



INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FORUM (ISF)

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TRANSCRIPT OF LECTURE [ISF 9]:

DEMYSTIFYING THE COMMONWEALTH SHARED

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS

Friday 19TH March 2021; 18:00 WAT

Profile of the Guest Lecturers

Lecturer 1: Scholar Faithful Chiagoziem Onwuegbuche

Faithful Chiagoziem ONWUEGBUCHE is a Commonwealth Scholar and recently completed an MSc in Financial Technology (FinTech) at the University of Stirling, UK. Before this position, he was an African Union Commission Scholar at the Pan African University, Kenya where he graduated with an MSc in Financial Mathematics. He conducted research that measured value-at-risk in Nigerian Banks using an innovative approach of incorporating tweet sentiments. He previously graduated with a First Class Honours in B.Sc.Ed Mathematics and Statistics, and was awarded the valedictorian.

Faithful is an independent and innovative thinking researcher with publications in reputable journals. His research interest lies at the intersection and interplay of FinTech, Mathematics, Data Science, Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Professionally, he has over five years of relevant work experience gained as a data scientist, research scholar, teacher, leader in several projects and community developer. Through these positions, he has built profound skills in data analysis, AI, research, leadership, verbal and written communication, time management, team building capability, problem-solving capacity as well as exceptional innovative abilities.

As a Data and Research Scientist at MDR Consulting, he makes data tell a story, draws remarkable insight from data and comes up with innovative ideas that transform organisations and improves the lives of people. Combined with his unique project management knowledge obtained through training from the British International Project Management Academy and knowledge of Health, Safety and Environmental Awareness from the British International Safety Organisation, he can organise and manage resources efficiently while ensuring safety at work. Through his experience in teaching, he possesses the ability to communicate technical concepts in a non-technical way for all to understand.

Besides academic, professional and research excellence, it is in his nature to utilise his position and available resources to impact people's lives positively. In 2016, he was awarded the Best Performing NYSC President due to his impactful and selfless community service. Currently, he serves as the West Scotland Regional Network Coordinator, under the auspices of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK. Through this position, he builds a strong, dynamic, and friendly regional network, help scholars make the best of their stay in the UK and equip them as transformative change agents for their respective Commonwealth countries and the world in general.

Lecturer 2: Scholar Nnenna Esther Chukwuekezie

Nnenna Esther Chukwuekezie, a Commonwealth scholar studying Water and Wastewater Engineering at Cranfield University, UK. Enthusiastic about biological Wastewater treatment while maximizing the circular economy and sustainability. Bachelor's degree in Microbiology, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ebonyi state. Passionate about fashion and designing and was working as a designer before leaving for the UK. Loves networking and an advocate of SDG 6 and 12.

Awards:

1. Commonwealth shared scholarship

Lecturer 3: Scholar Ifeoluwa Peter Oyekunle

Oyekunle Ifeoluwa is a graduate of Environmental Engineering and Project Management - MSc (Distinction) from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom. He was a member of King's Research Group where he developed strong expertise in environmental contamination, nosocomial infections, antimicrobial resistance, the efficacy of cleaning/disinfection, among several others. He was awarded the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship in 2019 towards completing an MSc at the University of Leeds. Consequently, his MSc was jointly funded by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and the University of Leeds. He previously obtained a bachelor's degree (First Class Hons) in Chemistry from the Federal University of Technology, Akure where he graduated as one of the best students in his department and faculty.

Awards:

1. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for Low-Middle Income Countries.
2. King Fahd University of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Full Sponsorship for an MSc in Analytical Chemistry.
3. Fully Funded PhD Assistantship at Florida State University.
4. Fully Funded PhD Assistantship at the University of Miami.
5. Fully Funded PhD Assistantship at the University of Central Florida.
6. Fully Funded.

Moderator: Scholar Hussein

Transmission Crew:

ISF 1: Scholar Taiwo Ridwan

ISF 2: Scholar Taiwo Ridwan

ISF 3: Scholar Justin

ISF 4: Scholar A.B Salako

ISF 5: Scholar Hammid

ISF 6: Scholar Hussein

ISF 7: Scholar Ishola Abeebe

ISF 8: Scholar Taiwo Ridwan

ISF 10: Scholar Abdulrasheed

ASF 1: Scholar Hydrospecs

ASF 2: Scholar Paulotimi

Telegram: Scholar Ishola Abeebe

Foremost Research Groups 1, 2, 3 & 4: Scholar: Hydrospecs

ISFM: Scholar Taiwo Ridwan

Twitter: Scholar Lukgaf

Lecture Agenda

1. [Overview of the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship: Introduction, Benefits and Application for Admissions.](#)

