

## Report on the activities of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan 2018-2022

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) is a unique international framework through which countries of the Commonwealth offer university scholarships and fellowships to citizens of other member nations, forging lasting links across the Commonwealth and creating valuable opportunities for cultural and academic exchange.

Since its founding in 1959, the CSFP has created life-changing educational opportunities for more than 38,000 individuals. Many have gone on to transform their communities, societies, and nations, helping to create a fairer, safer, healthier, and more connected Commonwealth.

At 20CCEM, ministers continued to recognise both the importance and potential of the CSFP to individuals, institutions, and the Commonwealth. This report highlights developments since this meeting, evidence of the value it delivers, and the importance of further investment by Commonwealth governments.

### Key points

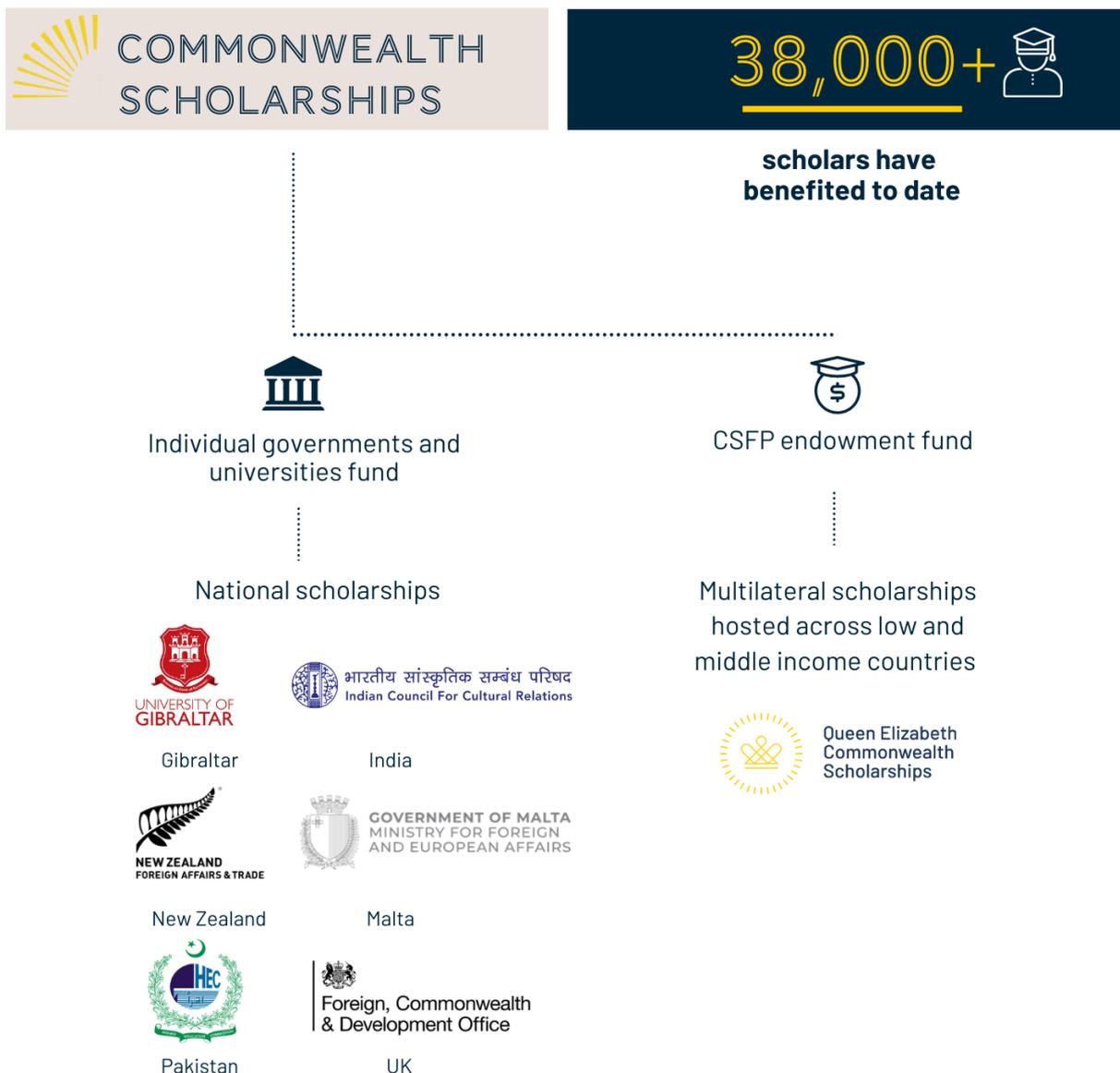
- Commonwealth Scholarships continue to be a valuable investment in the future of the Commonwealth and make a significant contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Ministers are asked to recognise the progress made to strengthen the CSFP since 20CCEM, including further investment by the Association of Commonwealth Universities to support and expand the Plan, and build its endowment fund.
- Ministers are asked to reaffirm the support of their national governments for the CSFP.
- Member governments are asked to actively support the growth and continued future of the CSFP in two key ways:
  - by contributing to the CSFP endowment fund
  - by hosting scholarships within their countries and institutions, offered to students of other Commonwealth nations

# 1. Overview

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) was established at the first Commonwealth education conference in 1959. Historically, awards have been supported primarily by host countries, from their own resources. This resulted in a relatively small range of countries offering awards. Subsequently, the CSFP endowment fund was launched in 2009, creating the first ever central source of funding for Commonwealth Scholarships.

