

**STUDYING IN THE UK:
SOURCES OF
FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

By

Dr. Catherine Dawson

© 2010 Catherine Dawson

The right of Catherine Dawson to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted by her in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988

For more information about student cash,
visit www.studentcash.org.uk

For more information about Catherine Dawson,
visit www.cedawson.co.uk

Note: The material contained within this book is set out in good faith for general guidance and no liability can be accepted for loss or expense incurred as a result of relying in particular circumstances on statements made in the book. Laws, regulations and policy are complex and liable to change, and readers should check the current position with the relevant authorities, colleges and universities before making personal arrangements.

CONTENTS

[Independent school scholarships and bursaries](#)

[University scholarships and bursaries](#)

[European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students](#)

[British Chevening Scholarships](#)

[Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan](#)

[Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Scheme](#)

[Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme](#)

[Royal Society Fellowships](#)

[Marshall Scholarships](#)

[Fulbright Scholarships](#)

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Type of scheme

If you are hoping to send your child to an independent (fee-paying) school in the United Kingdom, it may be possible to apply for a scholarship or bursary to help you to meet the cost of school fees and/or living expenses.

Amount of money

Amounts vary, depending on the type of scholarship and the fees charged at the school. For example, some scholarships may offer a 50% reduction in course fees, whereas others will provide a smaller bursary for accommodation costs or living expenses. Contact your chosen school or the British Council for more information (details below).

Eligibility criteria

Schools will set their own eligibility criteria for funding, so contact them direct to find out whether your child is eligible. Many schools are very specific about what they will and will not fund, for example, some specify age limits, whereas others will only provide funds for students from particular geographical locations or in specific areas of study. It is important not to waste your time filling in application forms that will be refused because your child does not meet the funding criteria.

Application procedures

Applications are made direct to the school. In most cases you will need to apply early for funding, sometimes as much as a year in advance of the start of your child's course. You need to conduct careful research to make sure that your child meets the eligibility criteria: most applications fail because applicants have not checked that they meet this criteria.

Further information

Contact your local British Council office for information about independent education in the United Kingdom and for more information about scholarships and bursaries. You can also contact your chosen school direct for more information. The websites listed below provide details about scholarships and bursaries that may be available for your child.

www.educationuk.org/scholarships

This is the British Council's online scholarship database. You can search the database for scholarships that are appropriate to your country of origin, your child's level of study, subject and type of school.

www.isc.co.uk

This is the website of the Independent Schools Councils. You can use the search facility available on this site to find an independent school in the United Kingdom and to find out more about the scholarships and bursaries that are available. You can also find information about British International Schools that are located outside the United Kingdom.

www.ukcisa.org.uk

This is the website of the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA). More information about obtaining funding for study in the United Kingdom can be obtained from this site. It also provides useful information about applying for visas and living in the United Kingdom.

www.iefaf.org

This is the International Education Financial Aid website. It provides a comprehensive guide to funding opportunities for many types of study abroad. You can search for funding by course subject, country and institution. Although most of the schemes are aimed at university level study, there are occasionally scholarships and bursaries that are aimed at college level study and language preparation courses for school leavers.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Type of scheme

Many universities in the United Kingdom offer funding to overseas students who wish to study on a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate course at their university. Some of the scholarships and bursaries will have been made available by the university or individual departments, whereas others will have been set up by individuals, previous students or interested organisations.

Amount of money

Funding levels and eligibility criteria vary according to the university, your country of origin and the nature of the scheme. Contact your chosen university for information about the amount of money on offer.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria are at the discretion of each university, or at the discretion of the person or organisation that has set up the charity or trust. Some will only offer funding to students from specific countries, whereas others will only offer funding for specific courses. In most cases you will need to display a high academic ability, or the potential to do well on your course. Some universities will also offer funding to students who display potential in leadership, sports or music.

Application procedures

Application forms and guidance notes are available from the *overseas/international office* of your chosen university, or can be downloaded from the university website. Make sure that you meet the specific eligibility criteria before completing your form so that you do not waste time applying for scholarships for which you do not qualify.

Competition for scholarships and bursaries is strong, so you will have to stand out from the crowd when you make your application. You will also require references and these will need to show that you have the potential to do well on your course and that you will be able to settle comfortably at a UK university.

