



# Report on the activities of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan 2012-2015

## Executive summary

Since 1959, Commonwealth Scholarships have been intended to provide a distinct Commonwealth contribution to student mobility. They have touched the lives of more people than virtually any other Commonwealth programme. Almost 35,000 individuals have benefited personally, and practically all Commonwealth governments make arrangements for the participation of their citizens. During the past three years, awards have been made to citizens of 54 Commonwealth countries and territories. Evaluation exercises confirm that recipients have an excellent record of contributing to the development of their home countries, often attaining positions of leadership.

Significant potential exists to expand the scheme. Thanks to the establishment of the CSFP Endowment Fund by Ministers at 17CCEM, Commonwealth Scholarships are now available in more countries than ever before. A survey of leading Commonwealth universities also suggests that many would be interested in using the Commonwealth brand for their scholarships, alongside governments. While the idea of Commonwealth Scholarships is widely supported in developing Commonwealth countries, however, this is less the case in developed ones. In terms of overall scholarship numbers, the programme is too dependent on the contribution of the United Kingdom.

Realising this potential could be an exciting opportunity to reinforce Commonwealth collaboration and student mobility in a highly visible way, to the mutual benefit of developed and developing countries. This, however, is being held back by two main factors: the lack of scholarships in some developed Commonwealth countries (while recognising that these nations may be generous providers of international scholarships through other routes), and the lack of any central mechanism to guide and promote the scheme.

This paper therefore both reports on activity under the scheme in the three years since 18CCEM, and explores the possibility of developing the scheme further. Ministers will particularly note the recommendation that a small working group be established to examine this in more detail.

## Notable alumni

**Kenny Davis Anthony** (1985 PhD Law, University of Birmingham) Prime Minister of St Lucia

**Enele Sopoaga** (1993 MA International Relations, University of Sussex) Prime Minister of Tuvalu

**Elizabeth Blackburn** (1973 PhD Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge) 2009 Nobel Prize winner for Physiology/Medicine

**Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury** (1996 PhD Law, University of Essex) Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament and Chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

**Mark Carney** (1991, DPhil Economics, Oxford University) Governor of the Bank of England

**Atiur Rahman** (1978, PhD Economics, SOAS) Governor of Bangladesh Bank

**Michael Cullen** (1968 PhD History, University of Edinburgh) Former Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand

**Hassan B Jallow** (1978 LLM Law, University College London) Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

**Hala Hameed** (1999 PhD Rural Livelihoods, University of East Anglia) Minister of State for Law and Gender, Maldives

**Joseph Bandabla Dauda** (1968 MA Imperial History, Kings College London) Minister for Internal Affairs, Sierra Leone

**Mark Golding** (1989 LLM Law, University College London) Minister of Justice, Jamaica

**Joe Borg** (1987 LLM European Law, Aberystwyth University) European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

## Introduction and historical background

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) was established at the first Commonwealth education conference in 1959, on the basis of five main principles:

- The Plan should be distinct and additional to any other schemes in operation.
- Provision should be based on mutual cooperation and the sharing of educational experience among all Commonwealth countries.
- It should be flexible, to take account of the diverse and changing needs of Commonwealth countries.
- Awards should be Commonwealth-wide and based on bilateral agreements between nominating and awarding agencies.
- Awards should recognise and promote the highest standards of intellectual achievement.

These principles were intended to demonstrate the distinctive and practical value of Commonwealth collaboration. Until the establishment of the CSFP endowment fund in 2009, there was no central source of funding – awards are supported primarily by the host country, from their own resources. The involvement of national agencies in each country demonstrates a desire to ensure that awards reflect national needs and priorities. The statement that the scheme should be distinct from any others reflects the belief that the Commonwealth has a particular role to play.

Since that time, the CSFP has developed in three distinct phases. The early years of the Plan were generally a period of expansion. Although the number of countries offering awards in any single year peaked at 14 in 1967, overall numbers of awards continued to expand, reaching 1,809 in 1993. There then followed a decade of decline, as higher education and scholarships fell out of favour with many governments and some member countries focused on areas other than the Commonwealth. Since 2000, however, numbers and participation in the CSFP have rebounded strongly. The most recent position can be seen in Tables 1 and 2.

A particular feature of this expansion has been increased diversity in the type of award offered. The portfolio of opportunities now offered under the CSFP now includes not only conventional postgraduate scholarships, but also awards for distance learning study, professional development, and doctorates supervised by both home and host country institutions. The CSFP endowment fund has also ensured that awards can be offered in a wider range of countries. Set against this, the proportion of individual awards supported by the United Kingdom remains high.

## Recent activity under the CSFP

An average of 1,006 Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships were taken up in each of the three years covered by this report, compared with 961 in the previous report period. The number of countries hosting awards has risen from 15 to 18. These figures exclude any contribution from Brunei Darussalam, for which numbers were not available at the time of writing, but which contributed 60 new awards in the three years to 2012. In addition to the CSFP endowment fund, India, New Zealand, Malaysia and more recently Nigeria have also offered significant numbers of awards. The number of students on award in each year also increased slightly from the previous period, with an average of 1,783 awards per year, compared to 1,744 reported in 2012. This figure continues a generally upward trend of recent years; it compares with just 1,420 in 2006, but falls short of the peak figure of 1,837 in 2007-2008.