Commonwealth Scholarships are now funded in two ways:

- By individual governments and universities, for study within those countries or institutions
- By the CSFP endowment fund – a central fund owned by and for Commonwealth governments. The fund supports the Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships, which enable students from all over the Commonwealth to study at universities in low and middle income countries



## 2. Oversight and Development

For the past five years, the activities of the CSFP have been steered by the recommendations of the CSFP Taskforce – an international group of experts who looked at how this valuable scheme could be reinvigorated and expanded (see Appendix 1). On the Taskforce’s recommendation, a central management unit was created at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) to oversee the coordination and promotion of the CSFP.

### 2.1 Key developments under the ACU’s management

- **A stronger CSFP**
  - A new team at the ACU is dedicated to managing the Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships, which are funded by the CSFP endowment fund
  - New funding from UK and Fiji, with fundraising efforts ongoing
- **Increased promotion and visibility**
  - Renaming of the CSFP endowment fund scholarships to Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships. Completion certificates are signed personally by HRH Queen Elizabeth
  - Opportunities available through the CSFP are now widely promoted to the ACU’s network of over 500 universities across the Commonwealth
  - A dedicated CSFP webpage now provides a central source of information on all opportunities available through the CSFP, including those hosted by national agencies
  - High-profile activities for the CSFP’s 60th anniversary and the endowment fund’s 10th anniversary in 2019, including the publishing of ‘60 Stories of Change’, which highlighted the positive impact alumni have had on their communities and nations.
- **New efforts to monitor impact**
  - The establishment of evaluation framework to monitor the impact of the CSFP
  - Development of a CSFP Alumni Programme



The CSFP has changed minds and changed lives – it is one of the greatest things the Commonwealth has ever done, and it is something in which we should all take the greatest pride. ‘Commonwealth scholars include Nobel prize winners, prime ministers and government officials, leaders of the world’s greatest universities... and of course the greatest cohort of all who’ve gone on to highest level of academic achievement

HE George Brandis

High Commissioner of Australia to the UK & former Commonwealth Scholar

## 2.2 Expansion of the CSFP

Ministers at the 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in 2018 recognised both the importance and potential of the CSFP and agreed that it should be expanded. However, further investment from Commonwealth governments is needed to ensure the growth and sustainability of the Plan.

The CSFP taskforce noted that the CSFP's potential for growth has been constrained by the limited number of countries offering awards and the stop-start nature of support from some governments. As such, two key opportunities for expansion have been identified:

- An enlarged CSFP endowment fund, which would provide an efficient and cost-effective mechanism to enable a greater number of countries to host Commonwealth Scholarships, offering economies of scale and avoiding onerous administrative burdens for individual countries.
- Encouraging individual universities, as well as many more national governments, to host Commonwealth Scholarships within their countries and institutions.

Under the custodianship of the ACU, fundraising and profile-raising activities continued throughout 2019 and early 2020 prior to the pandemic and are now resuming. Building on the recommendations of the CSFP Taskforce, the ACU's objectives for the CSFP are as follows:

- 1. To secure increased scale through donations and scholarships**
- 2. To increase scope and reach**
- 3. To create strategic focus around development objectives**
- 4. To embed governance and administration structures**
- 5. To increase visibility**



The CSFP builds strong people to people links and is of renewed relevance and importance under the guidance of the ACU. Education in the 21st century cannot be static or monolithic – the fostering of active citizenship and the development of skills for the benefit of society is critical. The CSFP is a constant reminder of what our commonwealth can deliver for our youth and it is of utmost importance that this programme is supported and expanded.

HE Andreas Kakouris

High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus in the UK

### 3. Update on the CSFP Endowment Fund



Queen Elizabeth  
Commonwealth  
Scholarships



**Image: The Duke of Sussex announcing a £5million contribution from the UK Government to the QECS**

The CSFP endowment fund is a central fund owned by and for Commonwealth governments. This important fund supports the Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships (QECS), which create opportunities for students to develop skills and leadership in development-related disciplines relevant to their home countries. The QECS are unique in that they create opportunities for students from all over the Commonwealth to study within low and middle income countries, thus recognising the quality of higher education on offer across the Commonwealth and the wealth of knowledge and expertise available. In this, they are a symbolic reflection of equality among Commonwealth member states, affirming the valuable contribution to education that each nation can make (see Appendix 2: the CSFP in numbers).

Since its establishment in 2009, the fund has enabled 158 Commonwealth citizens from 26 countries to study for a Master's-level qualification in another Commonwealth country.

