



Sources of funding

for international students 2007–08

This booklet has been produced jointly by the British Council, UKCOSA: The Council for International Education, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). It is intended as a basic guide to possible sources of funding for international students who want to study in the UK.

For a copy of this guide, contact one of the above organisations (contact details are listed on the back page); you do not need to contact more than one of the organisations.

We hope the booklet answers your questions about the possibility of financial support. For further information about scholarships available for international students please go to www.educationuk.org/scholarships.

Introduction

In the United Kingdom (UK) we warmly welcome international students and are aware of the educational, commercial, political and developmental benefits they bring. In return, students will benefit from their studies in the UK, and pass on this benefit to their home countries. British university education continues to offer good value for money – the quality of teaching is high, as is the international status of British qualifications.

The majority of students who come to study in the UK pay for their courses privately, but study can be costly and many students need to apply for scholarships or grants. The British government and other UK organisations provide a number of scholarships and awards to help international students to study in the UK. The main schemes are described in this booklet.

1 Where do I start?

You may first wish to contact your own ministry of education or education department, as they should have details of scholarship opportunities for students wishing to study overseas. They will also be able to advise you on your own government's conditions for studying abroad. You may also contact the British Council office in your own country, which should have details of British scholarship schemes. The British Council will be able to give you information about educational and training courses and about living in the UK, including how much it costs to study. If there is no British Council office, then contact your nearest British Embassy or High Commission.

You should not travel to the UK or begin a course of study without making sure that you have enough money to cover all your academic fees and living expenses. It is virtually impossible to make arrangements for financial support once you have left your own country. Also, the immigration authorities will not

normally allow you into the UK unless you have evidence that you can cover the costs of your proposed study.

2 How do I apply for a scholarship?

The competition for scholarships and grants to study in the UK is very strong. Most grant-making organisations will insist that you meet some very strict criteria. If you do not meet all the requirements for a grant, then your application will not be considered.

When you apply for a grant, remember:

- **you must apply for your grant at least one year before your course starts;** deadlines vary, so you must check that you know what the deadline is before applying
- **your application should be clear and concise;** you should use the grant-making body's application form if it has one
- **the majority of the grant-making bodies will give only small amounts of money, which will not cover the full cost of a course.**

3 Are postgraduate scholarships available?

Yes. The main schemes are listed below.

British Chevening Scholarships

Funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The aim of the British Chevening Scholarships scheme is to bring to the UK future leaders, decision-makers and opinion-formers for a period of postgraduate study at a formative stage of their careers. Candidates should have established a proven record of success and should have the potential to rise to positions of power and influence in their chosen careers. Awards are given annually to students from a wide variety of countries and can cover all or part of the cost of a one-year postgraduate course. Successful candidates must return to their own countries on completion of the award.

The selection of candidates is carried out overseas by certain British Embassies and High Commissions in consultation with the local British Council director. You should, therefore, be resident in your home country when you apply.

Some British Chevening awards are jointly funded with private companies, universities, trusts, foundations and other grant-making organisations. These are usually advertised locally in those countries where the awards are offered and on the British Council country web pages. Contact the British Embassy, British High Commission or British Council office in your own country about eligibility. Do not write to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London as they cannot allocate individual scholarships. US citizens are not eligible for this scholarship – please see 'Marshall Scholarships' on page 6.

Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP)

Funded by the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships are offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom, as part of Britain's contribution to the international Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

The awards are aimed at Commonwealth citizens of high academic ability, who are expected to make a significant contribution to their home countries upon return from study in the UK. In the case of awards to developing countries, emphasis is placed on candidates whose work is likely to contribute directly to development objectives. In the case of the developed Commonwealth, particular attention is placed on the involvement of those likely to become leaders in their chosen profession.

Awards are generally available to citizens of any Commonwealth country. Scholarships are generally available for postgraduate study, although if there are no undergraduate courses in a particular subject in your own country or regional university, it may sometimes be possible for you to apply to do a first degree course under this scheme. Scholarships are usually tenable for between one and three years and cover the cost of travel to and from the UK, tuition fees and living expenses. In some cases an allowance may be paid to help with the cost of maintaining a spouse and family in the UK.

