



The Association  
of Commonwealth  
Universities



**Join a community  
of universities  
across the  
Commonwealth**

# Who we are

The **Association of Commonwealth Universities** is a global network of universities with a shared commitment to building a better world through international collaboration in higher education.

As the world's first and oldest international university network, we have been bringing universities together from across the Commonwealth for more than 100 years.

# How do we support our members?

- As the only organisation accredited by the Commonwealth to represent higher education, we provide a voice for our member universities in national and global policy forums.
- Our networks, events, programmes and research opportunities enable our members to build capacity as they connect with, and learn from, their colleagues around the world.
- Our grants, fellowships and scholarships enable university staff and students to pursue important research, build global partnerships, and access life-changing learning opportunities.

# The ACU in numbers

**500**  
members in  
**50+**  
countries



Our network can reach more than

**1 million**  
academic and professional staff,  
and over  
**10 million**  
students



We award more than  
**£700,000**  
in grants, funding  
and scholarships  
each year

More than  
**2,000**  
academics and  
professional  
staff are part of  
our networks  
and communities  
of practice



**66%**  
of our member  
universities are in  
low and middle-  
income countries

ACU members  
are present in  
**50%**  
of Commonwealth  
small states  
(population 1.5 million or less)



# Access grants, funding, and scholarship opportunities

Our unique range of funding opportunities enable academic researchers, university staff, and students to work or study with other universities around the world. Our funding includes research and travel grants, life-changing international scholarships, and more.



ALL GRANTS  
AND FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITIES



## Changing lives through research



The ACU Fellowship significantly enhanced my career in cancer research. I took part in collaborative research, supervised by a professor in the School of Medicine at Swansea University. I received mentoring and enhanced training, making connections which led to further opportunities. I was also given full access to high-end laboratory facilities.

**Atiqah Aziz**, Research Officer at the University of Malaya, received an ACU Fellowship and worked with Swansea University in the UK



# Network and build relationships with universities across the Commonwealth

Our collaborative networks, programmes, and events enable staff and students to connect with their peers in universities around the world. Our members exchange ideas, create partnerships, and work together to develop their research, teaching, and practice.

## OUR NETWORKS AND COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

- Commonwealth Climate Resilience Network  
**550+ members**
- Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network  
**200+ members**
- Higher Education and the SDGs Network  
**600+ members**
- HR in HE Community  
**400+ members**
- Supporting Research Community  
**700+ members**



### Creating global connections



Since joining the ACU in 1963, ACU membership has given our researchers and students an important window on the world. It gives us the opportunity to connect and equitably engage with fellow members, hear their voices, and expand our academic horizons. This is particularly true regarding those parts of the world in which we have had relatively fewer interactions, and from whose institutions we have so much to learn. It allows us, a university rooted in international collaboration, to share our work in an impactful way.

**Ian Rowlands** Associate Vice-President International at the University of Waterloo, Canada



# Support and develop your staff and students

Our range of learning and development opportunities support students and staff in their studies and careers. We draw on our thriving global network to create valuable opportunities for our members to share expertise, and build new connections across the Commonwealth.



EXPLORE  
CASE STUDIES



## Studying abroad for the first time



The ACU Summer School is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for students. It was the first time I have travelled internationally, and the experience was wonderful. We learnt about different cultures and perspectives. At the end of the event I felt truly empowered, and inspired to do more in my community. I'll forever be grateful for the opportunity. Anything is possible!

**Poppy Bhengu** from South Africa attended the ACU Summer School 2022 at Leeds Trinity University in the UK



# An influential voice for universities at the highest levels

ACU members are part of a global community dedicated to promoting the value of higher education to society, and to sustainable development. We provide a voice for universities in international policy forums, including the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, UN High Level Political Forums, and more. We work to ensure that our members' needs are at the forefront of education policy and decision-making. We regularly take member delegations to key ministerial events, providing a platform for ACU members to showcase their work.



FIND OUT MORE  
ABOUT OUR  
POLICY WORK



## Affecting international education policy



I am a Canadian citizen of Indian origin, who has studied and worked in India, Australia and Canada – I have the Commonwealth coded into every cell in my body. I jumped at the opportunity to be part of the ACU delegation to the 2018 Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) in Fiji. Aside from my formal roles as a presenter and panellist, CCEM deepened my understanding of the importance of education for the 56 diverse Commonwealth nations. My personal high point was seeing Commonwealth and ACU members commit to ensuring equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

**Dr Deep Saini** President and Vice-Chancellor, Dalhousie University, Canada



# Shared benchmarking insight across the Commonwealth: ACU Measures

ACU Measures enables our members to compare and contextualise their own institution's activities in an anonymous, non-competitive way. Designed in consultation with members, the survey provides unique insight into university activity across the Commonwealth. Our surveys gather data on themes that matter to our members, such as:

gender equity | research funding | research support mechanisms | institutional research strategies, and more



LEARN MORE  
ABOUT ACU  
MEASURES



## Share expertise and learn



The ACU Measures Supporting Research Survey provides exceptional insight into the research funding landscape, revealing both the scale of university research activities and the types of institutional resource deployed at various stages during the research process. We have gained huge insight into different research approaches in a variety of institutional and geographical contexts across the Commonwealth. ACU Measures represents a unique opportunity for the global higher education sector to meaningfully share expertise, and learn from one another, in an anonymous and non-competitive way.

**Professor Paul Ivey** Associate Vice President Graduate Studies, Research and Entrepreneurship at University of Technology Jamaica





# Building and strengthening education and research capacity

The ACU has extensive experience of co-designing and delivering programmes that help our members to develop their capacity for education, research, and innovation.

Our diverse network across the global north and south allows us to convene universities and manage multi-country programmes, with an emphasis on building sustainable and equitable partnerships between our members.

By working with universities, governments, non-governmental organisations, and commercial companies, we have delivered programmes to drive progress and tackle global challenges. This includes widening access to higher education, tackling marine pollution, improving food security, and more.

We also have longstanding experience of managing major international scholarship programmes with global alumni networks.



[LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMMES](#)

# Become a member

To join and take full advantage of ACU membership, your university must:

- Be legally incorporated and situated in the Commonwealth.
- Be approved by the appropriate government authority to provide higher education, and award your own degrees.
- Have at least 250 full-time equivalent students (50% of whom must be studying at first, or higher, degree level).
- Have graduated at least one cohort of students.

The ACU membership year runs from 1 August to 31 July.

ACU membership subscriptions are based on a formula related to the UN Human Development Index. Subscriptions are divided into three groups: low, medium, and high. Within these groups, subscriptions are based on an individual institution's recurrent income, as stated for the most recent financial year.



[JOIN US](#)

# Members by region



- **AFRICA 100+**
- **ASIA 240+**
- **CARIBBEAN  
and AMERICAS 20+**
- **EUROPE 80+**
- **PACIFIC 20+**



**BROWSE  
MEMBERS**

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