The CSFP endowment fund is created through donations from 14 Commonwealth governments, and individuals including many Commonwealth Scholarship alumni, as well as other organisations. The endowment fund currently stands at over GBP 18 million.

**Contributing governments are:**

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Government of Australia         | Government of Kenya              |
| Government of the Bahamas       | Government of Malaysia           |
| Government of Barbados          | Government of the Maldives       |
| Government of Brunei Darussalam | Government of Mauritius          |
| Government of Cameroon          | Government of the Seychelles     |
| Government of Canada            | Government of Sri Lanka          |
| Government of Fiji              | Government of the United Kingdom |

The QECS support sustainable development in Commonwealth countries and improved mobility under a strong Commonwealth brand, building networks, sharing knowledge, and strengthening higher education systems. They contribute directly to Sustainable Development Goal 4b by creating more scholarships for study in low and middle income countries and new opportunities for south-south and north-south academic mobility.

### QECS home and host countries

Host countries	Host and home countries	Home countries
 Barbados  Fiji	 Bangladesh  Botswana  Cameroon	 Belize  Canada
 Jamaica  Malaysia	 Eswatini  Ghana  Kenya	 The Gambia  India
 Papua New Guinea  Samoa	 Lesotho  Malawi  Mauritius	 Mozambique  Solomon Islands
 South Africa	 Namibia  Nigeria  Pakistan	 United Kingdom
	 Rwanda  Sri Lanka  Trinidad & Tobago	
	 Tanzania  Uganda  Zambia	



Having been born and brought up in abject poverty, these are the things I could never have experienced were it not for the offer of these scholarships.

**Simon Kiongo**

QECS Alum, Kenyan (MSc Agronomy, University of Pretoria, South Africa)

## Since the previous report, the QECS have:

### Created more scholarship opportunities

Following the agreement of ministers at 20CCEM that the QECS scheme should be expanded, the CSFP endowment fund received new contributions from the governments of the UK and Fiji. Fundraising and profile-raising activities with other Commonwealth governments continued throughout 2019 and early 2020 prior to the pandemic and are now resuming.

### Introduced innovations in scholarship management

A number of operational innovations have been introduced, including a new centralised online application system and two-stage selection procedure. Host universities shortlist applicants, with final selections agreed by a central review committee. The centralised system allows for more accurate monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the scholarships, and a more streamlined process for applicants.

### Reached new audiences

Greater visibility has been achieved through a new web page, the introduction of a new marketing toolkit, regular marketing through Commonwealth High Commissions, and a range of public-facing activities such as live Q&A sessions with current scholars and alumni.

### Brought scholars together

The creation of new engagement opportunities has been vital especially during the pandemic to enable scholars to meet each other, share work relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, and develop a wider network. Opportunities have included an in-person Commonwealth Day event in South Africa in March 2020, virtual scholar check-ins, discussion groups and, most recently, scholars were invited to join students on the University of Manchester's online course on the Sustainable Development Goals.

“ The programme has enabled me to build upon my skills in the practice of midwifery, clinical research and new skills in adolescent and child health ”

Paulina, Ghana



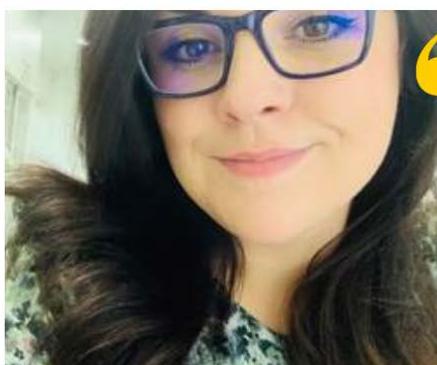
Queen Elizabeth  
Commonwealth  
Scholarships



## 4. Update on CSFP national scholarships

All national governments of the Commonwealth can host Commonwealth Scholarships under the CSFP framework and brand. These create opportunities for study within these countries for citizens from other Commonwealth nations.

Hosting a Commonwealth Scholarship is an opportunity for countries and institutions to attract talented international students and build stronger links and global networks across the Commonwealth, with far-reaching mutual benefits for all institutions, individuals, and nations involved.



Thanks to my Commonwealth Scholarship, I'm exactly where I need to be for my research. Gibraltar is especially important to our understanding of human evolution – the first Neanderthal was found in Gibraltar in 1848, which predates the finding of the fossil that gives the Neanderthals their name.

Natalie Wilson PhD

University of Gibraltar Commonwealth Scholarship recipient

Since the previous report, three new national Commonwealth Scholarships have been established for study under the CSFP in Gibraltar, Malta, and Pakistan. This has been particularly significant in Gibraltar, where two PhD Commonwealth Scholars were part of the University of Gibraltar's inaugural graduation ceremony.

