higher education & training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Commonwealth Master's Programme

United Kingdom

Date: 13 September 2023

Commonwealth Scholarships

- Funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- Enables talented and motivated scholars to gain the knowledge and skills required to make a positive impact on the development priorities of their home country
- Administered by the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC)
- Over 30,000 Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows awards since 1960

Commonwealth Scholarships

- PhD Scholarships (for least developed countries and fragile states)
- Split-site Scholarships (for low and middle-income countries)
- Master’s Scholarships
- Shared Master’s Scholarships
- Distance Learning Scholarships
- Split-site PhD Scholarships (for high income countries)
- Professional Fellowships

Master's Scholarships

- For candidates from eligible lower and upper middle income Commonwealth countries
- **Full-time taught Master's study at a UK university**
- Talented and motivated individuals from all backgrounds
- Encourages applications from individuals from historically disadvantaged backgrounds and people living with disabilities
- ***Note*: CSC would not normally fund a second UK Master's degree and MBAs are not funded**
- Offered under six CSC Development themes

CSC Development themes

1. Science and technology for development
2. Strengthening health systems and capacity
3. Promoting global prosperity
4. Strengthening global peace, security and governance
5. Strengthening resilience and response to crises
6. Access, inclusion and opportunity

For more information on the themes visit CSC Development themes

Who can apply

SA Citizen/permanent resident in SA

Full time taught masters' programmes

Honours degree **NQF 8** level and meet minimum criteria for proposed course

Minimum of 65% average mark and above achieved

Candidates applying for study programme aligned to CSC theme and global & national priorities

(Full time studies only)

Available to start in Sept 24 (start of UK academic year)

How to apply

Applications **strictly on the CSC's online application system**

DHET is one of the nominating agencies for South Africans.

NB: Please select the Department

Supporting documents to be uploaded on the system by closing date **17 October 2023**

Select 3 universities and courses - resources available on the CSC website

CSC will not accept any applications not submitted via the online application system

NB: No additional application form to complete or submit to DHET

Supporting documents

- Valid passport and national ID document
- Transcripts of all higher education qualifications (with certified translation)
- References from at least two individuals on a clear letterhead /email showing referee's details (**applicants to upload references – referees will no longer receive a separate email**)

NB:

Late documents will not be considered

Failure to submit above documents will result in disqualification of application

Selection criteria

Applications will be considered according to the following selection criteria:

- Academic merit of the candidate
- Quality of the plan of study
- Potential impact on the development of the candidate's home country

Correct completion of the rest of the application form

For further details, see the https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CSC-Selection-Criteria-1.docx.

What do we look at

Academic merit

- Exam results / transcripts
- References (professional references)
- Academic awards/ achievements (secondary)

Quality of study plan

- Personal statement and relation to stated objectives
- Extent of course and institution research
- Clear presentation of study plan (practical and well thought of and constructed)

Development impact

- How the study plan relates to the development of sector/home country objectives
- Clear measurable outcomes, timeframes and intended beneficiaries
- Clear demonstration of how acquired skills will be applied

What the scholarship covers

- Approved airfare for awardees only
- Tuition fees
- Living allowance of £1,347 per month, or £1652 per month for those at universities in the London metropolitan area (rates quoted at current levels)
- Warm clothing allowance (where applicable)
- Study travel grant towards the cost of study-related travel within the UK or overseas
- Additional financial support if you declare a disability (full assessment will apply)
- Additional support for children if widowed, and or single parent (conditions apply)

More information available in the Handbook for Commonwealth Scholars.

Tips for applicants

Plan and prepare your application in advance, don't wait until the last minute

Proofread your application and ask someone else to proofread again

Make sure to apply for admission to our preferred universities **in advance**

Demonstrate why you are the strongest candidate – highly competitive scholarship

Demonstrated a clear and realistic plan of study in your application

Demonstrated how you would make tangible development impacts at the end of your award

Put a lot of effort into your development impact statement – follow the directions on the CSC website

Choose professional references

Selection process

Administrative screening of applications by DHET - minimum requirements

→ Rank according to academic merit and submission of all documents

→ Shortlisting of applications for content review using evaluation grid

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Further shortlist of applications for nominations review panel according to content review rankings

→ Nominations review panel meeting for final selection of candidates (applicants may be invited for interviews)

→ Final nominations to the CSC

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All applicants informed of the outcome of their application

→ CSC will process nominations and make the final decision on the awarding of scholarships

Timelines

5 September

Scholarships online applications open

17 October

Online applications close

17 October

Supporting documents due date

18 October – 08 December

Review and selection processes applied

12 December

Final nominations to the CSC

July 2024

Final awards by CSC and shared with agencies

Contacts & links

https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships

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

www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za

www.linkedin.com/company/international-scholarships-for-south-africans

www.facebook.com/dhetinternationalscholarships/

internationalscholarships@dhet.gov.za

@ScholarshipsZA

Subscribe on the website to receive scholarship opportunities

Thank You!

www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za

www.dhet.gov.za

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STAY SAFE
VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA
TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

2030 NDP

About Us

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) is one of the departments of the South African government. It overseas universities and other post-school education and training in South Africa.

DHET was established in 2009 when the former Department of Education was divided into two sections: Basic Education and Higher Education and Training.

The mandate of the new Department included aspects of skills development and was specifically established to focus on post-school education and training holistically and has extended its scope of operations extensively.

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