The vast majority of awards, however, continue to be hosted and funded by the United Kingdom. The lack of new awards from Canada, historically the second largest funder of the scheme, in the last two years has exacerbated this trend further. While it should be emphasised that Canada, together with Australia and other developed member states, continues to offer a substantial number of international scholarships, including some to Commonwealth countries, this concentration is not conducive to the notion of a distinctive Commonwealth role in the field of education. In the recommendations section of this report, it is proposed that attention be given to ways in which the CSFP can embrace more diverse sources of funding.

In terms of the recipients of awards, participation in the Plan remains very high, with 54 countries and territories receiving awards over the period (see Table 3). By region Africa remains the biggest beneficiary of the Plan, with the proportion of award holders rising to 65% in the latest year. The proportion of awards for citizens of developed Commonwealth countries continues to be low. Awards for those from Australasia (Australia and New Zealand), North America (Canada) and Europe (Cyprus, Malta, and the United Kingdom) now account for less than 2% of the total and less than 1% in the latest year. This reflects the increasing desire of contributing countries to fund awards from their international development budgets.

**Table 1: New Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships 2012-2015, by awarding country and year<sup>1</sup>**

Host country <sup>2</sup>	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Total
Bangladesh*	–	1	–	1
Cameroon*	–	1	1	2
Canada <sup>3</sup>	142	–	–	142
Ghana*	–	–	1	1
India <sup>4</sup>	19	19	19	57
Kenya*	–	–	1	1
Malaysia	7	9	8	24
Mauritius*	1	1	–	2
New Zealand	17	19	19	55
Nigeria*	–	1	21 <sup>5</sup>	22
Pakistan*	–	1	1	2
Rwanda*	–	–	1	1
South Africa*	–	1	2	3
Sri Lanka*	–	–	2	2
Swaziland*	–	1	–	1
Tanzania*	–	1	–	1
United Kingdom	853	939	910	2702
<b>Total</b>	<b>1039</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>3019</b>

<sup>1</sup> Awards marked with an asterisk were fully or partially supported by the CSFP endowment fund.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for Brunei Darussalam were not available at the time of writing. From 2009-2012, 60 new awards were supported by Brunei.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for Canada do not include recipients of the Canada-CARICOM Leadership Scholarship Program or the newly-established Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships.

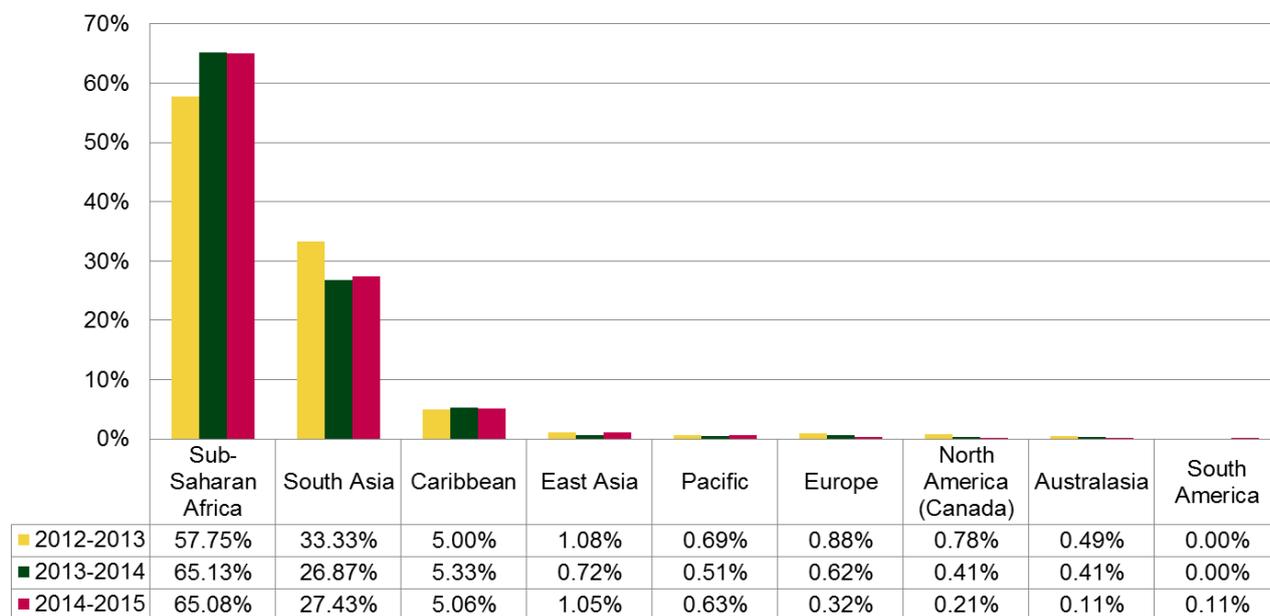
<sup>4</sup> Figures for India are estimates, based on information supplied at a meeting with officials in January 2015. These figures are included in Tables 1 and 2 only, since a detailed breakdown of award holders was not available at the time of writing.

<sup>5</sup> The 2014-2015 figures for Nigeria reflect the announcement of 20 new Commonwealth Scholarships in March 2015 (source: '20 Sierra Leoneans benefit from Nigeria's Commonwealth scholarship – Minister', *News Agency of Nigeria* (3 March 2015) <<http://www.nannewsnigeria.com/20-sierra-leoneans-benefit-nigerias-commonwealth-scholarship-minister>>).