As of 2022, the following countries offer Commonwealth Scholarships (see also Appendix 2: the CSFP in numbers):

- Gibraltar
- India
- Malaysia
- Malta
- New Zealand
- Pakistan
- Singapore
- United Kingdom

## 5. Evaluation and impact of the CSFP

There is increasing evidence of the value of international scholarships, and several CSFP host countries have looked at the impact of awards within their own contexts. Over the past decade, the United Kingdom in particular has developed an evaluation and monitoring programme aimed at identifying and analysing the outcomes and impact of the awards it has offered under the CSFP. The research generated by this programme demonstrates strong outcomes for Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, not only in terms of their personal careers, but also for their impact on their workplaces and wider communities. Some of the highlights of the research are included below.

### **Reintegration to the labour force generally occurs within the first-year post-scholarship.**

Most alumni for the CSC report being in full-time employment, either with their pre-scholarship or a new employer, with the remainder either currently studying, having retired or currently seeking employment (10%). CSC's longitudinal datasets demonstrates that 83% of those seeking new employment found a new job within the first 12 months post-scholarship.

**Employment trajectories are closely tied to employer supportiveness.** Employers are key stakeholders in access and reintegration for Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows. At the pre-scholarship stage, employers have great influence over the capacity of individuals to apply for Commonwealth Scholarships, either through the necessity of a direct employer nomination or through control of sabbatical or leave provisions. While some applicants are willing to leave their previous employment to take up a Commonwealth award, many study with the support of their employer and return to that same employer upon completion.

**Alumni are earning higher salaries following their return home.** The CSC's longitudinal data shows that 68% of those employed within two-years post-award report earning a higher salary than before they undertook their Commonwealth Scholarship. More broadly, 67% of alumni continue to report higher earnings at every two-year data point throughout the ten-year longitudinal framework.

**Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows are predominantly engaged with the civic and academic infrastructure of Commonwealth states.** Broadly speaking, private sector participation has remained low both pre- and post-scholarship amongst all respondents, although the transition from public to private employment varies when broken down by specific programme.

**Alumni report high knowledge and skill gains and subsequent opportunities to apply these gains.** This increase in knowledge and technical skills is closely linked to rise in confidence to make changes within the workplace either through the application of these skills or their transfer to colleagues through training and teaching.

**The conditions of post-award employment are critical.** Beyond the individual perceptions of alumni, what is clear is that Scholars returning to their employer post-scholarship also require support for their reintegration and the sensitive handling of the tensions that can accompany the return of internationally mobile Scholars to their previous departments or communities.

**Alumni report the highest rates of impact at the institutional level.** CSC data illustrates that 86% of alumni report impact at institutional level compared to local (81%), national (52%) and international (33%) domains. Institutional impact is also proportionally the highest impact rating amongst alumni working in the academic, public, private, NGO, and multilateral sectors (accounting for 99% of all survey respondents).

**Commonwealth Scholarships have increased the doctoral capacity of Commonwealth countries.** The CSC has supported nearly 8,000 doctoral Scholars from over 50 Commonwealth countries since 1960. Through dedicated funding and resources, Commonwealth Scholarships have correlated with high completion rates, with a large proportion having submitted their doctoral dissertation within four years.

**Return rates are also high** analysis of the CSC’s dataset demonstrated that having studied a doctorate in the UK is, perhaps contrary to expectations, significantly associated with current residency in a Scholar’s home region.

**A net effect of all CSC programmes has been to increase the supply of highly qualified academic personnel** both by providing an entry route into the academic sector or opportunities for professional development for those already within the academy. Specific CSC doctoral programmes are predicated on employer support for increasing staff provision within higher education institutions, as reflected by the strong retention rate of pre-scholarship academic staff. These programmes help to minimise disruption to staffing, itself crucial to maintaining institutional teaching and administrative capacity.

**Alumni have enhanced university teaching and supervision provision.** 617 CSC PhD Alumni reported having trained over 1,350 new PhD students, 25,000 Master’s students, and hundreds of thousands undergraduate students.

**Commonwealth Scholarships promote international networks and foster collaborations between higher education institutions.** An important premise of the CSFP’s programmes is to the opportunity to establish global networks of colleagues and collaborators that transcend disciplinary and national boundaries to tackle development challenges. Beyond alumni networks, the CSC’s programmes have also been found to raise the institutional profile of Commonwealth universities and promote new opportunities for partnerships between UK and Commonwealth university departments and supervisors.



“

**This programme enables international exposure, providing scholars with the knowledge and leadership skills required to achieve global sustainable development**

**Fabian Chidubem Eze**

QECS Alum, Nigerian (MSc Renewable Energy - University of Nairobi)

## 6. Conclusion

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan yields profound and life-changing benefits for individuals, institutions, and countries of the Commonwealth. It builds global networks of colleagues and collaborators that transcend national and disciplinary boundaries to tackle global and local challenges. It raises the profile of Commonwealth universities and promotes new opportunities for partnership. It equips individuals with vital skills and knowledge, strengthening capacity and research – both in the institutions that host them and those to which they return. And it builds lasting understanding between nations thanks to the positive associations, cultural understanding, and people-to-people links that the scholarship experience creates.