Scholar Faithful

2. [Essay 1 - 7.](#) **Scholar Faithful**

3. [Essay 8 - 11.](#) **Scholar Ifeoluwa**

4. [How to relate SDGs to CSS essays.](#) **Scholar Esther**

5. [Reviewer expectations in evaluating the CSS essays.](#) **Scholar Esther**

6. [Other salient points in securing the scholarship.](#) **Scholar Esther**

7. [Q&A.](#)

Overview of the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship: Introduction, Benefits and Application for Admissions.

Speaker: Faithful Chiagoziem Onwuegbuche

I am so glad to have been invited to share insights on how to successfully apply for the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship being an alumnus.

I remember as far back as 2015 or so when I, Scholar Lukgaf and others started the ISF group. Then most of us had not even secured a scholarship, but our like minds on obtaining a better education and assisting others in doing same propelled us to start the group.

Today, we have all been awarded scholarships to fulfil our dreams. The group has expended to about 9 groups, with a telegram version, thanks to the handwork of all the admins. Several others have obtained different scholarships and I am confident you can be next.

Now to the business of the day... sincerely, it is difficult to talk about scholarships through texts being that I am not a typing person (I prefer talking to texting) but I will try my possible best.

UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE OF THE CSC SCHOLARSHIP

Commonwealth Shared Scholarships enable talented and motivated individuals to gain the knowledge and skills required for sustainable development and are aimed at those who could not otherwise afford to study in the UK.

These scholarships are offered under six CSC development themes:

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

Purpose: To contribute to development needs of Commonwealth countries by providing training for skilled and qualified professionals and academics and to contribute to UK higher education and foreign policy aims.

BENEFITS OF THE COMMONWEALTH SHARED SCHOLARSHIP

- One of the most prestigious and competitive scholarships in the world.
- Network: Since it was established in 1959, over 30,000 individuals have held a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship
- Fully Funded: Each scholarship provides (Approximately above 20 million naira in just one year)
- Approved airfare from your home country to the UK and return at the end of your award.
- Approved tuition fees – funded by the CSC.
- Visa fee
- Stipend (living allowance)
- Warm clothing allowance
- Thesis grant towards the cost of preparing a thesis or dissertation.
- Study travel grant towards the costs of study-related travel within the UK or overseas.
- Excess baggage allowance, up to an annual approved limit, when returning home.
- Reimbursement of the cost of a mandatory tuberculosis (TB) test.
- If you are widowed, divorced, or a single parent, child allowance of £478 per month for the first child, and £118 per month for the second and third child under the age of 16 if you are accompanied by your children and they are living with you at the same address in the UK.

WHAT THE CSC IS LOOKING FOR IN A CANDIDATE?

The CSC just like any forward-looking organisation is not into wasteful investments. The CSC invests a huge sum of money for each scholar (*over 20M per scholar*) so as any wise investor, they must ensure that their investment will yield a good return on investment (ROI).

Thus, the CSC is looking for a candidate that shows promise on a good ROI. Before, I go into stating what I think the CSC is looking for in a candidate, it is wise to make it clear here that what I express represents my opinion and does not necessarily express the opinion of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. This is not an exhaustive list but here is what I think the CSC is looking for in a candidate.

- 1. Passion:** passionate about making a difference in their community, country, and world at large through the knowledge and skills they hope to gain in the UK.
- 2. Leadership:** leadership prowess and the potential you've to make impact and influence the world around you positively towards sustainable development and in making the world a better place than you found it.
- 3. Commitment:** they are looking for individuals that are commitment about their goals and visions as proved by previous achievements and initiatives they have taken part in.
- 4. Creativity and Originality:** I often say, creativity and originality are the hallmarks of a true scholar. Therefore, you must tell your story and not copy that of others when writing your essays. Remember, they have been in this business for several years and they can detect a copy and paste or generic essays. Make yourself stand out by telling your unique story in a creative and original way.
- 5. Problem solvers:** the CSC are interested in knowing if you even know or understand the problems around you. Remember, you cannot solve a problem that you do not know. You must show through data (from WHO, World Bank

etc.) that you know and understand the problem around you, and you think you have the potential to solve that problem giving the knowledge you will gain from the scholarship.