Further information

Individual universities will provide details of their overseas scholarships upon request, or the information is available on their website. You can access contact details of all universities in the United Kingdom by visiting www.ucas.ac.uk. Click on 'where to study' and you will be able to view a map of the United Kingdom on which all universities are located. Contact details and information about fees for home and overseas students is available in each listing.

www.educationuk.org/scholarships

This is the British Council's online scholarship database. You can search the database for scholarships that are appropriate to your country of origin, your intended level of study, subject and type of award.

www.ukcisa.org.uk

This is the website of the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA). More information about obtaining funding for study in the United Kingdom can be obtained from this site. It also provides useful information about obtaining visas and living in the United Kingdom.

www.iefaf.org

This is the International Education Financial Aid website. It provides a comprehensive guide to funding opportunities for many types of study abroad. You can search for funding by course subject, country and institution.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ACTION SCHEME FOR THE MOBILITY OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (ERASMUS)

Type of scheme

This scheme is available for EU university students who wish to spend between 3 and 12 months studying in another European country. Opportunities are available in a wide variety of subjects and you can take part in the scheme at any time during your degree except during the first year.

Amount of money

The Erasmus grant is provided by the European Commission and is intended to help with the extra costs involved in studying abroad. However, the grant will not meet all costs. The amount offered under this scheme depends on the country in which you intend to study. Additional sums of money to help you learn a language are also available through ERASMUS. This is done through an Intensive Language Preparatory Course.

You will not need to pay tuition fees in your host university if you spend a full academic year on placement. Also, you will not be required to pay other fees such as examination and registration fees.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible you need to meet the following criteria:

- You must be a citizen or permanent resident of the EU or one of the European Free Trade Association Countries.
- You must be a student enrolled on a formal programme of higher education study.
- You must have completed at least one year of study at university.

Application procedures

Application forms can be obtained from your university *international office* or the ERASMUS co-ordinator. Guidance notes are provided with the form.

Further information

Consult your college/university website or visit the *international office* of your university for more information about student exchange schemes and study abroad.

Details about ERASMUS can be obtained from www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus.

BRITISH CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIPS

Type of scheme

These scholarships are funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and have been set up to bring future leaders, decision-makers and opinion formers to the United Kingdom for postgraduate study at a formative stage of their careers. The programme provides nearly 1,000 Scholarships at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the UK for postgraduate students or researchers from over 130 countries. Awards are offered to students from a wide variety of countries, although US citizens are not eligible for this award.

Amount of money

Awards are enough to cover all or part of the cost of a one year postgraduate course in the United Kingdom.

Eligibility criteria

To be considered for an award, you must have a proven record of success and the potential to rise to a position of power within your chosen career. You must not be a British Citizen and you must have at least one qualification at degree level or equivalent. You must return to your own country on completion of your course. More information about specific eligibility criteria will be provided when awards are advertised (see below) or can be obtained from the British Embassy, British High Commission or British Council offices in your own country.

Application procedures

Awards are offered jointly with private companies, universities, trusts, foundations and other grant-making organisations. Awards are advertised locally in your country or details can be found on the British Council website (details below). Application forms will be sent on request. You must complete the application form and supply all the required documentation by the specified date.

Alternatively, you can apply online at www.chevening.com. Comprehensive guidance notes are provided with the application form and deadlines for submission are clearly displayed on the website.

Further information

More information about these awards can be obtained from the British Council website: www.educationuk.org. Alternatively, you can contact the British Embassy, British High Commission or British Council offices in your own country for more information about these awards.

www.chevening.com

This website contains all the information you need to know about British Chevening Scholarships, including information about where to study, eligibility criteria and how to apply. There are also some interesting case studies from people who have taken part in this scheme.

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PLAN

Type of scheme

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) is an international programme under which member governments offer scholarships and fellowships to citizens of other Commonwealth countries. In the United Kingdom this scheme is funded by the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Awards are available mainly for postgraduate study, although it may be possible to apply for funding for undergraduate study if that particular subject is not available in your country.

In the United Kingdom, seven types of award are offered:

- Commonwealth Scholarships for PhD research;
- Commonwealth Scholarships for Master's study;
- Commonwealth Shared Scholarships with UK universities in support of Master's programmes;
- Commonwealth Academic Fellowships for staff serving in developing country universities;
- Commonwealth Split-site Scholarships for PhD students to spend up to one year in the United Kingdom;
- Commonwealth Professional Fellowships for mid-career professionals in developing countries;
- Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships for developing country students to study UK Master's degree courses while living in their own countries.

Amount of money

Scholarships are available for one to three years and will cover the cost of travel to and from the United Kingdom, tuition fees and living expenses. It may also be possible to receive financial help for a spouse and family who move with you to the United Kingdom.

Professional Fellowship Awards and Academic Staff Fellowships are available for three to six months and cover the cost of travel to and from the United Kingdom, tuition fees and living expenses.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for an award you must be of high academic ability and be expected to make a significant contribution to your home country upon return from the United Kingdom. Emphasis is placed on candidates whose work is likely to contribute directly to development objectives. From 2009/10 the scheme is open only to new applicants from developing Commonwealth countries (applicants from developed

Commonwealth countries can apply instead for the Chevening Scholarship programme).