Evaluation of the CSFP also shows that Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows make a particularly strong contribution to the education sector, increasing the supply of highly qualified academic staff at Commonwealth universities and the doctoral capacity of Commonwealth countries. In this, the CSFP plays a crucial role in strengthening systems of higher education to better serve generations of students long into the future.

Tomorrow's Commonwealth will thrive on these products of 'brain circulation' and collaboration between its diverse nations, in which all countries have something to give and all have something to learn. International collaboration in higher education will play a vital role in solving the global challenges that define our time and achieving all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, further support from Commonwealth governments is needed to ensure the CSFP can continue to deliver these important benefits.

In view of this, ministers are asked to:

- Formally reaffirm the support of their national governments for the CSFP; and
- Actively support the expansion of the CSFP, both through contributions to the CSFP endowment fund and by hosting scholarships in their countries and institutions.



**The statistics are remarkable, and the intangible impacts which cannot be enumerated or measured even more so. The need for the scheme is now greater than when it was established 60 years ago. To live up to the true meaning of the word Commonwealth we have to plan and work for ever greater inclusiveness and equality of opportunity - particularly for young people from poorer, more remote or marginalised communities or sectors of society.**

**Dr Arjoon Suddhoo**

Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth

## APPENDIX 1: CSFP Taskforce recommendations

In light of the positive view of the CSFP held by Commonwealth education ministers and the wider Commonwealth, the Taskforce endorsed the expansion of the CSFP. The Taskforce set out recommendations aimed at defining, managing, and promoting Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships, in addition to ensuring their recognition as a prominent Commonwealth activity. These recommendations and their status are outlined below.

Recommendations	Status
<i>1. Defining Commonwealth Scholarships</i>	
1.1. The five founding principles of the CSFP should be reviewed	The CSFP management unit has been tasked with reviewing the founding principles.
1.2. The ability to offer Commonwealth Scholarships should be extended to individual universities, as well as governments	The CSFP management unit will further explore the scalability of this approach (based on the experience of existing host universities) and possible partnership opportunities. Through the QECS, scholarships have been offered to more institutions and across more Commonwealth Countries.
1.3. Consideration should be given to a clear set of defining characteristics to establish what constitutes a Commonwealth Scholarship	The CSFP management unit will develop a proposal for the defining characteristics, in consultation with key stakeholders.
1.4. Particular attention should be given to preserving awards for citizens of developed, as well as developing, countries	Work was undertaken to expand the CSFP endowment fund, leading to contributions from the UK and Fiji which allowed for more scholarships to be offered. Further expansion of the CSFP endowment fund is a priority and will to preserve and expand scholarships for study in low and middle income countries.
<i>2. Managing Commonwealth Scholarships</i>	
2.1. A small management unit should be established to oversee future management and promotion of the CSFP, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities should be invited to host this	The ACU has expanded its provision of management of the CSFP endowment fund introducing a new team dedicated to administering the QECS within a Commonwealth Scholarship unit which includes the Secretariat of the United Kingdom scheme (CSC)
2.2. A new role description should be devised for national nominating agencies	The CSFP management unit has been tasked with consulting with national nominating agencies on establishing the appropriate working relationships

<p>2.3. Consideration should be given to a relaunch of the Commonwealth Fellowships brand</p>	<p>The CSFP management unit will undertake further scoping work on the distinctive objectives and benefits of Commonwealth Fellowships</p>
<p>3. <i>Promoting Commonwealth Scholarships</i></p>	
<p>3.1. Commonwealth Scholarships should be listed and marketed in a single place</p> <p>3.2. The CSFP should adopt a clear strategy to mark its 60th anniversary</p>	<p>A dedicated CSFP webpage has been created on the ACU website which highlights the national agencies hosting their own scholarships as well as the QECS. The ACU shares news of any opportunities available with its 500 members.</p> <p>Various activities were undertaken as part of the CSFP's 60th anniversary including a high profile event in December 2019 hosted by the High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in London, attended by High Commissioners, UK parliamentarians, and Commonwealth university leaders, as well as Commonwealth Scholars past and present.</p>
<p>4. <i>Official recognition of the CSFP</i></p>	
<p>4.1. The Commonwealth Secretary-General should be asked to make a clear statement emphasising the support of the 'official' Commonwealth for the CSFP, and the practical ways in which engagement with take place</p> <p>4.2. Time should be found at 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers for a debate on the future of the CSFP, at which national governments are asked to formally reaffirm their support for the Plan</p> <p>4.3. The reinvigoration of the CSFP should be marked with a special conference on 'Scholarships and the Commonwealth'</p>	<p>The ACU has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth Secretariat, which covers strengthened cooperation on the CSFP. The Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat is the Chair of the QECS selection panel.</p> <p>Ministers at the 20CCEM reaffirmed their support for the CSFP and asked member states to contribute to the CSFP endowment fund in the official communique from 20CCEM.</p> <p>The CSFP management unit are exploring the options for holding a conference on 'Scholarships and the Commonwealth' alongside the 22CCEM.</p>

## APPENDIX 2: The CSFP in numbers 2018 - 2022

3,071 Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships were awarded in the four years covered by this report – an average of 768 per year, compared to 903 in the previous report period. While the overall number of awards dropped, the number of countries involved remained high. As shown in Table 1, 25 countries and territories hosted awards in 2018-2022. While the United Kingdom continues to fund the majority of awards, a wider range of countries were able to participate as hosts through the CSFP endowment fund. Outside of this, Gibraltar, India, Malta, New Zealand and Pakistan continue to make a significant contribution.

