

# COMMONWEALTH MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIPS

## Online Information Session

Join the **Department of Higher Education and Training** and the **British Council** for an information session featuring **Commonwealth Alumni** about the Commonwealth Master's Scholarships offered by the UK Government.

20 September 2022

11:00 – 12:00



higher education  
& training

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



COMMONWEALTH  
SCHOLARSHIPS



SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ABROAD

INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS





# 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 23  
(start of UK academic year)





# How to apply

DHET is one of the nominating agencies for South Africans

Applications strictly on the CSC's online application system

Supporting documents to be uploaded on the system by closing date **18 October 2022**

You need to **apply for admission to your preferred universities in advance** of your scholarship application. 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 [Commonwealth Master's Scholarships 2023 selection criteria](#).





# 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 £1,235 per month (R25k), or £1566 per month (R31,6k) 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 and Fellows](#)



# 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

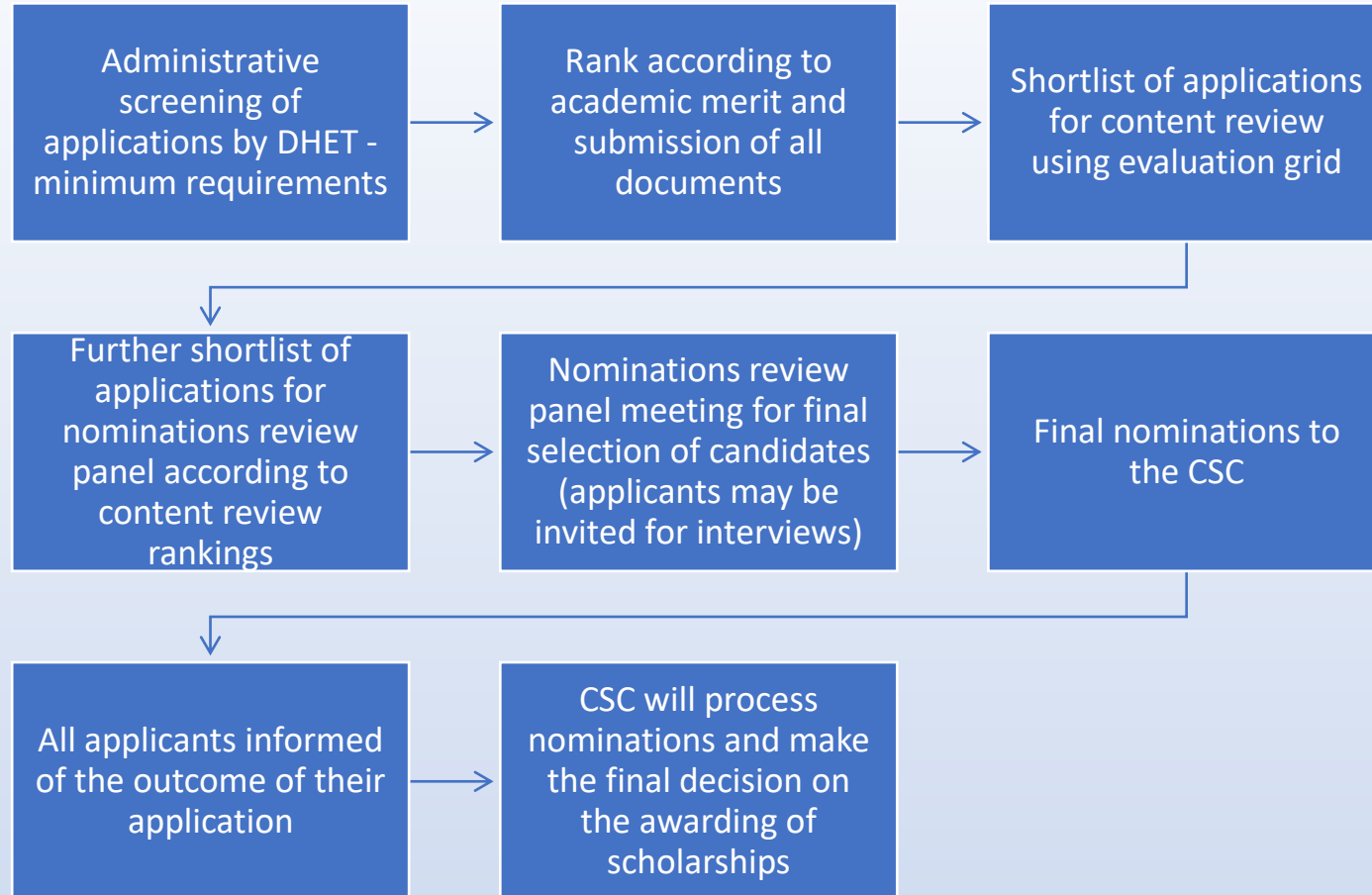
Demonstrated how you would make tangible development impacts at the end of your award

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

Choose professional references



# Selection process



# Timelines



**6 September**

Scholarships online applications open



**18 October**

Online applications close



**18 October**

Supporting documents due date



**19 October – 10 December**

Review and selection processes applied



**09 December**

Final nominations to the CSC





# Post nomination

CSC will notify applicants via email about provisional selection (subject to the CSC agreeing your terms of admission to the university)

Formal offer of a scholarship once terms of admission confirmed

You will be required to sign an undertaking to return to your home country as soon as possible after your studies

Comply with all necessary requirements to take up the scholarship (immigration, code of conduct, etc.)

Awardees to be invited to a pre-departure briefing by the British Council





# Contacts & links



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



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



[www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za](http://www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za)



[www.linkedin.com/company/international-scholarships-for-south-africans](http://www.linkedin.com/company/international-scholarships-for-south-africans)



[www.facebook.com/dhetinternationalscholarships/](http://www.facebook.com/dhetinternationalscholarships/)



[internationalscholarships@dhet.gov.za](mailto:internationalscholarships@dhet.gov.za)



[@ScholarshipsZA](https://twitter.com/ScholarshipsZA)

**Subscribe on the website to receive scholarship opportunities**





# Questions?

The recording and the slides will be uploaded on the DHET website



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