



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

400+
members in
40+
countries



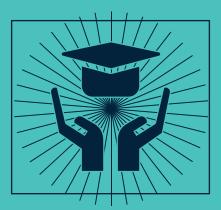


Our network can reach more than

1 million

academic and professional staff, and over

10 million students



£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



70%

of our member universities are in low and middleincome countries



We are represented in more than

of Commonwealth large ocean states



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.

lan 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:



LEARN MORE **ABOUT ACU MEASURES**

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



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



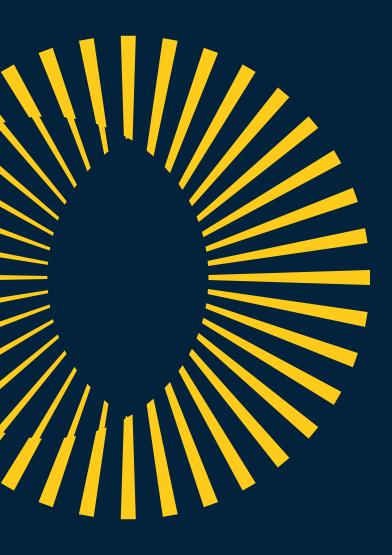
- AFRICA 85+
- ASIA 200+
- CARIBBEAN and AMERICAS 25+
- EUROPE 80+
- PACIFIC 20+



BROWSE MEMBERS

X @The_ACU

www.acu.ac.uk



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