



King's Commonwealth Fellowship Programme Call for Guest Speakers (funded)

Summary

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is seeking guest speakers to lead one-off lectures/sessions within the King's Commonwealth Fellowship Programme (KCFP) Community of Practice (CoP).

Guest speakers will provide content related to climate resilience, vulnerability, and/or adaptation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in order to broaden the knowledge of CoP participants, demonstrate successful and inspirational case studies of climate resilience and/or adaptation, and/or help further their impact on climate resilience in their countries.

Guest speakers will have an academic or professional background related to climate resilience in Commonwealth SIDS in relation to one of the 4 topics below:

- Climate change
- Education
- Engineering
- Health

We welcome speakers with a broader background including policy and governance in SIDS, climate finance, climate project implementation, indigenous and local communities in SIDS, and any other topics which may benefit KCFP fellows in successfully implementing meaningful change towards climate resilience in SIDS.

Overview of the King's Commonwealth Fellowship Programme

Inspired by His Majesty King Charles III, KCFP is an ambitious interdisciplinary three-part scholarship and fellowship programme that aims to deliver both immediate and long-term transformational impact within SIDS of the Commonwealth.

KCFP will support the strengthening of the resilience of SIDS by SIDS to respond to environmental and related crises while simultaneously addressing long-term development challenges. The programme will be delivered via three distinct pathways:

1. **150 Climate Resilience Fellowships (CRF pathway):** to support mid-senior career professionals working on the frontline of climate change. The pathway will develop their knowledge and understanding of climate resilience and broader environmental issues, develop skills and practical tools to respond to and build long-term resilience against current climate crises with **near-immediate effect**, as well as broadening their regional networks and opportunities to influence internationally.
2. **Undergraduate Scholarships (UG pathway):** to address significant capacity challenges in key education, engineering and healthcare sectors in SIDS by



incentivising participants to remain in country to help meet **medium-term** skills shortages and to contribute to climate resilience of their home SIDS. This may start in 2027 and we do not have a definitive number of scholarships at this stage.

3. **20 part-time in-country PhDs (PhD pathway):** to upskill university academic staff and, through a 'train the trainers' model, train future generations of researchers and key workers within sectors vital to the economies and future well-being, resilience, and prosperity of SIDS, building **long-term sustainable capacity** in country and meeting local needs and priorities

In 2026, the KCFP CoP will be home to 50 participants: 20 PhDs and 30 CRF fellows.

Scope of work for guest speakers

Guest speakers will plan and deliver a session lasting around 45 minutes to 1 hour via Zoom. An example session structure could be a 30–45-minute interactive information session or lecture, culminating in a 15-minute Q&A session. However, we are open to various delivery methods and creative approaches to these sessions and look forward to hearing your proposals.

We are looking to host guest speakers on the CoP platform once every three months, starting in June 2026. Speakers will be contacted no later than one month prior to session delivery to determine availability, agree a delivery date and co-develop a session plan.

Person Specification

Ideal speakers should combine geographic and cultural insight, technical expertise, and practical experience and place-based expertise related to climate resilience in Commonwealth SIDS. We also welcome speakers with a broader background including policy and governance in SIDS, climate finance, climate project implementation, indigenous and local communities in SIDS, and any other topics which may benefit KCFP fellows in successfully implementing meaningful change towards climate resilience in SIDS.

Some categories and examples include:

- Practitioners - professionals from NGOs or government agencies implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs); private sector leaders in sustainable agriculture, water security, or green infrastructure.
- Local and indigenous - community leaders or elders with expertise in traditional resource management, coastal resilience, and nature-based solutions; representatives from indigenous organisations active in climate advocacy.
- Academics – academics in climate change and related fields with a background of research/knowledge/experience within a SIDS context.
- Youth Leaders and Climate Activists – emerging leaders from SIDS climate movements or youth organisations, e.g. youth delegates to COP or members of



Youth Climate Networks such as the Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN).

At the ACU, we do not just welcome difference, we celebrate it, we support it, and we thrive on it for the benefit of our employees, our services, and our community. ACU is proud to be an equal opportunity workplace and encourages applications from all individuals regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.

Funding available

Speakers will receive GBP 100 honorarium.

ACU support

The post will be overseen by ACU Senior Programme Officer leading the CoP and supported by the ACU programme administration team to deliver all responsibilities.

The ACU will have the following responsibilities:

1. Provide an online platform for guest speakers to deliver sessions.
2. Provide support in running the online event such as helping manage breakout rooms.
3. Facilitate the attendance of KCFP CoP members.
4. Recognition of the guest speakers' contribution via ACU dissemination channels.

How to apply

To express your interest in this opportunity, please fill out this [form](#).

You will be asked to provide:

- A copy of your CV
- A short summary of your professional/academic experience and how it relates to the kind of speaker we're seeking for the CoP
- An outline of the topic you wish to cover in your session and how this will benefit KCFP CoP participants.

If you have any questions, please email info-kcfp@acu.ac.uk with the subject header 'Enquiry – CoP Guest Speaker'.