**Table 2: Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows on award 2012-2015, by awarding country and year**

Host country	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Total
Bangladesh*	–	1	–	1
Cameroon*	–	1	1	2
Canada	142	1	–	143
Ghana*	–	–	1	1
India	77	77	77	231
Kenya*	1	–	1	2
Malaysia	18	20	17	55
Mauritius*	1	1	1	3
New Zealand	37	33	38	108
Nigeria*	–	1	22	23
Pakistan*	–	1	1	2
Rwanda*	–	–	1	1
Samoa	1	–	–	1
South Africa*	–	1	3	4
Sri Lanka*	–	–	2	2
Swaziland*	–	1	1	2
Tanzania*	1	1	1	3
United Kingdom	1508	1634	1624	4766
<b>Total</b>	<b>1786</b>	<b>1773</b>	<b>1791</b>	<b>5350</b>

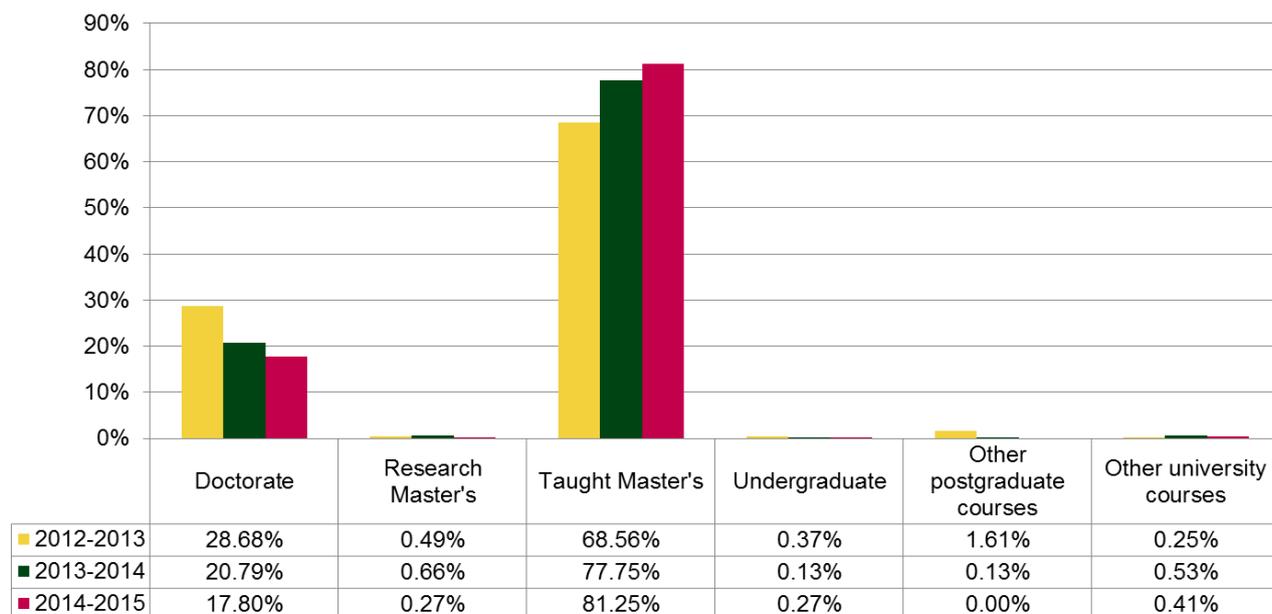
**Figure 1: New Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows 2012-2015, by home region and year (N=2943)**



**Table 3: New Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows 2012-2015, by country of origin and year**

Country of origin	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Total
Anguilla	–	1	2	3
Antigua and Barbuda	1	2	1	4
Australia	2	2	–	4
Bangladesh	60	61	63	184
Barbados	3	2	4	9
Belize	1	1	1	3
Bermuda	1	–	2	3
Botswana	26	6	10	42
Cameroon	20	11	13	44
Canada	8	4	2	14
Cook Islands	–	1	–	1
Cyprus	1	–	1	2
Dominica	1	1	1	3
Falkland Islands	–	–	1	1
Ghana	78	113	84	275
Grenada	4	4	1	9
Guyana	7	8	8	23
India	187	112	113	412
Jamaica	17	14	14	45
Kenya	88	88	93	269
Lesotho	1	1	4	6
Malawi	21	25	38	84
Malaysia	10	7	10	27
Maldives	1	3	4	8
Mauritius	5	7	12	24
Montserrat	1	1	1	3
Mozambique	4	1	8	13
Namibia	4	2	2	8
New Zealand	3	2	1	6
Nigeria	97	124	116	337
Pakistan	61	45	57	163
Papua New Guinea	3	1	2	6
Rwanda	12	7	10	29
St Helena	1	–	–	1
St Kitts and Nevis	1	1	–	2
St Lucia	5	9	3	17
St Vincent and The Grenadines	5	–	2	7
Samoa	1	1	–	2
Seychelles	2	3	2	7
Sierra Leone	19	16	38	73
Singapore	1	–	–	1
Solomon Islands	2	1	1	4
South Africa	35	38	25	98
Sri Lanka	31	41	23	95
Swaziland	5	3	2	10
Tanzania	50	42	56	148
The Gambia	6	6	–	12
Tonga	1	–	3	4
Trinidad and Tobago	4	8	8	20
Tuvalu	–	1	–	1
Uganda	84	105	90	279
United Kingdom	8	6	2	16
Zambia	28	32	27	87
Zimbabwe	3	5	6	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1020</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>2962</b>