Professional Fellowship awards, typically three months in length, provide opportunities for individuals working in developing Commonwealth countries to spend a short period of professional updating in the United Kingdom. Academic Staff Fellowships offer opportunities for a six-month period of postdoctoral research to Commonwealth citizens holding or returning to a teaching appointment in a university in the developing Commonwealth. Fellowships are usually tenable for between three and six months and cover the cost of travel to and from the UK, tuition fees and living expenses.

Applications should be made in the first instance to the Commonwealth Scholarship Agency in your own country. These are listed on the CSFP website at www.csfp-online.org, which also gives information about other funding opportunities within the CSFP.

The Commission Secretariat is based at: The Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF.

Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Scheme

Funded jointly by the Department for International Development and participating universities in the UK

This scheme assists academically able students from developing Commonwealth countries who would benefit from higher education in the UK, to the developmental advantage of their home countries, but who for financial reasons are unable to study in the UK and are outside the scope of other British government support schemes.

You should be of high academic calibre and should be intending to study subjects of developmental relevance. You must normally be under 35-years-old at the time your course is due to start and you must be able to speak English fluently at the time you apply.

You must not be employed by your government or by an international organisation and you must be resident in a developing Commonwealth country. Successful candidates must return to their home country on completion of their awards.

Awards are for taught courses at postgraduate level. Very exceptionally, awards for undergraduate study may be made available where the course of training satisfies the conditions of the scheme but is not available in your home country or at a nearby regional institution.

Contact the participating British institution. These vary from year to year. An up-to-date list of institutions is available from www.csfp-online.org, the Department for International Development, the British High Commission and British Council offices in the countries concerned.

Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme (ORSAS)

Funded by the Department for Education and Skills

These grants are for postgraduate students undertaking full-time study for a research degree at British higher education institutions. Applicants must be able to pay tuition fees at the full international (i.e. not the EU/UK) rate. Selection of candidates is based solely on academic merit and research potential. Awards meet the difference between the home and overseas level of tuition fees only, and do not cover maintenance costs.

Participating higher education institutions receive an annual grant to fund ORSAS awards and select their ORSAS award holders internally. Prospective applicants should therefore contact institutions directly for information on how to apply for an ORSAS award.

For more information and a list of participating institutions, please refer to the ORSAS website – www.orsas.ac.uk.

Royal Society Fellowships

The Royal Society currently offers incoming fellowships for researchers from North America and Asia. The aim is to attract outstanding postdoctoral scientists to undertake high-quality research at a UK laboratory.

1 USA/Canada Research Fellowship: This scheme provides support for postdoctoral researchers from the USA and Canada for up to two years. The research undertaken must be on a subject within the natural sciences, including: physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, engineering science, agricultural, and medical research. Awards are not granted in the areas of the social sciences or clinical medical research.

For further information: www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding.asp?id=2351.

2 Asia Research Fellowship: This scheme provides support for postdoctoral researchers from a number of Asian countries for up to one year. The Asian countries, which the fellowship programme includes, are: China, India, Japan, South Korea and South-East Asia – Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The research undertaken must be on a subject within the natural sciences, including: physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, engineering science, agricultural, and medical research. Awards are not granted in the areas of the social sciences or clinical medical research.

For further information: www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding.asp?id=2349.

Contact: The Royal Society, 6–9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG; telephone +44 (0)20 7451 2500; fax +44 (0)20 7451 2543; e-mail: international.fellowships@royalsoc.ac.uk; website: www.royalsoc.ac.uk.

Scholarships for specified nationals

Marshall Scholarships

Founded by a 1953 Act of Parliament, Marshall Scholarships are funded mainly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and commemorate the humane ideals of the Marshall Plan conceived by General George C. Marshall. They express the continuing gratitude of the British people to their American counterparts.

As future leaders, with a lasting understanding of British society, Marshall Scholars strengthen the enduring relationship between the British and American peoples, their governments and their institutions. Marshall Scholars are talented and independent and their time as Scholars enhances their intellectual and personal growth. Their direct engagement with the UK through its best academic programmes contributes to their ultimate personal success.

