit: how the impact of the work might be measured
- Past demonstrable commitment to 'development' agendas through voluntary work.
- Leading or participating in relevant projects or programmes



Development Impact part 1

How your proposed study relates to:

- a) development issues at the global, national and local level?
- b) development issues connected to your chosen CSC development theme and the wider sector? (200 words)

- Explain the problem or issue you identify in your country. Include a personal story in a crisp way
- Use statistics from credible sources as evidence of the development issue
- Connect this issue to global, national and local levels
- Write an argument about how solving this issue can help in reaching the SDGs and how its connected to the CSC theme
- Mention how your degree will help you solve this issue
- Can mention a brief line about any relevant past experience



Development Impact part 2

How you intend to apply your new skills and qualification when you return home? (100 words)

- Write about what you want to do once you come back.
- What specific skills will you gain and how will you apply them
- Check the course page to know more about the exact skills and outcomes the course intends to cater to
- Be precise and mention the actions.

Development Impact part 3

What you expect will change in development terms following your studies, including:

- a) the outcomes that you aim to achieve?
- b) the timeframe for their implementation?
- c) who the beneficiaries will be? (250 words)

- Expand on the action steps along with timeframe (workshops, conferences, projects etc)
- On immediate return and in later what are you planning to do and what outcomes do you aim for
- Mention the organisations and institutions you want to collaborate and work with
- Who are the target audience and what are they benefitting through the action steps you plan to take (rural, urban, gender, caste, class)



Development Impact part 4

How the impact of your work could be best measured? (100 words)

- The parameters to measure your impact
- Existing indices by the government or UN or any other organisation
- If you can't find existing parameters, explain what parameters you will use and how
- It can be quantitative or qualitative or both (interviews, surveys, opinion research, indices)



Objectives During Award

- Describe the skills that you expect to gain from this scholarship, and your career plans once you return home afterwards (250 words)
 1. Opportunities you want to engage in during the award.
 2. Research about the opportunities that CSC provides and how you will benefit from them
 3. Initiatives that you want to take and networks you want to build during your study
 4. Extra curriculans
 5. Organisations you want to reach out to while you are in UK
 6. Any intended dissertation topic (If you have anything in mind)
 7. Brief outline of career plan

Career Plans

- Career plans in the 5 years following the award(250 words)
 1. What you want to do after your immediate return
 2. What you want to do in 3-5 years.
 3. SMART method (Specific, Measurable, Ambitious. Realistic and Time Bound)
 4. Mention any schemes by the government that you want to work for. Name drop organisations and Institutions
 5. Provide a rationale for your goals
- Long-term Career Plans(250 words)
 1. Plans in the next 5 - 10 years
 2. A long term objective you aim to implement
 3. Can be as ambitious as you want
 4. Mention clear time frame for each goal, be as specific as possible

Selection Criteria

Primary Indicator

- Statement of what the candidate wants to learn and how it relates to their objectives
- Extent to which the proposed course and institution of study have been well-researched (including specific options and dissertation topics, where appropriate) and presented

Secondary Indicators:

- Existing offer of admission to the course
- Clarity of presentation



Study outline

Provide a short outline of your proposed study/research. This should be written for an audience that does not have any prior knowledge of the subject, and must not be overly technical. Any abbreviations or specialist terms must be explained.(125 words)

- Use simple language.
- Mention the modules you'd like to take
- Briefly mention your dissertation topic
- Briefly talk about why this course

Detailed Plan of Study

Provide a detailed plan of your proposed study. The selection panel will want to understand why you have selected your proposed courses and universities. You should remember that, although the selection panel will be well informed, they are not likely to be specialists in your subject.

Describe clearly:

- why you have chosen your proposed courses and universities and why you want to undertake this study in the UK
- what it is that you are looking for in a course and how your chosen courses relate to your objectives
- any dissertation topic you have in mind (300 words)
- Why this course - can mention learnings from previous experiences, skill or knowledge gaps you aim to fill
- Mention the University ranking along with the source.
- How the modules you plan to choose will help you solve the development issue.
- What skills do you intend to learn. Which professors do you want to study under and why?
- Explain on which topic you want to do your dissertation on and be specific if possible.



Personal Statement

Summarise the ways in which your personal background has encouraged you to want to make an impact in your home country. You should indicate areas in which you have already contributed, such as having overcome any personal or community barriers to or in higher education (500 words)

- Your personal journey. Personal motivation linked to development issue.
- Work experience
- This can be different for different people.



Voluntary and Leadership Experience

Summarise the ways in which you have engaged in voluntary activities and the opportunities you have had to demonstrate leadership (500 words)

- You can use the **STAR** (Situation, Task, Action and Result) approach.
- Don't list everything you did. Remember that you will have a separate section before the essays to list them.
- You need to explain how you demonstrated leadership through those experiences.



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