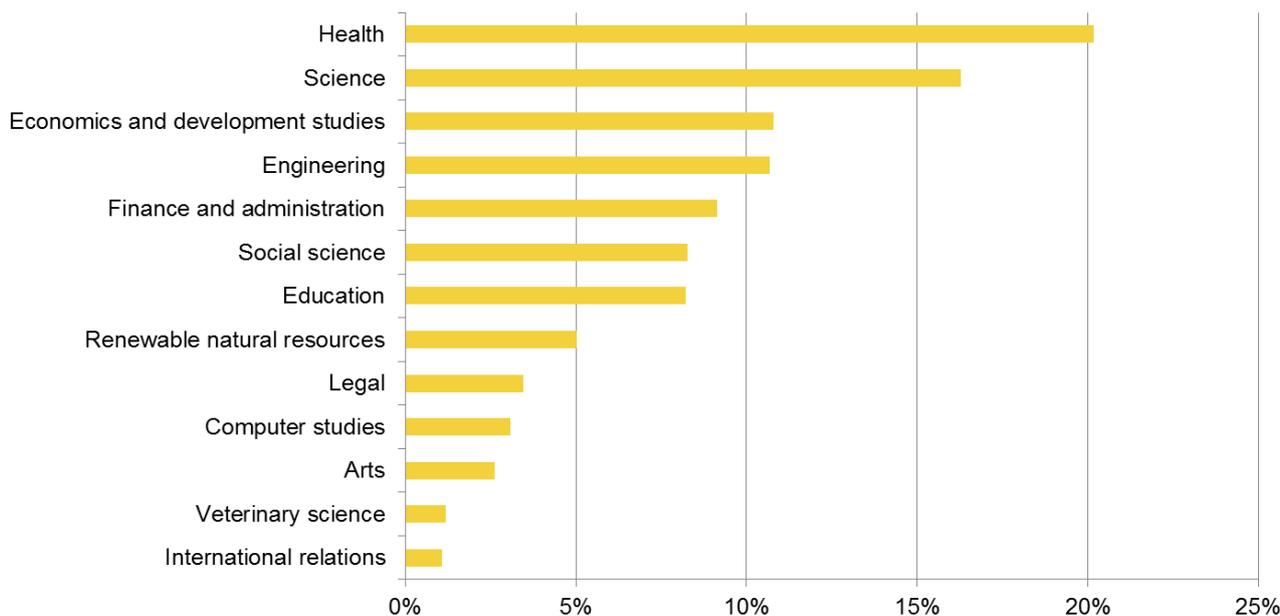
**Figure 2: New Commonwealth Scholarships 2012-2015, by level and year (N=2300)**



Continuing the trend observed in the last report, an increasing proportion of awards were held at taught Master's level, with the proportion of doctorates falling below 20% in the latest year. The proportion of fellowships continued to increase, to 20% over the report period. The age distribution of those awarded scholarships remained largely the same, while the number of fellowships awarded to recipients aged below 40 increased slightly from 35% in the previous report to 41%. In terms of disciplines of study, the top categories are consistent with previous report periods; within these, Health was re-established as the most popular.

The gender distribution for new awards, while not yet reaching 50%, has continued to improve, with 48% of new scholarships being taken up by female award holders in 2014. As was the case in previous periods, the proportion of females taking up fellowships remains lower – at 37% over the period of the report. Figure 6 shows how the gender balance changes at various stages in the application process. This particularly highlights the need to increase the number of female applicants.

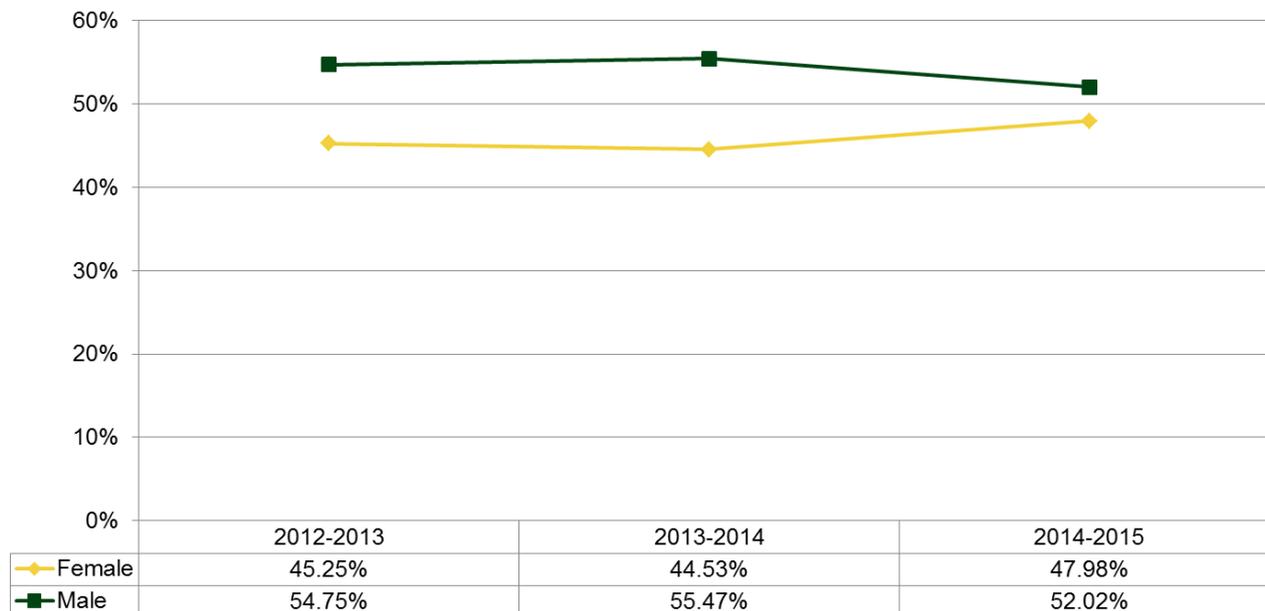
**Figure 3: New Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships 2012-2015, by discipline of study (N=2864)**



