DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NOTICE FOR 2026/2027

COMMONWEALTH MASTERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEANS TO STUDY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Department of Higher Education Research Science and Technology (DHERST) wishes to inform suitably qualified Papua New Guineans that the Commonwealth Master's Scholarship for 2027/28 is officially open. The scholarship is funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and administered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC) in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and coordianted by the DHERST.

Awards cover a full-time taught Master's study at an approved UK university, beginning in September/October 2027. Scholars are expected to use the knowledge and skills gained to contribute to development after returning home.

Applicants are encouraged to prepare required documents and submit before the closing date.

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- Full Tuition fees
- Monthly living allowance
- Study-related travel grants
- Additional support (where applicable)
- Return international airfares

ELIGIBILITY

Who can apply?

Applicant must:

- Be a citizen of Papua New Guinea (or an eligible Commonwealth citizen/refugee/British Protected Person currently residing in PNG)
- Be a permanent resident of PNG
- Be available to begin studies by September 2027
- Possess:
  - Upper Second-Class Honors (2:1) or
  - Lower Second Class degree
  - Demonstrate financial need.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Required Documents

Prepare the following:

- Valid PNG Passport or National ID
- Certified academic transcipts
- Certified Degree certificate(s)
- Two signed referee reports
- Personal Statement
- Employment history (CV)
- Research Publications or professional awards (optional)

***Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Development Impact Statement

Your application should clearly explain:

- The development issue you want to address
- Why your proposed study is important
- How you will apply your new knowledge in PNG
- Expected outcomes and beneficiaries
- How success will be measured

PREPARING A STRONG APPLICATION

Study & Career Planning

Before applying, you should:

- Identify three suitable UK Universities and
- Choose relevant Master's programmes
- Prepare a realistic study plan
- Develop a five year career plan
- Demonstrate leadership and community involvement

Scholarship Conditions

Successful scholars must:

- Return to Papua New Guinea after graduation
- Comply with CSC policies and UK Visa requirements
- Obtain admission to a UK university separately
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Adhere to university rules and regulations and comply with all laws and requirements of their host country throughout their studies.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for the Commonwealth Master's Scholarship must be submitted online through the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's application system, CSC Central.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT POINTS

- All scholarship applications must be completed and submitted via CSC Central online portal.
- The CSC will not accept applications or supporting documents submitted by email, post, or any method other than CSC Central.
- Applicants must also submit the required supporting documents to DHERST by the specified deadline for nomination and recommendation.

You are NOT Eligible if:

- You have a current scholarship
- You submitted a late or incomplete application

CSC Central Online Portal - Apply Here
https://portal.csccentralonline.org.uk/application

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Opens: September 9th 2026 | Closes: October 21st 2026 (at 1:00am PNG-GMT)

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the following telephone number: 301 2076 or email: scholarships@dherst.gov.pg or visit the website: www.dherst.gov.pg

You can also scan the QR Code to go directly to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission website.

DEFINITIONS

- **Upper Second Class Honors**

Applicants must have bachelors degree with strong academic results. No additional postgraduate qualification is required or;

- **Lower Second Class Degree**

Applications with lower bachelors degree results must have relevant postgraduate qualification, such as postgraduate Diploma or Masters degree.

- **Certified Documents**

Officially verified, signed and stamped by a Commissioner for Oaths as a true copy of the original document.

Endorsed by

Secretary
Department of Higher Education Research Science and Technology

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