Application procedures

Applications should be made to the Commonwealth Scholarship Agency in your own country. Contact details are listed on the CSFP website (details below). Guidance notes are provided with the application form.

Further information

More information about these awards can be obtained from the British Council website: www.educationuk.org. Alternatively, you can contact the Commonwealth Scholarship Agency, the British Embassy, British High Commission or British Council offices in your own country for more information about these awards.

www.csfp-online.org

This is the website of the CSFP. Here you can find more information about the scheme and other sources of funding that are available for applicants from Commonwealth countries. You can also access contact details of the Commonwealth Scholarship Agency in your own country.

COMMONWEALTH SHARED SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Type of scheme

This scheme is funded jointly by the Department for International Development and participating universities in the United Kingdom. It is available for students from developing Commonwealth countries who could benefit from higher education in the United Kingdom, to the developmental advantage of their home country. The scheme has been set up for students who cannot afford to study in the United Kingdom, and who are outside the scope of other British government support schemes. Awards are for taught postgraduate courses only.

Amount of money

Funding should cover tuition fees and living expenses while you are in the United Kingdom.

Eligibility criteria

You will need to meet the following conditions to be able to apply for an award:

- you must be a national of (or permanently domiciled in) a Commonwealth developing country, and not currently be living or studying in a developed country;
- you must hold a first degree at either first or upper second class level;
- you must be sufficiently fluent in English to pursue the course;
- you should not have previously studied for one year or more in a developed country;
- you must not be employed by a government department (at national level) or an international organisation;
- you must be able to confirm in writing that neither you or your family would otherwise be able to pay for the proposed course of study;
- you must be willing to confirm that you will return to your home country as soon as your period of study is complete.

Application procedures

Applications are made through participating British universities, which vary from year to year. For an up-to-date list visit the website of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom: www.cscuk.org.uk. Contact your chosen university direct for an application form and guidance notes.

Further information

More information about this scheme can be obtained from:

Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Scheme
c/o Association of Commonwealth Universities
Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HF
Tel: 44 (0) 207 380 6700
e-mail: info@acu.ac.uk
www.cscuk.org.uk

OVERSEAS RESEARCH STUDENTS AWARDS SCHEME (ORSAS)

Type of scheme

This scheme was set up in 1979 to attract high-quality international students to the United Kingdom to undertake research. It is funded through the four UK higher education funding bodies (for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). However, from 2009 these awards are being phased out in England and Wales. A decision is yet to be made about funding in Scotland and Northern Ireland. For up-to-date information about the availability of this scheme, visit the ORSAS website (details below).

These awards are available for full-time, postgraduate research study only. They are not for students undertaking undergraduate or taught postgraduate study.

Amount of money

ORSAS awards provide funding to pay the difference between the international student tuition fees and the home/EU student tuition fees charged by the university. ORSAS awards do not cover the home/EU fee element, maintenance or travel expenses.

Eligibility criteria

To apply you must be liable to pay tuition fees at the rate applicable to overseas students and must have already applied for admission to a full-time MPhil/PhD research programme or currently be pursuing such a programme. You must be of outstanding academic merit and research potential. Although candidates with an upper second class honours Bachelor's degree (or the overseas equivalent) can be considered, in order to be competitive you should have a first class Bachelor's degree, along with an excellent Master's degree. Other factors such as financial status, nationality and the proposed field of study are not taken into account.

These awards cannot be held alongside fully-funded scholarships such as a Commonwealth Scholarship or a Marshall Scholarship. Students who have previously held this award will not be considered eligible for a second one.

Application procedures

You should contact the university in which you intend to study (information about participating universities is available on the ORSAS website: details below). You will need to provide details of your proposed research project. These awards are highly competitive so you may find it beneficial to discuss your chances of obtaining an award with staff at your chosen university department. Application forms are available from your university and will need to be supported by two references.

Further information

www.orsas.ac.uk

This is the ORSAS website. It contains all the information you require about the scheme, including links to participating institutions. It also contains information about the continuation of the scheme in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

ROYAL SOCIETY FELLOWSHIPS

Type of scheme

The Royal Society is the national academy of science of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. It supports top young scientists, engineers and technologists, influences science policy and debates scientific issues with the public. Through the society a number of fellowships are offered to outstanding postdoctoral researchers who wish to study in the United Kingdom. These vary from year to year, so visit the Royal Society website to find out about current availability (details below).

Amount of money

Amounts vary, depending on the scheme. In general, the fellowship should cover subsistence and research expenses for the duration of your visit. Consult the Royal Society website for an up-to-date list of current schemes and to find out how much funding is available (details below).