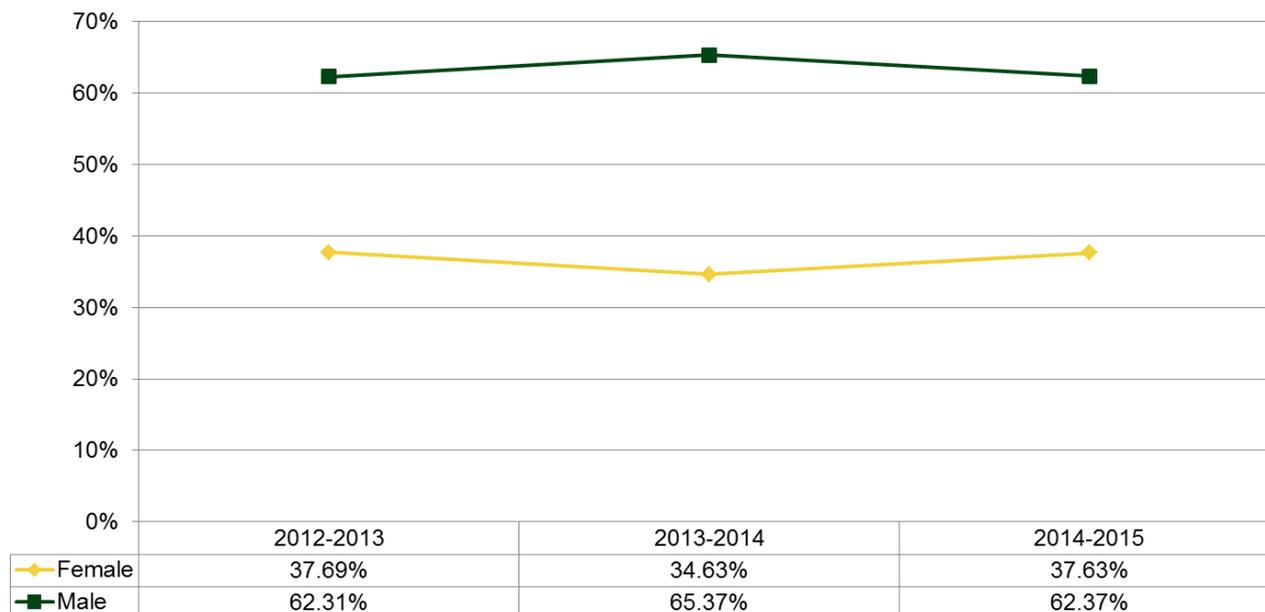
**Table 4: New Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows 2012-2015, by age range (N=2705)**

	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+
<b>Fellow</b>	0.34%	7.01%	15.21%	18.80%	24.44%	34.19%
<b>Scholar</b>	15.19%	37.64%	25.75%	10.99%	6.32%	4.10%
<b>Total</b>	11.98%	31.02%	23.48%	12.68%	10.24%	10.61%

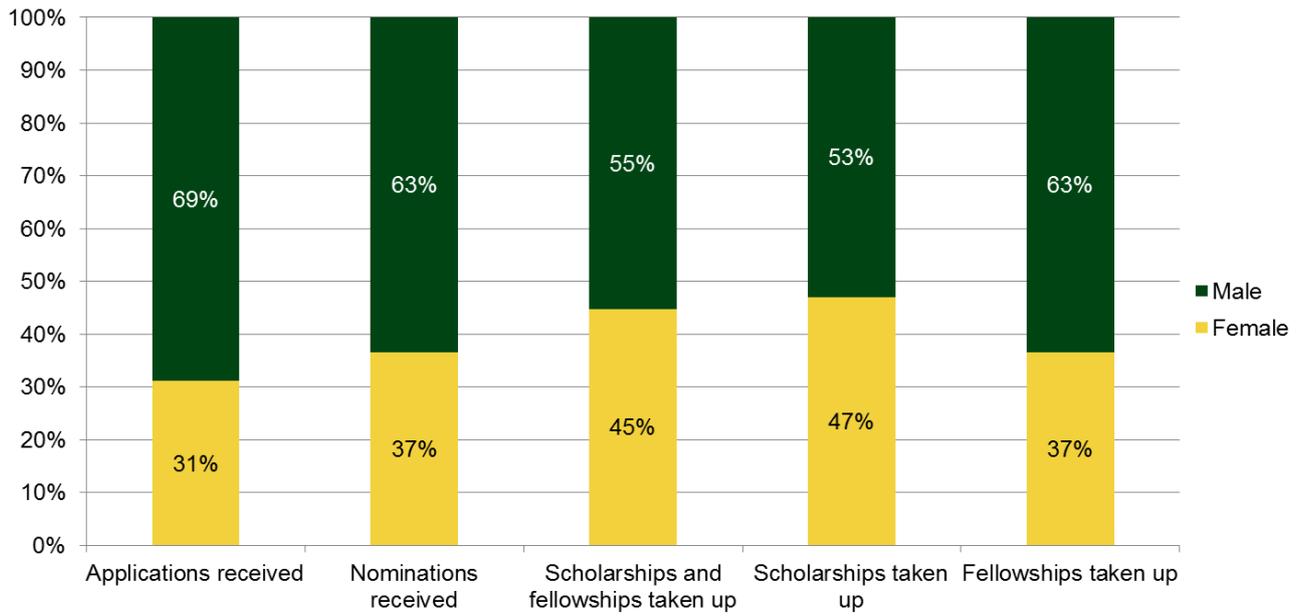
**Figure 4: New Commonwealth Scholars 2012-2015, by gender and year (N=2312)**



**Figure 5: New Commonwealth Fellows 2012-2015, by gender and year (N=598)**



**Figure 6: Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships in the UK 2012-2015 – gender balance across nomination and selection process<sup>6</sup>**



<sup>6</sup> Data available for 45,070 applications received, 6,061 nominations received, 2,117 Scholarships taken up, and 585 Fellowships taken up.