**Table 1: Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships 2018-2022, by host country and year<sup>1</sup>**

Host Country	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022 <sup>2</sup>	Total
Bangladesh*	1		1	1	3
Botswana*	1	1			2
Eswatini*	2	1	1	1	5
Fiji*	1	2	2		5
Ghana*	3	2	2	1	8
Gibraltar	2			2	4
India	5	14	10	8	37
Jamaica*		1			1
Kenya*	2	2	2	2	8
Malaysia*		2	1	2	5
Malta	3	3			6
Mauritius*		2		1	3
Namibia*			1		1
New Zealand	10	14			24
Nigeria*		1			1
Pakistan*	8	5	2	1	16
Papua New Guinea*	1	1	2	1	5
Rwanda*	2		1	1	4
South Africa*	2	4	4	3	13
Sri Lanka*	2	2	1	2	7
Tanzania*	1	1	1	1	4
Trinidad & Tobago*	1	1		1	3
Uganda*			1		1
United Kingdom	731	780	678	715	2904
Zambia*			1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>3071</b>

<sup>1</sup> An asterisk indicates countries where some or all of awards in 2018-2022 were supported by the CSFP Endowment Fund.

<sup>2</sup> The take up of awards for the latest year is not finalised and may be subject to slight change.

Citizens of 49 Commonwealth countries and territories participated in the CSFP during the report period (see Table 2 below). By region, Africa continues to have the greatest share of award holders with 69% in 2021/22 compared to 65% in 2017/2018, (the final year of the previous report). South Asia's share also increased slightly to 28% in the latest year.

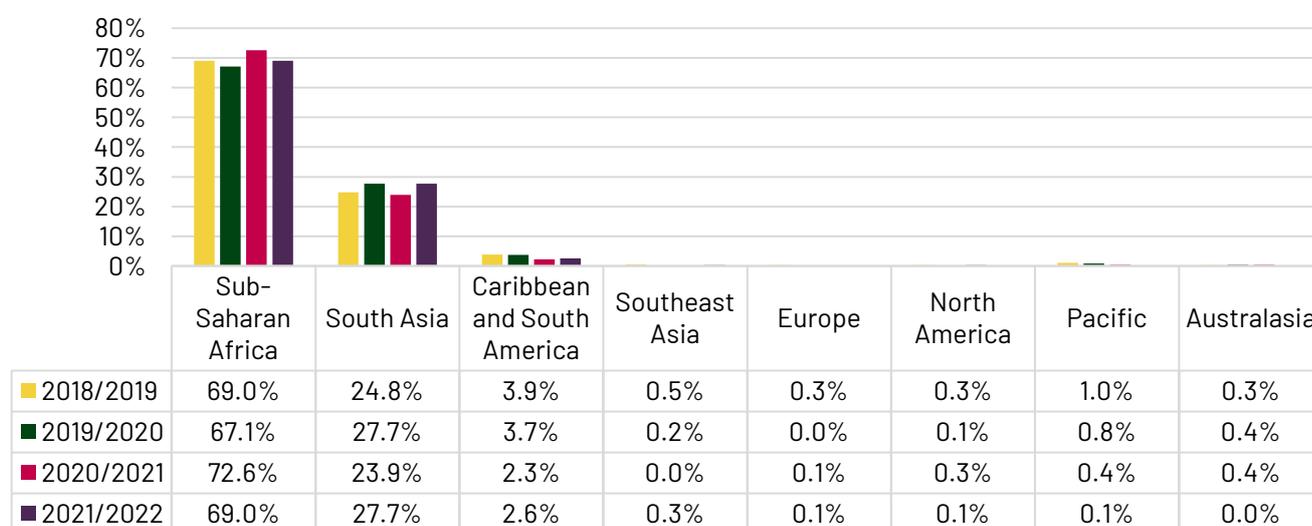
**Table 2: Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows 2018-2022, by home country and year**

Home Country	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022 <sup>1</sup>	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	1	1		2	4
Australia	2	1	2		5
Bangladesh	43	56	45	42	186
Belize	1	1		2	4
Botswana	6	4			10
Cameroon	10	22	19	18	69
Canada	2	1	2	1	6
Cyprus				1	1
Dominica	2	3	1		6
Eswatini			2	6	8
Fiji	4	1		1	6
Ghana	95	71	58	70	294
Grenada	2				2
Guyana	14	21	9	9	53
India	88	93	72	91	344
Jamaica	5	4	4	2	15
Kenya	60	81	80	58	279
Lesotho	1		3	3	7
Malawi	24	26	18	33	101
Malaysia	4	2		2	8
Maldives				1	1
Mauritius	1	3		2	6
Montserrat	1			1	2
Mozambique	2	5	5	3	15
Namibia	4	6	2	8	20
New Zealand		2	1		3
Nigeria	136	172	169	182	659
Pakistan	51	63	46	55	215
Papua New Guinea		4	2		6
Rwanda	12	13	15	10	50
Saint Helena	1				1

<sup>1</sup> The take up of awards for the latest year is not finalised and may be subject to slight change.