6. Diversity and Well-roundedness: as a scholar, it is important for you to be well rounded and not just be a lover of books. So, do well to sell yourself as a well-rounded individual that has been involved in other activities other than academics. Talk about your extra-curriculum activities, leadership positions you have held and the impact you have made. Also talk about innovative things you are doing in your community and how you have worked with people from diverse backgrounds, tribes, religion and so on.

7. Vision: Without vision the people perish. Your vision should not be focused on you alone. Your vision should include those around you and the CSC hopes to understand how your vision aligns with the sustainable development goals and the development goals within your country.

OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process is in two phases.

1. **University application:** you must apply to study one of the approved courses in their respective university. Example: you can apply to study MSc Sustainability Energy and Development at Durham University since it is on the list of eligible courses.

<https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/commonwealth-shared-scholarships-2021-eligible-courses/>

2. **CSC application:** you then need to apply to the CSC and submit your application for that specific course at:

<https://fs29.formsite.com/m3nCYq/wfeafywiw0/index.html>

Admission Requirements for most UK Masters Programmes

Candidates must satisfy the following conditions:

1. Undergraduate degree from a recognized university
2. University certificates and transcripts,
3. National passport (personal details page) or any document showing Proof of Citizenship.
4. Detailed CV
5. Recommendation letters from 2 lecturers
6. Personal Statement

CSC APPLICATION ESSAYS – HOW TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU’RE THAT CANDIDATE THE CSC IS LOOKING FOR.

1) How your proposed study relates to:

- a) Development issues at the global, national, and local level?
- b) Development issues connected to your chosen CSC theme and the wider sector?

(200 words)

• To successfully answer this question, you should identify a need in your community that you would like to solve. For example, the issue of poor performance of students in sciences. Or challenges of access to health care in your community. Or financial exclusion of people, fraud, and poor financial regulation. The idea is to find a problem you are passionate about solving. To show its indeed a problem, you will have to quote reliable data from trusted authorities like WHO, World Bank, National Bureau of Statistics, Government newsletters, published articles, etc. Quantify the problem you intend to solve. Example, according to National Bureau of Statistics in Nigeria, 40.1 percent of population in Nigeria lived in poverty.

- This problem should be related to your chosen course and you should show that the modules you are to take in that course will prepare you adequately in providing the needed solution.
- After relating it to your chosen course, you need to relate it to issues at the global, national, and local level. Your best bet is linking it to the sustainable development goals, African Agenda 2063 and other developmental goals within your country and community. Also, remember to relate it to the broader CSC development themes. In concluding your essay for this question, reiterate your passion to solve these issues.

2) How you intend to apply your new skills and qualification when you return home? (100 words)

This is indeed a very wonderful question, you see, the CSC is expecting you to go back home and effect a positive change within your community.

To successfully answer this question, you must link it to;

- The problems/needs in your community/country that you are passionate about solving.
- The skills the course you are to take will afford you and how you will best use it in solving the problems plaguing your society.

For example,

If the issue is poor financial regulation and fraud that you want to solve and you are taking a course like FinTech or Cyber Security or Finance. Then you've to show the skills you are to gain: For example, in Financial regulation, malware detection using machine learning, etc. Also, how you will apply them... in the government sector working for the CBN or as a lecturer training student in the fields, or as a consultant helping businesses secure their payment platforms or a combination of all. Finally, be creative and state ways you intend to apply the skills you are to build.

3) What you expect will change in development terms following your studies, including:

a) the outcomes that you aim to achieve? b) the timeframe for their implementation? c) who the beneficiaries will be? (250 words)

Remember SMART

S - Specific

M - Measurable

A - Attainable

R - Realistic

T - Time bound

What you want to achieve, pass it through the SMART function. Ask yourself, is it specific (the problem or outcome you want should not be generic. e.g. I will make Nigeria a better place. That is too generic vague. It should be specific... e.g. I intend to train 100 Nigerian youths on modern technologies in less than 2 years. It should also be measurable... meaning once you attain it, we should be able to know you've attained it.

It should also be realistic and time bound; when will that dream, or Goal or outcome be achieved? 10 years after your studies? Two months after? Or 2 years after? In addition, you must know who will benefit from it. Is it corporate companies, government, students, business owners, SME CEO? Etc

4) How the impact of your work could be best measured? (100 words).

Remember **SMART** now we find a specific question on the **M -Measurable**. How can we know that the goal, vision, or development Impact you are planning has been achieved?

If you have written down your goals and vision in a SMART way, then it becomes easy to say how you will measure it. But if you have not written your goals in a SMART way then it becomes difficult to answer this.

