

Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships 2025

We are honoured to announce that the [Digital Education MSc](#) has been awarded Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships for eligible students starting in September 2025.

The [Commonwealth Scholarship Commission \(CSC\)](#) in the UK is an executive non-departmental public body, operating within the framework of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. It offers a range of study, research, and professional development options for people throughout the Commonwealth, including distance learning support.

In the Digital Education MSc, we aim to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in digital education and EdTech through these scholarships. We understand entrepreneurship and innovation broadly in terms of scale (e. g., from innovations in classrooms to those in national or international education systems), variety (e. g., from advancements in teaching practices to managing educational institutions, policies, technologies, or systems), technologies (e. g., from smaller EdTech initiatives to collaborations with Big Tech solutions), and themes (e. g., from addressing digital inequalities to innovating with local knowledge). These examples illustrate our broad understanding, but candidates are encouraged to articulate how they plan to use the knowledge and skills from this MSc programme to support socially just EdTech and digital education.

In this broad context, we seek to support individuals in various roles (e. g., policymakers, teachers, learning technologists, entrepreneurs, investors, NGO and think tank workers, etc.). Our programme equips graduates with the knowledge, skills, and networks to design, use, or manage technology in education (e.g., EdTech) for inclusive, equitable education and lifelong learning.

Candidates from all eligible countries are invited to apply. We are particularly eager to receive applications from India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Apply as soon as possible and refer to the relevant [university website](#).

Please note that you must apply both to the University of Edinburgh and receive an offer, as well as apply to the CSC to be considered for the scholarship. In your application to the University of Edinburgh, please make a note that you are applying also for the Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarship. More information is provided below.

More information

Our rationale

Digital education and educational technology (EdTech) have the potential to significantly enhance education access and quality, particularly in developing countries where opportunities are most limited. By fostering responsible innovation and entrepreneurship in EdTech, we can expand educational opportunities and drive socio-economic development.

The MSc in Digital Education at the University of Edinburgh is designed to develop this potential, equipping graduates with the knowledge, skills, social networks, and confidence needed to effectively implement digital or digitally-supported education. Over the past decade, innovation in EdTech has been driven by partnerships between governments, companies, investors, and international organisations. However, developing countries face several challenges in keeping pace.

First, investment in EdTech is predominantly concentrated in Western nations, which limits innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities in developing countries. Second, the EdTech imported from elsewhere standardises educational processes, resulting in a lack of local skills for developing and governing educational offerings. Third, these technologies frequently lack sensitivity to local needs.

The MSc builds the capacity to evaluate incoming EdTech, design and construct bespoke local solutions, and manage and govern technology and data in education. Graduates become leaders and practitioners implementing policies targeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our Course already collaborates with Education Ministries in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa on equitable digital education policies. We also work with Ugandan universities on inclusion strategies for women, displaced individuals, and those with disabilities. Through Commonwealth scholarships, we aim to extend efforts in EdTech innovation and attract talented individuals to support the UK's international development goals and SDGs.

What we are looking for

We aim to support individuals in various roles (e. g., policymakers, teachers, learning technologists, entrepreneurs, investors, NGO and think tank workers, etc.).

The Digital Education MSc offers the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and networks to design, use, or manage technology in education (e.g., EdTech) for inclusive, equitable education and lifelong learning.

Please note that we are open to how you plan to innovate in digital education and EdTech in your context – may it be about developing technology, using it in different ways, managing it, or writing policies and regulations on its use.

However, in each case, we'd like to see how you plan to use this opportunity to contribute to the development impact in your country. For example, will you use the gained knowledge and skills to have an impact on the quality of education in your context? Or will you tackle the ethical challenges of technology, such as reducing bias in algorithms and AI, addressing automation risks, and ensuring solutions are contextually relevant? Perhaps you might aim to contribute to peaceful, inclusive societies and effective institutions. Either way, please be clear about the impact you plan to make with knowledge and skills from your programme in your context.

Key selection criteria for awarding scholarships

Key selection criteria will include the applicant's academic merit, potential impact on their home country's development, alignment with CSC development themes and Sustainable Development Goals, and an identifiable potential to become a leader and innovator.

Developmental relevance will be crucial in the selection process. We ask applicants to clearly articulate how they will utilise the knowledge, skills, and social networks gained from the Programme to achieve this developmental potential. By fostering such innovation, candidates will present how the Course will support them in enhancing educational practices and capacity building in their communities and, indirectly, their nations' economic growth and social improvement.

How to apply

Please see the relevant information on the [university website](#).

Please be especially mindful of the following:

1. Apply for the programme to the University of Edinburgh as soon as possible
2. The deadline for the application to the CSC is 20 May 2025.
3. Please make sure to elaborate how you plan to use your studies with us in your entrepreneurial or innovation activities, broadly conceived

Contact

For any specific questions about Digital Education MSc scholarships, please contact the Programme Director, Dr Janja Komljenovic at digitaled@ed.ac.uk.

Q&A

1. I am a teacher. I don't feel I am an innovator. Is this scholarship for me?

Most definitely. We aim to support everyone in their roles and contexts. Teachers innovate in education delivery. So this opportunity is geared to help you in understanding, implementing, using, and managing technology in your classroom, education institution or beyond.

However, it is important you tell us how you think you can contribute to the development of education in your context. In other words, what do you think is the impact you can make at whatever scale.

2. How do I apply?

To become a scholar, you need to apply to both:

- the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission for your opportunity to be awarded a Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarship
- the University of Edinburgh to secure an offer to study an eligible programme of your choice

These application processes are separate, and they don't need to happen in any particular order, but you must be successful in both application processes to become a scholar.

Please note that it is in your interest to secure an offer with the University of Edinburgh as soon as possible, as we will prioritise nominating scholarship candidates that hold unconditional offers.

3. What do I need to include in my application

Please check the requirements and websites for both, the application to the University of Edinburgh, and CSC.

However, we do suggest that you note in your application to the University of Edinburgh that you are applying for the CSC Scholarship.