## Evaluation and impact

No international study of the impact of the CSFP exists. In recent years, however, the United Kingdom has operated an extensive evaluation programme designed to analyse the outcomes of the various scholarships and fellowships that it has offered under the Plan. This has included reviews of the individual programmes, projects examining understudied policy questions, and surveys of thousands of alumni from across the Commonwealth and as far back as 1960.

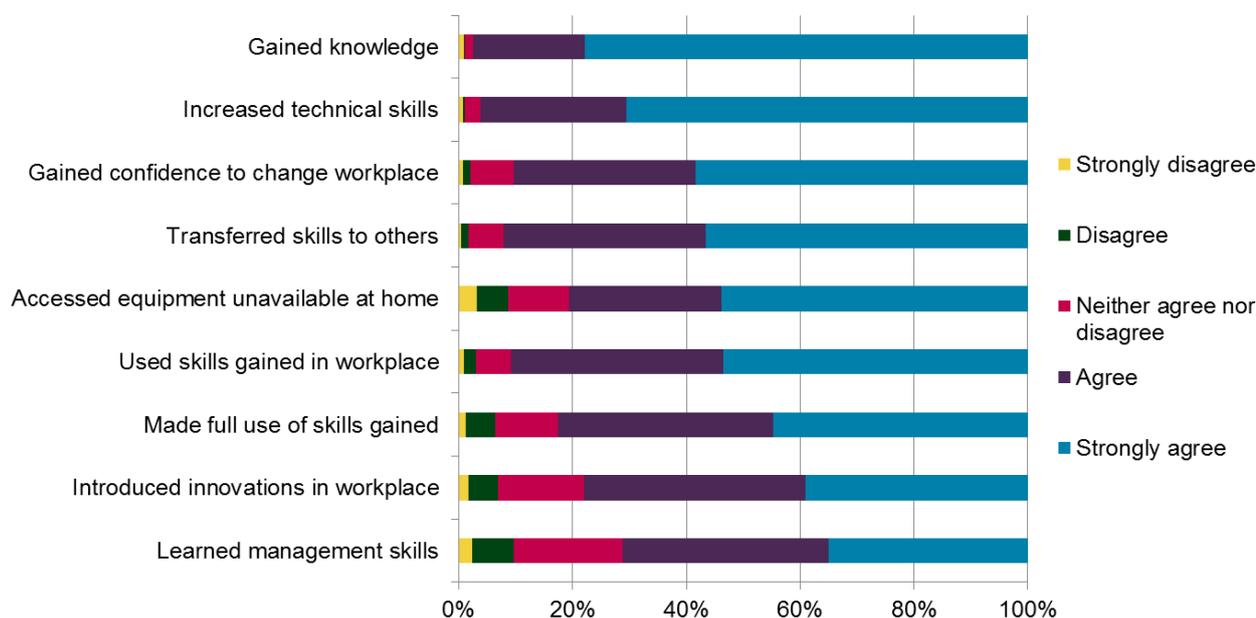
This research shows strong outcomes for Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, in terms of both their personal careers and wider impact on society. 83% of alumni survey respondents (excluding those still studying overseas) were living in their country of origin at the time of the survey – a figure that increases to 85% if those living in the wider region are included. Nearly 90% were currently employed, with the remainder retired, currently studying, or (in small numbers) intentionally or unintentionally unemployed.

*“Through expertise I gained from undertaking a PhD, I have greatly contributed to restructuring and performance enhancement of social security systems and organisations in the Caribbean.”*

**Commonwealth PhD Scholar (1998)**

The skills and knowledge developed while on a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship are both valued by alumni and perceived to be highly relevant to their work environments. In one exercise, 2,100 alumni were asked to rate their agreement with eight categories of scholarship ‘gains’, such as increasing technical skills, accessing equipment unavailable at home, introducing innovations in the home workplace, and using skills fully in post-scholarship employment. As the results in Figure 7 show, much is gained during the awards, and these gains translate to future careers.

**Figure 7: CSC evaluation surveys 2012-2015, gains from Commonwealth Scholarships or Fellowships (N=1661-2089)**



This knowledge is often passed to others, through teaching, training, and publishing. 59% of recipients had taught students after finishing their scholarship; 40% had provided non-academic training. These figures are much higher for those who studied a doctorate: about 72% had taught after finishing their scholarship. Many scholarship recipients have published based on their Commonwealth award – 50% jointly, 46% solely – and again this is much higher for those who undertook a doctorate: 74% and 67% respectively.