This is the beauty of the CSC essays. All the questions are linked. Answering one very well will help you in answering others well.

For example, let us assume you are taking an MA in Education and your goal is to help students better understand science concepts through the new pedagogy that you will learn in the UK, then to measure your impact on return home, you'll say that you'll give a test to the students after teaching using normal teaching pedagogy and then another test to the experimental group after using the new pedagogy and compare their performance to see improvement.

This is simply a quasi-experimental research design. So, depending on your goals you'll be able to say what you can use in measuring the impact. This also depends on your field of study so one size does not fit all.

5) Objectives during the award (250 words)

"If you know where you're going then you'll know what you need to help you get to where you're going."

Similarly, if you know the solutions you want to provide. Then you will know the activities to engage in in order to build the right skills, knowledge, and experience to be able to eventually solve the problem you want to solve. These activities that will help you build the needed network, knowledge, skills, and experience should be written as your objectives during the award. Remember to write your objectives in a SMART way. Example, if you are taking part in MSc Cyber Security, you can state that during the award you hope to build connections to cyber security experts by joining the UK society of cyber security professionals. You hope to collaborate with researchers in cyber security in the UK to research on how to reduce fraudulent financial transactions in the UK. You hope to learn the software and seek certifications from organizations.

You can even go extracurricular and link it back to your goals like, saying you will join the debate team in your university where you hope to build your public speaking and engagement skills to be a well-rounded individual and enrich your diversity experience. So, CREATIVITY is all you need and depending on your goals. You can sit down and creatively write your objectives during the award. Lastly, on this question, see your GOAL as the destination. See your OBJECTIVES as the road to which you will arrive at your destination. They should be clear and unambiguous; So, your objectives should be SMART.

6) Career plans in the five years following the award (250 words)

7) Long term career plans (250 words)

I am going to give insights to these questions together. I see them as one question but broken down due to the time it will take to achieve them.

Below is the template for the essay discussion.

Essay Topic 1

1. Overview/expectations of the essay question.
2. Steps in answering the question prompt.
3. Illustration or example where possible.

When writing your goals, remember to link them to the SUSTAINABLE development goals and national goals of your country. Set down and write down all your goals, visions, and aspirations. Remember those goals should not just be about you. they should also revolve around how you can improve your community.

After doing so, then separate them based on the fact if you will be able to achieve them in 5 years after the award or not. Also remember to write them in a SMART way. Example: Course MA Education.

Short time goals

To be a lecturer in a federal university in Nigeria where I hope to teach a course called ____ that no Nigeria university currently offers.

Long-time goals

To get a PhD and continue in lecturing and rise to the position of a professor. Then become a minister of education in Nigeria. So, you see how linked the short time goal is with the long-term goals. They should be in sync.

For your long-term goals, you are free to be as ambitious as you want to be but don't forget to be realistic.

Thanks so much for listening.

I think I am done with my part.

Essay 8 - 11

Lecturer: Scholar Ifeoluwa Peter Oyekunle

Good evening to everyone - scholars, co-speakers, and friends.

It is a pleasure to have been invited here to share useful tips as regards the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship essays. I say well done to Scholar Faithful who has really done justice to the first set of essays too. There might not be examples here as most of the essays in this latter part are applicant specific, however, I do hope you find the tips insightful.

I would just get started now.

STUDY OUTLINE

8. Provide a short outline of your proposed study/research. This should be written for an audience that does not have any prior knowledge of the subject and must not be overly technical.

Overview/expectations of the essay question

Here, they would particularly love to know how well you have researched your chosen course of study in the proposed school. You should know what you stand to gain from each module that are particularly pertinent to your development impact statement.

Suggested tips for answering the question prompt.

1. Detail on your proposed program of study and its overall aim and/or objectives.
2. Provide an insight into the core modules you would be taking and what you stand to gain from each of them alongside the skills they would individually equip you with.
3. Highlight other benefits the course structure would afford you e.g., presentation skills, research writing skills, systematic review skills, etc.

DETAILED PLAN OF STUDY

9. Provide a detailed plan of your proposed study. The selection panel will want to understand why you have selected your proposed course and university. Describe clearly:

- a) why you have chosen your proposed course and university and why you want to undertake this study in the UK
- b) what it is that you are looking for in course and how your chosen course relates to your objectives
- c) Any dissertation topic you have in mind.

Overview/expectations of the essay question

Here, you are meant to give specific reasons you would want to study the selected course in your proposed school which makes it stand out from another. Try as much as possible not to copy and paste what you see on the school/department page here. This essay question also seeks to know your expectations as regard the program and particularly how it would better equip you to effect development on your return to your home country.