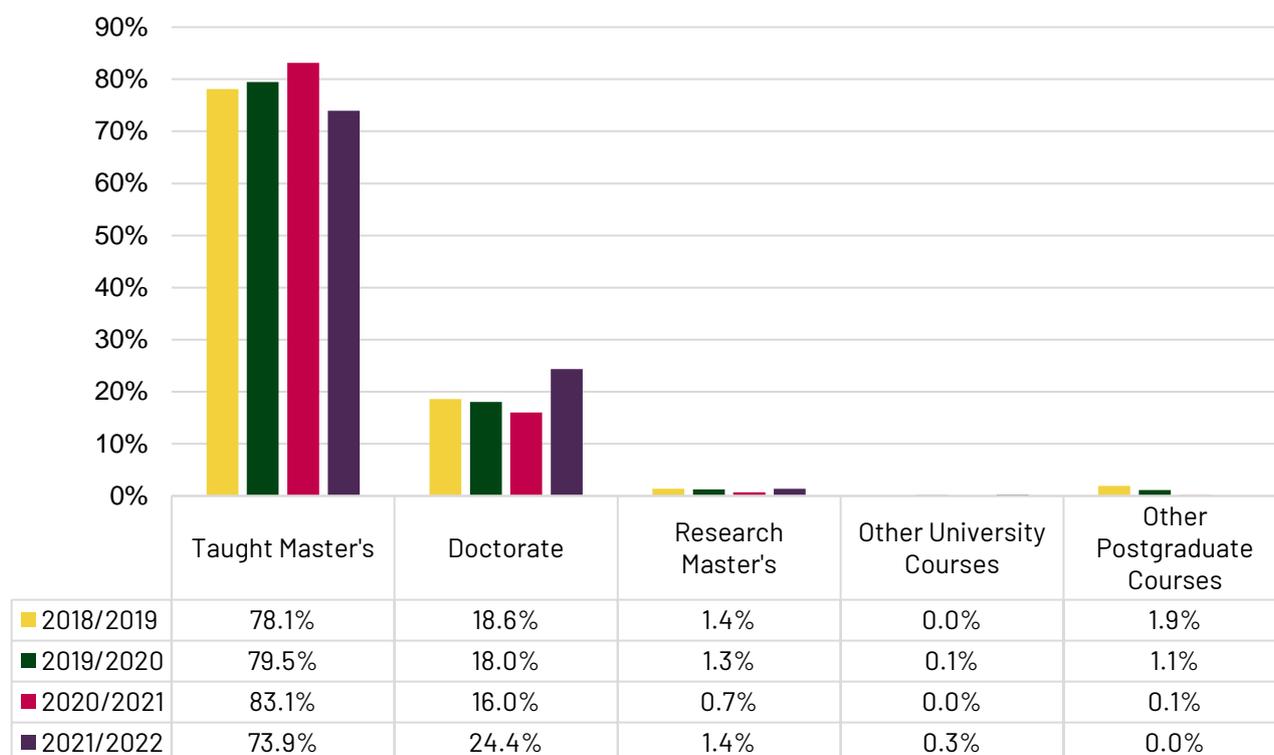
Saint Lucia	2	1	1	2	6
Saint Vincent and The Grenadines	1			1	2
Samoa	1				1
Seychelles	1				1
Sierra Leone	22	14	14	6	56
Solomon Islands	1	1			2
South Africa	20	13	6	12	51
Sri Lanka	11	20	7	17	55
St. Lucia	1				1
Tanzania	14	26	25	14	79
The Gambia	11	6	7	5	29
Tonga	1				1
Trinidad & Tobago			1		1
Tuvalu			1		1
Uganda	90	73	66	55	284
United Kingdom	2		1		3
Vanuatu	1	1			2
Zambia	27	28	27	28	110
	<b>778</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>3071</b>

