



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

COMMONWEALTH MASTER'S AND PHD SCHOLARSHIPS TENABLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM – 2025

Applications are invited from eligible Sri Lankans for the awarding of Postgraduate Scholarships for Master's and PhD degree programs offered under the UK Commonwealth Scholarship Program.

Candidates must apply using the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) online application system which can be found on the CSC website.

<http://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships>

The CSC is open for applications **between 10th September 2024 and 15th October 2024 (at 16:00 (GMT))**

Number of Nominations requested by Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC):

- Master's -09
- PhD - 06

Fields of Study:

These scholarships are offered under 6 development themes. All candidates must apply under one of these themes. (for more information: <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/csc-development-themes/>)

- Science and Technology for development
- Strengthening health system and capacity
- Promoting global prosperity
- Strengthening global peace, security and governance
- Strengthening resilience and response to crisis
- Access, inclusion and opportunity

How to apply:

Each scholarship has a 'How to apply' section which will have information and guidance on the application process and the link to the online application system. The CSC is unable to accept any application that are not submitted via the online application system or after the closing date indicated above.

To apply for a PhD Scholarship: -

<https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-phd-scholarships-for-least-developed-countries-and-fragile-states/>

To apply for a Master's Scholarship: -

<https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-masters-scholarships/>

General Eligibility Requirements:

- All applicants should be citizens of Sri Lanka
- Should be in good health and ready to live in UK during the period of study.

Master's Applicants,

- Should possess 04-year (Minimum duration) Bachelor's Degree with a First or Second Class Upper Division in the relevant field of study from a recognized university by UGC.

PhD Applicants,

- Should possess 04-year (Minimum duration) Bachelor's Degree with a First or Second Class Upper Division in the relevant field of study from a recognized university by UGC.
- Should possess a Master's degree in the relevant field of study from a recognized university
- Should NOT be registered for a PhD, or an MPhil leading to a PhD at a UK university or Sri Lanka before September/October 2025
- Should provide a supporting statement from a proposed supervisor in the UK from at least one of the institutions named in your application form.

Special Notes:

- a) Award of the scholarship conditions laid down in this notification may vary as per the criteria imposed by the UK scholarship Authority without prior notice
- b) Candidates who received scholarship would select the higher educational institutes recognized by University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka
- c) If any student declines the offer after the selection procedure, he/she shall not be considered for any of the scholarships in future
- d) Extension of the period of the scholarship will not be recommended by this Ministry.

Interview and Selection:

- a) The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) in UK will provide electronic copies of all submitted application forms to this Ministry for the selection of applications for the Commonwealth Scholarship program. All eligible applicants will be shortlisted by the Ministry of Education based on the information provided in the CSC application according to the Grading system for assessment of applications for FCDO-funded Commonwealth Scholarships tenable in the UK. (Annexure 01)
- b) The shortlisted candidates are required to present himself/herself at an interview to be held at the Ministry of Education, Higher Education Division, No.18, Ward Place, Colombo 07.
- c) The interviews will be held within a short period after the closing date. He/she should produce original certificates to prove the qualifications, University placement letter (if already available), Birth Certificate, National Identity card/ Passport and any other documentary evidence in support of his/her candidature at the interview. Traveling or other expenses incurred with this interview will not be paid.

- d) Any form of canvassing either in written or verbal will be considered as a disqualification for a scholarship.
- e) Any statement in the application, which is found to be incorrect, will render the applicant liable to disqualification, if the inaccuracy is discovered before selection and to the withdrawal/cancel of award, if discovered after selection.

Nomination for the Scholarship:

No candidate should treat his/her nomination for the Scholarship by the authorities of Sri Lanka as his/her acceptance for an award. Awarding of the scholarship is a matter entirely within the discretion of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission/ UK to whom the nomination is made. Selected candidates who decline to accept the award will not be considered for any other award in future.

Secretary

Ministry of Education
Higher Education Division
18, Ward Place
Colombo 07.

10.09.2024

for FCDO-funded commonwealth scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom

Grade	Academic merit	Quality of Research proposal (doctoral)	Quality of Study plans (Masters)	Development impact
Grading criteria	<p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination results • Academic transcripts • Tutors' and referees' reports <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic prizes or awards • Other relevant academic achievements • Publications, where appropriate 	<p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear abstract of what the candidate wants to research • Extent to which the work programme has been well researched (including references to key literature); and the extent of engagement with the host supervisor • Quality of the research proposal, including innovation and relevance to current research in the chosen field and to development policy <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity of expression. • Feasibility of proposed research • Likelihood of completion within three years <p>For Split-Site Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of work in UK to PhD • Evidence of strong research link with UK institution 	<p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing offer of admission to the course • Clarity of presentation 	<p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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