Suggested tips for answering the question prompt.

1. Reiterate the problem stated in your first DIS and how this might snowball into a more threatening menace if not timely curbed. This ensures consistency.

2. If the school is globally known for cutting edge research in that field, this is a good place to state that also.

3. If the program affords the opportunity to be familiar with industrial operations, offers field trip to industries, government establishments, etc, state this here.

N:B Do not let your reason for selecting the school(s) be about their ranking only as it does not provide a full justification.

4. State what you are passionate about and clearly show how studying the chosen program or taking some key modules that make up the program adequately feed your passion and rightly position you to provide solution to this identified problem.

5. State a research topic/area you would love to explore. You really do not have to go in-depth as to writing a research proposal here. You could just briefly state what the aim and objectives of the research might be.

N:B Ensure it relates with the developmental issue previously identified.

10. PERSONAL STATEMENT

The essay prompt here has really summarized all that they expect from you as regards your response to this essay.

Overview/expectations of the essay question

Summarise the ways in which your personal background has encouraged you to want to make an impact in your home country. You should indicate areas in which you have already contributed, such as having overcome any personal or community barriers to or in higher education.

Suggested tips for answering the question prompt:

1. Explain the financial state of your family, the barriers that have faced your education over the years, how you had to struggle to overcome them, and most importantly how you still performed well academically despite all.

2. Note that it is not enough to detail on the challenges you have faced if you do not talk about how you still excelled despite that.

3. Thereafter, reiterate what the problem is and why there is an urgent need for researchers to proffer solutions.

4. Detail on previous work you have done towards solving the identified problem (if any) and how despite the limitations/limited resources, considerable success has been recorded.

5. Detail on what the MSc will equip you with, how you believe in your potentials but financially incapacitated to effect the needed change, and consequently how securing the scholarship will be a step in the right direction to achieve this.

11. VOLUNTARY AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Summarise the ways in which you have engaged in voluntary activities and the opportunities you have had to demonstrate leadership.

Overview/expectations of the essay question

The essay prompt above has also done justice to what they expect from you here.

Suggested tips for answering the question prompt:

1. Highlight the different organizations you have served and in what capacities you have served there.
2. Quantify the impact of the work done and focus more on what your personal contribution was. Let it be more of "I" and less of "we."
3. Employ the STAR approach to better structure your essay.
 - a. Paint a picture of the exact situation, those involved and why it happened.
 - b. Detail on your specific role in the task.
 - c. Explain the steps you took to resolve the situation and why you took the steps.
- d. State the outcome of your actions, what you learnt, and how it influenced who you are presently. (Adapted from Question Pro, 2021).

At this juncture, I would love to believe that I am done with my part also. Thanks very much for following through.

How to relate SDGs to CSS essays

Lecturer: Scholar Nnenna Esther Chukwuekezie

I will walk us through the following points:

1. How to relate SDGs to CSC essays.
2. Reviewer expectations in evaluating the CSC essays.
3. Other salient points in securing the scholarship.

How to relate SDGs to CSS essays

This is obviously the most salient point in CSS essay writing. Being able to link your intended course to the suitable SDG will position you to develop an outstanding essay.

There are 17 SDGs and you are expected to pick the three that aligns most with your intended course. Choosing this is straight forward but there's need to critically evaluate the options as some are closed related. Prior to filling the form, I want to believe we already have an indebt understanding of the course(s) we are applying for. This makes it easier to analyze the goal(s) we intend to achieve. For instance, if you are applying for a course in food security/sciences, I guess at the end, the major aim is to ensure food safety; it's availability and affordability. This aligns with the SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 1 (End poverty) and SDG 12. SDG 3 can also be considered but this boils down to your specific research interest/career plan.

I guess the different SDGs are already on the CSC site and we can easily access it on the internet. Also, if you are considering studying a water treatment related course; it is expected that you are working towards providing safe water and protection of public health. This can be linked to SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG 3 and 11.

Being able to substantiate your points distinguishes you from the rest. This can be made easy by choosing the right SDGs. When this is effectively done, sourcing for references becomes easy. I will give us an instance with a course in

water treatment, I can decide to focus my essay on SDG 6. The vision is to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water. The easiest thing to do in relating it to the development impact essays is to quote the current level in achieving this goal and then explain how your intended course will facilitate this. I can decide to talk about the increasing rate of diarrhoea in children because of contaminated drinking water. You can decide to get data from WHO or UNICEF, then explain how an MSc in Water treatment can contribute to curbing this. This explains why choosing the right SDGs can validate your claims.