Awards are open to US citizens who have graduated from their undergraduate degree in a US university no more than two years previously, to undertake study in any subject leading to a degree at a UK university. Selection is by regional committee in the USA. Awards are made on a competitive basis and are for two years in the first instance, renewable for a third year in certain circumstances. The awards cover fares, tuition fees, maintenance costs, and book, thesis and travel allowances.

All information can be obtained from www.marshallscholarship.org. Contact in the USA: universities or colleges, or the British Council USA, British Embassy, 3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA; telephone +1 202 588 7830; fax +1 202 588 7918; e-mail marshall.scholar@britishcouncil-usa.org.

Contact in the UK: Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, c/o The Association of Commonwealth Universities, Woburn House, 20–24 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HF; e-mail info@marshallscholarship.org

Fulbright Scholarships

Funded by the Department for Education and Skills and the US government

Awards are open to US graduate students for study in the UK. There are no restrictions on subject or age. Awards are made on a competitive basis,

for the first academic year. The awards cover approved tuition fees and a maintenance allowance.

A variety of awards are also available for postdoctoral academics to lecture and/or conduct research, for between two weeks and 12 months according to the type of award. Some awards are made in response to specific requests from UK institutions, others on a competitive basis.

All Fulbright Scholars are invited to attend two three-day cultural orientation programmes during the academic year.

Contact details

Graduate students: The Institute of International Education (IIE), 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA; telephone +1 212 984 5330; fax +1 212 984 5452; website www.iie.org.

Scholars' awards and fellowships: The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), 3007 Tilden Street, Washington DC, 20008, 3009, USA; telephone +1 202 686 6242; fax +1 202 362 3442; website www.cies.org.

UK enquiries: Programme Director, The Fulbright Commission, 62 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2JZ; telephone +44 (0)20 7404 6880; fax +44 (0)20 7404 6834; e-mail programmes@fulbright.co.uk; website www.fulbright.co.uk.

4 What about undergraduate scholarships?

Most scholarships for study in the UK are for postgraduate courses. In special circumstances, applications for undergraduate study may be considered under the following schemes:

Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) – see page 4.

Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Scheme – see page 4.

5 Are there any other scholarships for which I could apply?

European Union (EU) schemes

The European Union (EU) provides some grants to promote the exchange of students and academic staff within Europe, such as the SOCRATES and LEONARDO programmes. The European Commission (EC) also makes some awards to students from developing countries.

Contact the EC office in your country or write to the European Commission, Directorate General III, Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium.

International agencies

Some international organisations such as UNESCO and WHO operate schemes, usually for developing countries. Contact your own government's ministry of education.

Voluntary organisations

Voluntary organisations such as religious bodies and charities sometimes award scholarships, though they can be limited in size and scope. Contact the appropriate organisations in your own country.

UK colleges and universities

Many UK higher education institutions have a limited number of scholarships for international students. However, they may be restricted to students studying particular subjects or from certain countries. Contact the institution where you are studying to see if you are eligible.

Other awards

For information on other awards, consult the reference books listed in Section 9. You can also contact your government's education department or your nearest British Council office.

6 Is there anything else I should know?

Remember to ensure that any funding or sponsorship is enough to cover all of your educational and living costs, not just your tuition.

It is very important to have all of your funding arranged before you come to the UK, as it is extremely difficult to find more sponsorship once you are here. In addition, if you need to make a visa or entry clearance application to come to the UK, you will need to show that you have enough money for your tuition fees, living expenses, accommodation and other costs. For further information, see the UKCOSA Guidance note *I am coming to the UK to start my studies. What do I need to do about immigration?* at www.ukcosa.org.uk/pages/guidenote.htm.

At present, those in the UK on a student visa are allowed to work part-time (up to a maximum of 20 hours a week) during term-time, and full-time during vacation periods (that is, when free of academic obligations). However, when making immigration applications, students must be able to show that they have enough money to cover all their costs without working.

For full details see the leaflets, *International students working in the UK* at www.dfes.gov.uk/international-students/workleaflet.pdf and *I want more time in the UK as a student. What do I do about immigration?* at www.ukcosa.org.uk/pages/guidenote.htm.

7 Will I automatically pay 'home' fees when I have lived in the UK for three years?

No. Living in the UK for three years does not automatically entitle you to pay tuition fees at the lower 'home' rate.

