



The Republic of Uganda

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS –

UK COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Ugandan scholars to pursue studies at PhD and Masters in UK Universities for 2025/2026 Academic Year. The Commonwealth Scholarships Commission (CSC) is the one that awards the scholarships. Therefore, nomination by the Central Scholarship Committee of the Ministry of Education and Sports does not mean award of the scholarship. The fields to be applied for are:

PhD Level Priority Fields (15 Slots):

1. Health Sciences (Oncology, Neurology, Cardiology, Dermatology, Dentistry, or Critical Care)
2. Engineering Sciences (Renewable Energy engineering, Mining/minerals engineering, Mechatronics, Manufacturing engineering, Transport engineering, or Structural engineering)
3. Computer Sciences (Software engineering, Cybersecurity, or Software development)
4. Climate Change (Environmental engineering, Waste management, pollution control, Natural Resource Specialization, Environmental Health, or Ecology)
5. Special Needs Education

Master's Level Priority Fields (20 Slots):

1. Health Sciences (Oncology, Neurology, Cardiology, Dermatology, Dentistry, or Critical Care)
2. Engineering Sciences (Renewable Energy engineering, Mining/minerals engineering, Mechatronics, Manufacturing engineering, Transport engineering, or Structural engineering)
3. Computer Sciences (Software engineering, Cybersecurity, or Software development)
4. Climate Change (Waste management, pollution control, Natural Resources management, Environmental Health, Wildlife Biology, or Ecology)
5. International Relations (International policy analysis or Intelligence analysis)

General Eligibility Criteria:

1. Proof of being a Ugandan citizen or have been granted refugee status in Uganda.
2. Be permanently resident in Uganda.
3. **Evidence** of at least two years of **work experience**.
4. There is no age limit for the CSC applications.
5. Be available to start academic studies in the UK by the start of the UK academic year in September 2025.
6. The CSC is **keen to ensure equitable distribution** of awards amongst men and women.
7. Applicants with the highest academic quality as primarily evidenced by authentic examination results and academic transcripts. Evidence of academic prizes or awards, Other relevant academic achievements, and publications where appropriate are an added advantage.
8. Applicants willing to sign a declaration that they do not have access to sufficient funds to study in the UK or could not otherwise afford to study in the UK.
9. A **personal statement** that provides the panel with more information about the applicant's background and experiences. This statement shall NOT be graded.
10. It is the policy of the CSC to consider personal circumstances in all applications to ensure that, all factors being equal, applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds are selected.

Master's Eligibility Criteria for Commonwealth Scholarships:

*You must check that you meet **all** of the following eligibility criteria before submitting your application, otherwise we will be unable to consider your application:*

1. By the start of the next UK academic year, holds a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) honors standard.
2. Have provided all supporting documentation in the required format.
3. **Required documents for Master's Applicants:**
 - a) Proof of citizenship or refugee status in Uganda.
 - b) A **personal statement** of no more than **1-page** (one page).
 - c) Full academic transcripts detailing **all** higher education qualifications.
 - d) References from at least **two** individuals, on institutional letterhead or an email clearly showing the sender's details.

- e) A high-quality **study plan** that **explicitly** demonstrates in the application the **direct** and **applied** relevance of their study to development of their home country.

PhD Eligibility Criteria for Commonwealth Scholarships:

*It is the responsibility of the individual PhD applicant to check that he or she meets **all** the following eligibility criteria and has all the required documentation before submitting his or her application, otherwise the application **will not be considered**:*

1. High-quality graduates who have the potential to undertake world-class research of a developmental nature and to become influential leaders, teachers, or researchers in their home countries.
2. By the start of the next UK academic year, hold a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) honours standard or a second-class degree (2:2) and a relevant postgraduate qualification (usually a Master's degree).
3. Not be registered for a PhD, or an MPhil leading to a PhD, at a UK university or in their home country before September/October 2025.
4. Have provided all supporting documentation in the required format.
5. **Required documents for PhD Applicants:**
 - a) Proof of citizenship or refugee status in Uganda.
 - b) A **personal statement** of no more than **1-page** (one page).
 - c) Full academic transcripts detailing **all** higher education qualifications.
 - d) References from at least **two** individuals, on institutional letterhead or an email clearly showing the sender's details.
 - e) Supporting statement on institutional letterhead from a proposed supervisor in the UK from at least one of the institutions named on the application form.
 - f) A high-quality **Research proposal** that **explicitly** demonstrates in the application the **direct** and **applied** relevance of their study to development of their home country.

Important Instructions:

- a) Prospective applicants **must** visit the Ministry of Education and Sports website on www.education.go.ug to find the detailed advertisement, the application procedure, how to submit the application. Pay special attention to the **General Eligibility Criteria as well as the criteria for the respective level of study to be applied for**.

- b) Applicants should **note** the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's assessment criteria carefully and link their answers in the application form to each point listed. The assessment criteria are also provided on the downloadable advert on the Ministry's website.
- c) Applicants with foreign qualifications **MUST** have their academic documents **EQUATED** by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) prior to submitting their application packet to the Ministry of Education and Sports.
- d) The application form can be downloaded from the website of the Ministry of Education and Sports: www.education.go.ug, or can be handwritten with a recent passport photo attached.
- e) You must attach a copy of your National Identity Card or refugee card (for refugees).
- f) The application should indicate sex, course applied for, home district, telephone contact, an email address.
- g) Submit your application packet to **The Secretary, Central Scholarships Committee**, Ministry of Education and Sports by email to: scholarships@education.go.ug **OR**
- h) You may submit hard copies to the following Ministry of Education and Sports Office location:

The Department of Admissions, Scholarships, and Student Affairs

1st Floor, Wing B, Legacy Towers, Kyadondo Road Plot 5, Kampala.

The **Closing date** for receiving applications is **2nd September 2024**. The shortlist will be displayed on the Ministry of Education and Sports website www.education.go.ug on **10th September 2024**, inviting the shortlisted persons to a face-to-face interview at date to be communicated later.

Ketty Lamaro
PERMANENT SECRETARY

Grading System for Assessment of Applications

for UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)-funded Commonwealth Scholarships Tenable in the UK

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