

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

2026 COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Higher Education Council (HEC) invites eligible Rwandan citizens to apply for Commonwealth Master's and PhD Scholarships to study in the United Kingdom beginning in September or October 2027. **Rwanda may nominate 16 candidates for PhD study and 10 candidates for Master's study.** A nomination by HEC does not guarantee selection or placement by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC).

HECMIS deadline	CSC Central deadline	Study begins
20 October 2026	20 October 2026 at 16:00 BST	September 2027

CSC Development Themes

Applicants must select one theme and explain clearly how the proposed study or research addresses that theme and a defined development need in Rwanda.

1. Science and Technology for Development	2. Strengthening Health Systems and Capacity
3. Promoting Global Prosperity	4. Strengthening Global Peace Security and Governance
5. Strengthening Resilience and Response to Crises	6. Access Inclusion and Opportunity

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a Rwandan citizen and be permanently resident in Rwanda.
- Be available to begin full-time study in the United Kingdom in September 2027.
- Demonstrate that the proposed study could not be undertaken in the United Kingdom without the scholarship.
- Meet the academic and admission requirements for the proposed programme and submit all required documentation by both deadlines.
- Commit to returning home after the scholarship to contribute to Rwanda's development.

Master's Applicants

- Hold, or expect to hold by September 2027, a Bachelor's degree of at least Upper Second Class or equivalent in a field relevant to the proposed programme.
- Apply for a full-time, one-year taught Master's programme. The CSC does not fund MBA programmes under this scheme and does not normally fund a second Master's degree unless a compelling justification is provided.
- Identify three suitable UK universities and courses, in order of preference, and apply for admission early. An admission offer strengthens readiness but does not replace the scholarship application.

PhD Applicants

- Hold a relevant Master's degree or equivalent and meet HEC's announced academic threshold of at least 70 percent for PhD nomination.



- Not already be registered for a PhD or an MPhil leading to a PhD at a university in the United Kingdom, Rwanda, or another country.
- Secure a substantive supporting statement from at least one proposed UK supervisor named in the CSC application. A request email, an acknowledgement, or an admission letter that does not confirm supervisory support is not sufficient.
- Submit a focused research proposal that defines the problem, research gap, questions or objectives, methodology, feasibility, expected contribution, and relevance to Rwanda's development.

Documents Required in HECMIS

Applicants must upload clear, legible PDF copies in the correct fields. Missing, incomplete, unreadable, or misplaced documents may make an application ineligible.

Document	What it must include
Application letter	Addressed to the Director General of HEC and stating the degree level, proposed course or research area, selected CSC development theme, three preferred UK universities and courses where applicable, admission status, current employer and position, and a brief case for the applicant's academic merit and expected contribution to Rwanda.
Identity document	A valid passport or national identity card showing the applicant's photograph, date of birth, and nationality.
Curriculum vitae	An up-to-date CV showing education, employment, research, publications, awards, leadership, voluntary service, and relevant achievements.
Academic records	Degree certificates and complete transcripts for every higher education qualification, including all pages and current transcripts for any ongoing qualification. Documents not in English must include certified translations.
References	At least two signed, detailed references on institutional letterhead or in an email that clearly shows the referee's details. One should be from the current employer where applicable, and at least one should be academic. References should address the applicant's analytical ability, originality, motivation, strengths and weaknesses, suitability for the proposed study,



Document	What it must include
	and potential to contribute to Rwanda's development.
Study or research plan	A detailed plan of study for Master's applicants or a research proposal for PhD applicants.
University evidence	Offer letters where available, or evidence that admission applications have been submitted. PhD applicants must also upload the required UK supervisor supporting statement.
Submitted CSC application	A PDF copy of the final application submitted through CSC Central, including the CSC application reference number. Draft or unsubmitted applications will not be reviewed.

What Strong Applications Must Demonstrate

- Academic merit supported by complete transcripts, relevant qualifications, and evidence of the applicant's capacity to succeed in a demanding UK programme.
- A well-researched choice of programme and university, with a clear explanation of how the curriculum, faculty, facilities, or research environment will meet specific learning or research needs.
- A coherent link between the applicant's education, professional or community experience, proposed study, and future career plans.
- A specific development problem at the global, national, and local levels, rather than a general statement that the field is important.
- A credible post-scholarship plan showing how new knowledge and skills will be applied in Rwanda, the outcomes expected, the implementation timeframe, the intended beneficiaries, and how progress will be measured.
- Evidence of leadership, service, research, innovation, or professional impact. Claims should be supported with concrete examples and results where possible.
- Original, complete, and consistent answers that respond directly to each CSC question and remain within the stated word limits.
- Responsible use of artificial intelligence. AI may be used to brainstorm ideas or support research, but it should not replace the applicant's own writing. Applications must reflect the applicant's authentic voice, experiences, and ideas.

HEC Nomination Review

HEC will first screen applications for eligibility, completeness, and submission through both required systems. Eligible applications will then be reviewed and ranked using the overall strength of the following evidence:

- Academic merit and relevant preparation
- Quality and feasibility of the proposed study plan or research proposal
- Potential development impact in Rwanda
- Strength and specificity of references



- Course, university, and career fit
- For PhD applicants, the quality of UK supervisor support and research readiness
- Leadership, service, professional achievement, and evidence of prior impact

How to Apply

1. Submit the complete national nomination application through HECMIS at <https://hecmis.hec.gov.rw/> by 20 October 2026.
2. Submit the complete scholarship application through CSC Central at cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships by 16:00 BST on Tuesday 20 October 2026.
3. Save the confirmation email, application reference number, and a PDF copy of the submitted CSC application, then upload the PDF and reference number to HECMIS.

Only applications submitted through both HECMIS and CSC Central by the applicable deadlines will be reviewed. Applications cannot be edited after submission to CSC Central. Applicants should submit early and monitor all email folders, including spam and junk folders, for updates.

Official Information

Applicants should read the full eligibility rules, application guidance, and terms on the official CSC website: [Commonwealth Master's Scholarships](https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships) and the official CSC scholarship directory at <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships/>. The CSC does not charge an application fee.

Done at Kigali on 20 September 2026.

 Digitally
signed by
HEC(Direct
or General)

Dr. Edward KADOZI

Director General