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria vary, depending on the scheme. Some funding is only available for postdoctoral researchers who are citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA), i.e. European Union, Iceland, Norway or Liechtenstein; or a Swiss citizen. Others are only available for postdoctoral researchers from North America or Asia. All schemes, however, will require you to demonstrate an outstanding academic record and an exceptionally high academic ability.

Application procedures

For most fellowships, applications can only be submitted online on the Royal Society's electronic Grant Application and Processing (e-GAP2) system (<https://e-gap.royalsociety.org>). Guidance notes and deadlines for submission are provided with the forms. For further information visit the Royal Society website (details below).

Further information

royalsociety.org/funding

More information about funding from the Royal Society can be obtained from this website. This includes information about Early Career Fellowship Schemes, Senior Fellowship Schemes, Innovation Schemes, Research Capacity and Infrastructure Schemes and Mobility Grant Schemes. Closing dates for all funding schemes are clearly displayed on the website.

MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIPS

Type of scheme

Marshall Scholarships are funded mainly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and are overseen by the Marshall Commission (details below). This scheme is available to finance young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom. Up to 40 scholarships are awarded annually.

Amount of money

The scholarship will cover tuition fees and living expenses, and will also provide an annual book grant, thesis grant, research and daily travel grants, fares to and from the United States and, where applicable, a contribution towards the support of a dependent spouse. The scholarship is tenable for two academic years, although it may be extended for a further year in exceptional circumstances.

Eligibility criteria

These scholarships are available only to United States citizens who (at the time they take up their scholarship) hold a first degree from an accredited four-year college or university in the United States with a minimum GPA of 3.7. To qualify for awards tenable from October 2010, candidates must have graduated from their undergraduate college or university after April 2007. If you are already studying for or holding a British degree or degree-equivalent qualification you are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Application procedures

Applications are made in one of eight regions in the United States. Contact details for each region can be obtained from the Marshall Scholarship website (details below). You can apply in one region only, which can be that in which you have your permanent home address or ordinary place of residence/employment, or that in which you are studying. Applications are made in early October of the year preceding the start of the course.

Application forms are available on the Marshall Scholarship website (details below). The form must be completed and submitted through your educational institution. They will then decide whether or not to endorse your application, and, if so, will send the form to the relevant region.

Further information

www.marshallscholarship.org

More information about the scheme is available from this website. Application forms are available, along with guidance notes and contact details of the eight regions through which applications can be submitted. There is also a list of institutions offering partnership scholarships through this scheme.

The contact details for the Marshall Commission are:

Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission
Woburn House
20-24 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HF
UK
Tel: 44 207 380 6700
e-mail: apps@marshallscholarship.org

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

Type of scheme

The Fulbright Commission offers a selection of awards for US citizens coming to study in the United Kingdom in any academic field. There are three main categories of award:

- Postgraduate Student Awards for students wishing to pursue a graduate degree in the United Kingdom in any subject.
- Distinguished Scholars and Fellows Awards for academics and professionals to lecture, study and/or conduct research in the United Kingdom.
- Distinguished Chairs Awards, which are the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright program for lecturing, research, and/or curriculum development.

Amount of money

Amounts vary, depending on the award. Typical grants include a maintenance allowance and a contribution towards tuition fees, where applicable. As an example, Postgraduate Student Awards may be up to £20,000, whereas Distinguished Scholars and Fellows Awards and Distinguished Chair Awards can be up to £25,000, with an additional allowance for accommodation.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for these awards you will need to be a US citizen, resident anywhere but in the United Kingdom. You will need to display academic excellence and rigour, and have a strong interest in the peoples and cultures of the United Kingdom. You will also need strong reasons for wishing to pursue the proposed project in the United Kingdom and show commitment to the host community through volunteer and extra-curricular activity. Preference will be given to those who do not have extensive experience in the United Kingdom.

Application procedures

Applications for the Postgraduate Student Awards are facilitated by the Institute of International Education (<http://us.fulbrightonline.org>). This site contains all the information you will need to make an application, including guidance notes and forms. It also contains information about deadlines for the current year.

Applications for the Distinguished Scholar Awards and the Distinguished Chairs Awards are made online through the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES): www.cies.org. This site contains information about making an application and includes guidance notes and forms. It also contains information about deadlines for the current year.

Candidates are selected through a rigorous application and telephone interview process. Interviews will be held on the indicated date(s) only and may not be rescheduled.

Further information

www.fulbright.co.uk

This is the website of the Fulbright Commission. More information about the awards is available on the site, along with information about terms and conditions, which should be read before you submit your application.

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org>

Applications for Postgraduate Student Awards are facilitated by the Institute of International Education. Forms and further information can be obtained from this site.

www.cies.org

Applications for the Distinguished Scholar Awards and the Distinguished Chairs Awards are made through the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). Application forms and guidance notes can be obtained from this site.