**Figure 1: Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows 2018-2022, by home region and year (N=3071)**



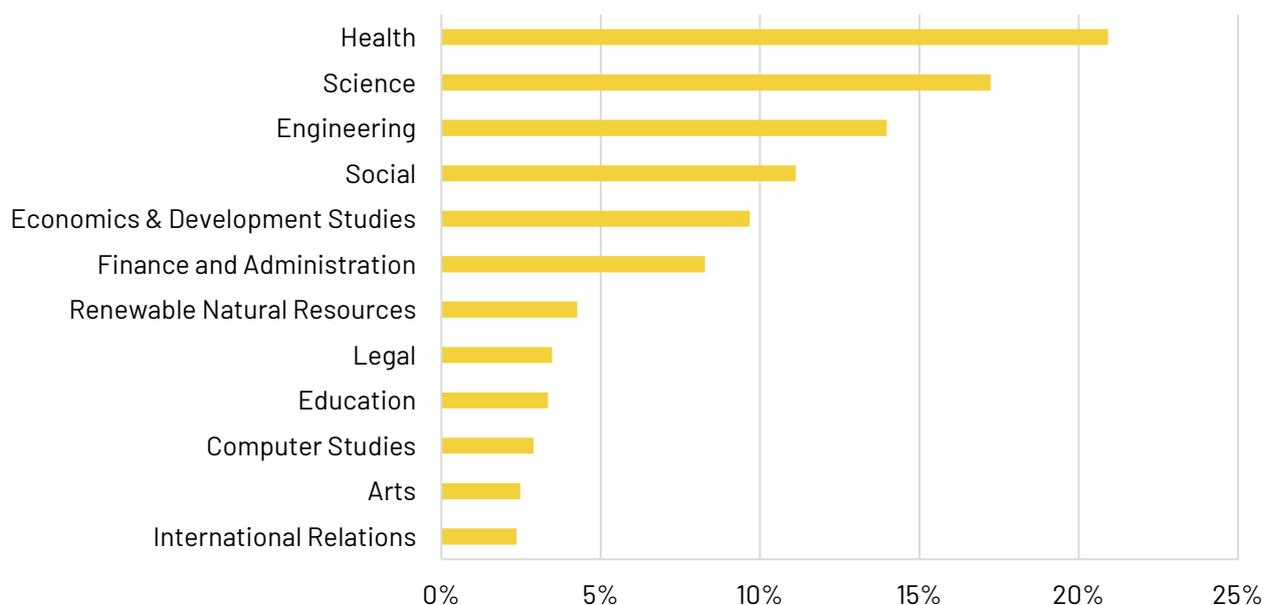
Taught Master's courses continue to make up the majority of CSFP awards, 74% in the latest year down from 83% in 2020, with doctoral level study rising to 24% (see figure 2 below). Fellowships (not included below) only made up 4% of awards compared to 16% over the previous report period.

**Figure 2: Commonwealth Scholars 2018-2022, by level of study (N=2945)**



Over the four-year period Health and Science were again the most popular fields supported (see figure 3 below) with Health increasing its share from 17% to 21%. Engineering overtook from Social as the third most popular field and covered a range of areas from Environmental Engineering, Biotechnology through to Structural Engineering and Built Environments.

**Figure 3: Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows 2018-2022, by field of study (N=2419)**



Over the four-year period there has been a vast improvement in gender parity on the CSFP scholarship programmes with women now receiving 51% of scholarships. The gender balance on Fellowship programmes has increasingly favoured women.

**Table 3: Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows 2018-2022, by gender (N=3068)**

Gender	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
	Fellow	Scholar	Fellow	Scholar	Fellow	Scholar	Fellow	Scholar
Female	52.9%	47.4%	50.0%	46.9%	66.7%	51.5%	75.9%	51.0%
Male	47.1%	52.6%	47.5%	52.9%	33.3%	48.4%	24.1%	48.7%
Prefer not to say	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Prefer to self-identify	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%



Commonwealth  
Scholarship  
and Fellowship Plan

# REPORT ON THE COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PLAN (CSFP)

**SPEAKER**

21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Commonwealth Education  
Ministers

28 April 2022, Nairobi, Kenya





# Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan

Since its founding in 1959, the CSFP has created life-changing educational opportunities for more than **38,000 individuals.**



Individual governments and universities fund  
National scholarships



CSFP endowment fund  
Multilateral scholarships hosted across low and middle income countries



Gibraltar



भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद  
Indian Council For Cultural Relations

India



NEW ZEALAND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE

New Zealand



Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships



Pakistan



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Malta



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

UK

# The value of Commonwealth Scholarships



[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/671985/Annual-Report-2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/671985/Annual-Report-2017.pdf)

Scholarships are transformational for the **individual...**  
and also have a wider impact, at **institutional,**  
**national, and international levels**

# CSFP in Numbers



**25**

Commonwealth  
Countries & Territories  
hosted awards



**3071**

New Commonwealth  
Scholarships & Fellowships  
in 2018-2022



**51%**

Of Commonwealth  
Scholars in the latest  
year were female



Citizens of

**49**

Commonwealth  
Countries & Territories  
held awards





Queen Elizabeth  
Commonwealth  
Scholarships



I am proud to be a QECS scholar as it has given me a great chance to access opportunities and resources to change my life and the lives of others

**Hellen Kasila**

**University of Buea, Cameroon**

**#QECSalumni**

**Member governments are asked to actively support the growth and continued future of the CSFP in two key ways:**

By contributing to the CSFP endowment fund

By hosting scholarships within their countries and institutions, offered to students of other Commonwealth nations

“To live up to the true meaning of the word Commonwealth we have to plan and work for ever great inclusiveness and equality of opportunity”