*“Through my Commonwealth Scholarship I now have more confidence and ability to make changes, not only in my work but also to the community.”*

**Commonwealth PhD Scholar (2002)**

*“I would have never met the people I met and continue to work with if it hadn’t been for the Commonwealth award.”*

**Commonwealth PhD Scholar (2003)**

A review of the Commonwealth Professional Fellowships programme, which supports short placements for mid-career professionals, found that, for fellowships between 2002 and 2011, 95% of survey respondents were residing in their home region. There was evidence that undertaking a Professional Fellowship contributed to individuals’ career advancements, with 45% of respondents reporting that they obtained a more senior position

within 12 months of completing their fellowship and 66% noting that the fellowship contributed significantly to their career advancement. The findings also highlighted the transfer of knowledge and skills gained while in the UK to colleagues after return home – 89% of respondents stated that they had trained other colleagues on skills that they gained while on their fellowship, while 80% reported that they had made changes to practices in their workplace.

Alumni also impact on critical issues in development through their employment and voluntary activities. Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows contribute to both social and economic development and government policymaking through a variety of activities, including: analytic research, teaching and training, design, invention and development, implementation and coordination, policy development and technical assistance, advocacy, and publication and dissemination. 90% of alumni reported having some degree of impact in one or more areas of development activity, such as health or education. Fully 35% indicated that they had been involved in government policymaking, with examples varying from participation in government taskforces to running a ministry.

*“I had very good cooperation with all the sectors in the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust. I was able to visit different areas, for example, the management unit, facilities management, [and] emergency services. Everyone was very cooperative and I was able to learn a lot from them... I felt part of the team.”*

**Commonwealth Professional Fellow (2012)**

In addition to survey work, qualitative data collected through interviews provides a richer understanding of the impact of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships on the careers of alumni and their work in development fields. Some quotations to illustrate this can be found on pages 9-10.

## The role of the CSFP endowment fund

The CSFP endowment fund was launched at 17CCEM, and generated by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat. It provides a central source of funding for Commonwealth Scholarships for the first time. The fund was raised specifically to support awards in low and middle income Commonwealth countries, which may not have the resources to support awards of their own. The awards are available to citizens of any Commonwealth country other than the host country.

The fund was raised through an appeal to member governments and alumni of the scheme. At the time of writing, 13 Commonwealth governments had contributed: Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Kenya, Maldives, Malaysia, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, and one other which wishes to remain anonymous. Contributions have been received from around 200 alumni. The current value of the fund stands at around GBP 7.4 million.

The emphasis of the fund is on two-year Masters' degrees, and income from the endowment has grown to the extent that it should now be able to support around 30 students (15 new and 15 continuing) in any given year. Take-up of awards has taken time to grow to this level, but 2015-2016 should see a full cohort for the first time. A breakdown of awards advertised for 2015-2016 and selections to date is attached as Appendix 1.

Thus far, the awards have generated a number of new and unusual combinations of home and host country, demonstrating the ability of the fund to develop Commonwealth-wide collaboration. Examples include students travelling from Botswana to Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka to Samoa, Nigeria to Pakistan, and Canada to Tanzania. Only one of the award holders due to have commenced study has dropped out – for personal reasons. There is, however, concern at the low proportion of women among the small cohort of award holders to date.

Low and middle income countries are invited each year to offer to host awards. The invitation to host awards in 2016-2017 will be circulated in August 2015. Although the bulk of funding is provided from the endowment, hosts may be asked to contribute through discounted tuition fees. In the event that more offers to host are received than funds available, the decisions on which universities are invited to host will be taken by the Endowment Fund Management Committee, which comprises Commonwealth university representatives nominated by the ACU and representatives nominated by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The selection of individual candidates is undertaken by the host government or university.

Governance of the fund is undertaken by the ACU, a registered charity, whose trustees are responsible for its management to the UK Charity Commission.

## The views of national agencies

Given the status of the CSFP as a bilateral scheme, the national agencies that administer it in each country have a critical role. Such agencies are appointed by each national government, and are responsible for advertising awards for their citizens, administering the final selection process, and providing support to the beneficiaries while in country.

Agencies were asked for their views on the scheme prior to this report, and are routinely surveyed by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC) as part of each selection round. In general, agencies are happy to continue supporting the scheme, which is recognised as prestigious and high-quality, with most of the comments received suggesting some form of expansion.

An example of this can be found in the response from Malawi, which argued that *'the current process of the CSFP is quite good, because the selection criteria is based on the quality of candidates who possess credits or distinctions for their first degree. This eliminates the pressure that the coordinating point of contact offices could have been experiencing and we would like to recommend that this has to continue'*. The Malawi response also commented that *'the awardees in their various fields are performing well... It is also encouraging that the retention rate for the awardees is almost 100%, as most are still with their institutions. This was revealed by a tracer study that this Department carried out in 2013'*.

The impact of award holders can also be seen in the response from Bangladesh, which noted that *'after returning, Commonwealth Scholars share their experiences and expertise with their students and colleagues through teaching, research, holding seminars and workshop. Ultimately they are contributing to the development of Bangladesh'*.

St Lucia was another country that linked Commonwealth Scholarships to national needs, reporting that *'this scholarship programme is intrinsically linked to the national priorities of St Lucia, since individuals who are nominated...must apply for and pursue areas that are included on the Government's List of Approved Areas for National Training. This has led to a high number of graduates under this scheme being employed in the public sector. In 2014 we were particularly pleased that the two awardees have selected Energy Studies and Water and Waste Water Engineering as their areas of study'*.

