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Content

- Brief info about the Commonwealth Scholarships.
- Techniques on how to tackle each essay question.
- Review of a winning template.
- Additional tips.



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Brief info about the Commonwealth Scholarships (1)

There are **7 versions** of the Commonwealth Scholarships/ Fellowships:

- Commonwealth Master's Scholarship
- Commonwealth Shared Scholarship
- Commonwealth PhD Scholarship (for Least Dev Countries)
- Commonwealth PhD Scholarship (for High-Income Countries)
- Commonwealth Split-site Scholarship
- Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarship
- **Commonwealth Professional Fellowship**
- **Commonwealth Startup Fellowship**

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

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Brief info about the Commonwealth Scholarships (2)

Eligibility criteria:

- For citizens of Commonwealth countries.
- Must be resident in a Commonwealth Country.
- Should NOT have spent more than 1 year in a developed country.
- Must have a 2’1 or a 2’2 + Master’s degree.
- Must be willing to return to their home countries at the end of the study.
- No age limit.

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Brief info about the Commonwealth Scholarships (3)

Selection Criteria:

- Academic Merit
- Quality of Research Proposal
- Potential impact on the development of the candidate's home country.

The Commonwealth Scholarship is one of the best scholarships in the world because it covers EVERYTHING!

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Tackling the Essay questions (1)

1. Development Impacts (4)
2. Study plans (2)
3. Objectives of the study (1)
4. Future plans (2)
5. Personal Statement (1)
6. Leadership and Voluntary Activities

(1) **Total: 11 Essay questions**

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Tackling the Essay questions (2)

Essay 1: How your proposed study relates to:

a) the theme under which the course has been categorised
b) development issues at the global, national and local level
c) and development issues connected to your chosen CSC theme and the wider sector Development Impact part 1 (200 Words) ALL

- P1a and 1b: Reveal a development issue associated with your course (showcase either the global, national or local impact).
- P2: Explain how the development issue links up to your chosen course of study
- P3: Wrap it up by connecting the issue with one of the six CSC themes.

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Tackling the Essay questions (3)

Essay 2: How you intend to apply your new skills and qualification when you return home? You may wish to reference innovation and application of knowledge at a global, national or local level, and to include intended methodologies and implementation strategies. Development Impact part 2 (100 Words) ALL

- The entire content should be one paragraph.
- Start by writing: Upon my return to Nigeria, I will ……
- Be clear on how you intend to utilize the skills and knowledge gained from the chosen course.
- Focus on solving some of the development issues you mentioned in Essay 1.

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Tackling the Essay questions (4)

Essay 3: What you expect will change in development terms following your studies, including:

) the outcomes that you aim to achieve.
) the timeframe for their implementation.
) who the beneficiaries will be. Development Impact part 3 (250 Words) ALL

- P1: Should focus on the outcomes you intend to achieve due to the course studied.
- P2: Should focus on the timeline it will take to achieve each outcome mentioned in P1.
- P3: Here, you should mention specifically, those that will benefit from your solutions.

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Tackling the Essay questions (5)

Essay 4: How the impact of your work could be best measured and evidenced? Please include details of what indicators are used to measure this impact. You may wish to detail small and incremental changes as well as more significant goals.
Development Impact part 4 (100 Words) ALL

- For this question, list your answers.
- Think of indicators that can help measure the impact of your work.
- For example, what are the positive changes that could occur as a result of your solutions?

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Tackling the Essay questions (6)

Essay 5: Provide a short outline of your proposed study/research. This should be written for an audience with no prior knowledge of the subject and must not be overly technical. Any abbreviations or specialist terms must be explained. (125 words)

Masters, Shared, PhD & Split-site

- The content of this question should be written as a single paragraph.
- Focus on the importance/usefulness of your chosen course
- Explain what you intend to learn from the course
- Avoid specialized terminologies

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Tackling the Essay questions (7)

Essay 6: Provide a detailed plan of your proposed study. The selection panel will want to understand why you have selected your proposed course and university. Describe clearly: Why you have chosen your proposed course and university and why you want to undertake this study in the UK. What it is that you are looking for in a course and how your chosen course relates to your objectives. Any dissertation topic you have in mind (300 words) Masters & Shared

- P1: Justify why you chose the course and what is unique about the programme, which attracted you.
- P2: Justify why you chose the university and what makes the school the best destination for your study.
- P3: Explain why you chose the UK.
- P4: Propose a dissertation topic you intend to develop if your application is successful and explain why you chose it.

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Tackling the Essay questions (8)

Essay 6: Research Proposal (500 words). PhD & Split site

- The best way to sort out this content is to discuss it with your prospective supervisor, who is most likely going to help you fine-tune the proposal.
- Then, you submit the final copy.

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Tackling the Essay questions (9)

Essay 7: The selection panel will want to understand how your proposed study will assist you in your career. Describe the skills that you expect to gain from this scholarship, and your career plans once you return home afterwards. Objectives during the award (250 Words) ALL

- For this section, list your answers.
- Start with academic objectives.
- Then research objectives.
- Then professional objectives.
- Then social objectives.
- Add any other thing you intend to achieve while on your Masters in the UK.

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Tackling the Essay questions (10)

Essay 8: Career plans in the 5 years following the award (250 Words) ALL

- For this question, list your answers.
- Understand that it is a 5 year plan so whatever you write here must be realistic.
- Ensure that they match things you wrote in Essay 3.

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Tackling the Essay questions (11)

Essay 9: Long-term Career Plans (250 Words) ALL

- For this question, list your answers.
- Understand that it is a 10 year plan so whatever you write must cover a big dream you intend to achieve in the future.
- Ensure that they match some of the things you wrote in Essay 3, or at least connects with them, rather than writing unrelated plans.

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Tackling the Essay questions (12)

Essay 10: Please summarise the ways in which your personal background has encouraged you to want to make an impact in your home country. You may wish to highlight any areas where you have already made significant contributions, including overcoming personal or community barriers in accessing higher education or within your field. Personal Statement (500 Words) ALL

- This is not your usual personal statement.
- So stick to the instructions above.
- Focus on challenges or barriers you overcame or you could focus on significant contributions you have made in your area of interest.
- Tell the story clearly without any ambiguity.

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Tackling the Essay questions (13)

Essay 11: Summarise the ways in which you have engaged in voluntary activities and the opportunities you have had to demonstrate leadership. Voluntary and Leadership Experience (500 Words) ALL

- Here, use the CAR approach to tell your leadership or voluntary experience.
- You could cite a maximum of 2-3 examples.
- Don’t forget, CAR means Context, Action and Results.
- Add weblinks for evidence of your works (if necessary)

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Additional Tips

- This i a scholarship that requires a sense of clarity before submitting an application.
- Don’t rush the filling of the application; Give yourself some time to reassess your answers.
- Ensure that all your answers from Essay 1-11 align.
- Submit multiple applications to increase your chances of winning.



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Thanks for Listening Any Questions?

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