Reviewers expectations in reviewing CSS essays.

CSS is sponsored by the CSC and the institution. They both cannot spend so much for an unjustifiable project. A reviewer looks out for passion; that which can be applied in developing one's country. It is expected that we substantiate our claims with known references and give a thorough explanation of how your home country will benefit. The reviewer looks out for community service and not personal gain.

I feel having a real-life picture triggers the reviewers; where necessary, especially in Personal statement and career plan, try to show how you/relative/community has been affected by the deficit. Thus, explaining how you urgently need to provide a solution.

Grammar construction and proper paragraph linkage can also be included in the reviewer's expectations. It is expected that as master's applicants, we have full control of vocabularies and concord. I advise we use Grammarly or any other writing assistance app/software. Better still, it is best explaining our points with simple terms that a layman can understand. I also think a reviewer expects factors that distinguishes a candidate from the rest. Maybe the grade you graduated with, research experiences, awards won. You can even write about being awarded the notorious noise maker in high school. I think it all depends on presentation/packaging.

Other Salient points in securing the scholarship.

1. Determination and consistency: drafting the 11 essays can be draining especially when you have other engagements. But trust me, it's worth the stress. The beauty in CSS application is that it allows you to spread your arms; do not limit yourself to one institution. Apply to as many as you can; your chances of winning one is increased this way.
2. Try as much as possible to avoid using generic words. Be very specific, it shows you did your research well. Mention names of modules and even lecturer(s) you are keen on working with. You can use same essay for different institutions provided the courses are related. However, do not forget to tweak it to fit each institution.
3. Having a scholar or experienced person review yourself before submitting: though not a guarantee, having your essay reviewed by one or more persons will help improve the chances of developing an award winning essay. Endeavor to conclude your essays on time to allow time for the reviewers go through it.
4. Excellent C.V: the school does the nomination, and it is of paramount importance to sell yourself very well. Include every valuable achievement in your C.V like awards won, previous scholarships, publications, International bodies you belong to, Voluntary activities done, leadership experiences and others. However, go straight to the point to avoid crowding your C.V. it is also important to mention work experiences you have that are in line with the application you are making.
5. Try as much as possible to make the institution feel they are your only hope. Let them know you did a proper research, and you are confident they are the best. Mention specific labs, research, or lecturers you want to work with.

Questions & Answers

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- Q:** Do we necessarily have to study deep about the module before speaking or writing about them or would highlighting the content of module be enough?
- A:** As regards this, I would advise you know what you stand to gain from each module and what they really entail. It shows you are really interested in the course, which has made you really taken the time to know what the module is all about. I would not advise that you only highlight the content.
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- Q:** Cranfield University required separate application; can we use the same essay from CSC impact essay for this purpose.
- A:** Are the questions same?
Just to add, if the essay prompt for the Development Impact Statement (for the CSS) is the same with that required by Cranfield, then you can tweak it for the same purpose.
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- Q:** My question: The course I have chosen which is under the CSC theme: promoting Global Prosperity is offered by just one out of all the CSC partner institutions and this is limiting my numbers of applications. This is because I am passionate about this course.
- A:** Check for other related courses that you can apply for. Remember, it's not always about the quantity but the quality of the application.
-
- Q:** Please can one concurrently run applications that are in two different career line?
For example, applying for Biotechnology in some universities and mph in others.
- A:** Using myself as a case study, this is very possible. I applied for Food Security at Glasgow, Environmental Engineering and Project Management at University of Leeds, and Electrochemistry and Battery Technologies at University of Southampton. This may be attributed to the flexibility my undergraduate course (Chemistry) offered me. I was subsequently nominated by Leeds and reserved at Glasgow and Southampton despite the diverse nature of the courses.
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- Q:** With all being said,
1. how do you form a research topic.
2. How do u get a professor to work with in a proposed university.
- A:** Personally, I believe the problem at the local/national level that you identified when writing your first DIS is a potential research topic. You should be able to coin a research topic from this. However, another way to do this is to search for recent journal articles that have addressed or are addressing similar issues. Check their future research directions section to see what they posit that researchers could explore in subsequent studies.
2. As most of the MSc at Taught MSc, you might not really need to identify a professor to work with during the process of application - except it is an MRes (which isn't so common for the CSS). You would eventually be able to get a supervisor to work with in the school at the right time when you eventually resume.
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