In order to be eligible for lower 'home' fees, you must first have settled immigration status in the UK before your course begins. 'Settled' means

that you are a British citizen, or have right of abode, or have indefinite leave to enter/remain in the UK. If you do not have this settled status at the beginning of your course, you will not be entitled to home fee status and will have to pay fees at the international/overseas rate – how long you have lived in the UK does not matter.

There are several categories of people who are entitled to pay home fees. For full details, see the UKCOSA Guidance notes, *Tuition fees: will I pay the 'home' or 'overseas' rate?* and *Student support*, available at www.ukcosa.org.uk/pages/guidenote.htm.

In addition, if you are a European Economic Area national, or the family member of an EEA national, also see the UKCOSA Guidance note *EEA students* at www.ukcosa.org.uk/pages/guidenote.htm.

8 Useful addresses

These contacts do not award scholarships but can advise on your status.

Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)

Woburn House
20–24 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HF

Department for Education and Skills (DfES) HE Branch

International Students Team
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT, UK
Telephone +44 (0)20 7925 5324
Fax +44 (0)20 7925 6965

Student Support Helpline

Student Support Division
(Room 2F, Area C)
Mowden Hall
Staindrop Road
Darlington DL3 9BG, UK
Telephone +44 (0)845 6020583

Student Awards Agency for Scotland

Gyleview House
3 Redheughs Rigg
South Gyle
Edinburgh EH12 9HH, UK
Telephone +44 (0)845 111 1711
Fax +44 (0)131 244 5887
www.student-support-saas.gov.uk

Universities UK

Woburn House
20 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HQ, UK
Telephone +44 (0)20 7419 4111
Fax +44 (0)20 7388 8649
www.universitiesuk.ac.uk

9 Useful resources

Commonwealth Universities Yearbook

Association of Commonwealth Universities

Detailed guide to 500 universities of the Commonwealth. Appendixes include a short description of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and addresses of Commonwealth Scholarship agencies worldwide.

Education Authorised Directory and Annual

The School Government Publishing Company

Lists educational authorities and associations.

Education Yearbook

Longman

Provides addresses of UK education organisations, schools and tertiary institutions, school associations, publishers, etc.

Grants Register

Macmillan

Includes information on a variety of scholarships, fellowships and research grants, exchange and vacation study opportunities and professional and vocational grants.

Guide to the Major Grant-Making Trusts

Directory of Social Change

Provides information on over 200 of the largest grant-making organisations in the UK.

Student Grants and Loans: A Brief Guide

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Gives general information on British local education authority grants and UK student loans.

Study Abroad

UNESCO

Country-by-country list of grants for studying in over 100 countries, including the UK.

Tuition fees and the cost of living

(information sheet)

British Council

**UKCOSA Guidance notes for students:
Fees and student support; EEA students**

Available from British Council offices

Website address for downloading UKCOSA Guidance notes:

www.ukcosa.org.uk/pages/guidenote.htm.

Other useful e-mail addresses:

- 1 Students should refer to information on their country home page for available scholarship programmes: *www.britishcouncil.org*.
- 2 A guide for international students listing grants to study in the UK from the Directory of Social Change. Includes information for international students who wish to study in the UK or who are already studying in the UK: *www.dsc.org.uk*.
- 3 The Arts and Humanities Research Council includes information about grants in this field of study: *www.ahrb.ac.uk*.
- 4 There is an online guide to Europe's philanthropic community at: *www.fundersonline.org*.
- 5 The Association of Charitable Foundations provides links to charitable bodies that may have funding available: *www.acf.org.uk*.
- 6 Scholarship Search UK has online search facilities to enable students to locate undergraduate funding: *www.scholarship-search.org.uk*.
- 7 Education UK site: *www.educationuk.org*.

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this booklet is correct and up to date, British Council, UKCOSA and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office accept no legal liability for its accuracy or completeness.

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London N1 0NX, UK

www.ukcosa.org.uk

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The Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Cultural, Scholarships and Sport Departments

King Charles Street, WH537

Whitehall

London SW1A 2AH, UK

www.fco.gov.uk

Scholarships database now available at:

www.educationuk.org/scholarships



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