Suggestions for improvement largely focused on additional activities. Mozambique suggested that special arrangements might be made for countries that usually receive relatively few awards. Malawi recommended more focus on post-award activity, through which *'the awardees should be given an Action Plan to be implemented in their home countries. The universities which have trained them could make follow-up visits to ensure implementation'*. This response also proposed greater development of alumni associations in-country. Meanwhile, several responding agencies argued for the scheme to be expanded, not least in view of the vastly-expanding higher education systems in many Commonwealth countries.

The CSFP is essentially a series of bilateral programmes between Commonwealth member governments. In recent years, however, host universities have increasingly contributed to the cost of awards. In the United Kingdom, host universities are routinely expected to partially support tuition fees, and in many cases share the cost of whole scholarships. Internationally, too, universities are increasing their investment in scholarships. Ironically, as higher education becomes more expensive, scholarships become more important.

In view of this, preliminary analysis has taken place to determine whether universities could play an even stronger role in expanding the CSFP, alongside existing contributions from national governments. This involved a survey by the ACU of 63 member universities, all of whom are listed in the top 300 institutions worldwide in the QS or Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Complete replies were received from 26 universities, including ones in Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. These confirmed the huge contribution that universities already make to scholarships – in many cases, well into seven, or even eight, figures expressed in US dollars. Interestingly, when asked *'If a Commonwealth-branded initiative were established by Ministers, offering significant prestige and publicity to the university, would you consider allocating Commonwealth-specific scholarships to this'*, 24 out of the 26 universities said they would, although two qualified this by pointing to internal procedures that would have to be negotiated. Some, such as the Universities of Pretoria and Johannesburg in South Africa, already offer their own brands of Commonwealth Scholarships.

## Conclusions and recommendations

The overall picture painted by this report is a positive one. The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is recognised as one of the strongest brands of the Commonwealth. Overall numbers of awards are at a historically high level, as is the number of countries offering them. The Commonwealth-wide network of nominating agencies is active in advertising opportunities and identifying candidates. Evidence from surveys and interviews suggests that the scheme's alumni have a positive impact on their home countries.

Set against this is a feeling that the CSFP could do even better. More countries need to offer Commonwealth Scholarships for the scheme to be fully Commonwealth-wide, and collaboration between them needs to increase. New sources of funding – from both governments and other sources, such as universities – need to be actively encouraged. These developments need central management and direction of a type that has not previously been available. Reports to previous CCEMs have suggested that the Commonwealth Secretariat should take such a role, perhaps in conjunction with the ACU; a similar recommendation was made by the Eminent Persons Group set up to look at the future of the Commonwealth, which reported in 2011.

Reports on the CSFP are made to each Commonwealth Education Ministers conference. It is some years, however, since any Commonwealth-wide group has been charged with the task of making specific recommendations for the further development of the Plan. In view of the analysis above, it is recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of such a group.

The proposal is that a small taskforce be established with the brief to make specific recommendations on how the CSFP can meet its future potential. The administration of such a group might be undertaken jointly between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the ACU, and its terms of reference would be:

**To examine the importance of the Commonwealth Scholarships 'brand' to the Commonwealth and its member countries, and propose ways in which this could be strengthened**

Within this brief, the group could consider a range of issues, such as future management arrangements for the CSFP, the definitions applied to Commonwealth Scholarships, the marketing of the Plan to Commonwealth member countries which do not currently contribute, whether and how new sources of non-government funding should be encouraged, and the potential for better forms of collaboration in promoting the scheme to high-quality applicants and maintaining alumni links. It is anticipated that the group comprise no more than eight individuals, including representatives of the main regions of the Commonwealth and the main current donors. The bulk of contact would be virtual, but the possibility of a physical meeting is not excluded. The group would be expected to report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General by no later than December 2016.

## Appendix 1: Commonwealth Scholarships supported by the CSFP endowment fund 2015-2016

Host country	Host university	Number	Current status	Recipient	Home country	Chosen course	Start date
Bangladesh	University of Dhaka	1	Recipient selected	Mr Samkeliso Mpendulo Dlamini	Swaziland	MSc (Department of Chemistry)	2015
Botswana	University of Botswana	1	Recipient selected – subject to course acceptance	Mr Mathias Vondee Teye	Ghana	MSc Applied Microbiology	2015
Cameroon	University of Buea	1	Recipient selected	Mr Lomodei Evans	Kenya	MSc Fisheries and Animal Production	2015
Ghana	University of Ghana	1	Applications closed; selections underway				2015
Kenya	Any ACU member university	3	Applications closed; selections underway				2015
Mauritius	University of Mauritius	1	Recipient selected	Mr Mwewa Chinkokwolo Mwape	Zambia	MSc Sustainable Energy Engineering with Environmental Management	August 2015
Pakistan	COMSATS Institute of Information Technology	1	Recipient selected	Mr Hasanul Banna	Bangladesh	MSc Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	2015
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea University of Technology	1	To be provided this year (2016 start)				February 2016
South Africa	Any ACU member university	10	Advertisement pending				February 2016
South Pacific	University of the South Pacific	1	Will provide by end June/early July (2016 start)				February 2016
Sri Lanka	Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Colombo	2	Recipient selected	Mr David Onyangon Odhiambo	Kenya	MSc Molecular Life Sciences	January 2016
	Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura		Recipient selected	Mr Aiah Hindolo Kpakiwa	Sierra Leone	MBA	February 2016
West Indies	University of the West Indies	1	Recipient selected	Mr A S M Sazzad UI Karim	Bangladesh	Master in Public Health (MPH)	September 2015
		(+1 deferred from 2014)	Recipient selected	Mr Oluwaseun Ajayi	Kenya	MSc Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health	September 2015