



THE CANADIAN
**QUEEN
ELIZABETH II
DIAMOND JUBILEE**
SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

SPRING 2016 UPDATE

The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships program is mobilizing a dynamic community of young leaders across the Commonwealth to create lasting impacts through international education, discovery, professional experiences and community engagement.

A COMMONWEALTH NETWORK FOR A COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

It is perhaps the defining question of our time: how to unleash the talent, energy and ideas of young people in tackling the complex, interrelated challenges of the 21st century? Now concluding a successful launch and first wave of scholars, and with aspirations to establish long-term potential, the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships program proposes an answer based on one simple insight: in today's world, success for many students requires more than a high-quality education in one's home country—it calls for a strong grasp of international context and participation in global networks.

By mobilizing a community of young, dynamic Canadians to study abroad and by supporting students from other countries to attend Canadian universities, the “Queen Elizabeth Scholars” program is having significant impacts in Canada and around the world and creating a new global network of scholars. It is a worthy tribute to Her Majesty, who was pleased to lend her name to the program.

HOW IT WORKS

Created to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne and launched in June 2014 by Governor General David Johnston, then-Prime Minister Stephen Harper and former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien with contributions from the Government of Canada, provincial governments, the private sector, individuals, and universities, the program aims to promote global citizenship; enrich student experiences; prepare future leaders; build connections between Canadian and Commonwealth citizens; and further the Commonwealth's democratic and development goals. This collaborative initiative is led by the Rideau Hall Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada and Universities Canada.

Scholarships are available for Canadian and for Commonwealth students. Canadian scholars participate in internships or academic study for up to a year in another Commonwealth country. In turn, Commonwealth students pursue graduate studies at participating Canadian universities. The program uniquely combines rigorous academic study, professional development opportunities and community engagement experiences across Canada and around the Commonwealth.

“This program has changed the way I look at the world. I am now inspired to make a difference, not only on a local scale, but globally.” – Queen Elizabeth Scholar

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

The program's first phase set ambitious targets, including a minimum 1,500 scholarship recipients. To date, we have surpassed original objectives with more than 2,200 students involving 46 Commonwealth countries who will be named Queen Elizabeth Scholars over the course of the next four years. Thirty-seven participating Canadian institutions throughout 10 provinces are to be engaged in the program, and more than \$44 million dollars will be invested by private donors, federal and provincial governments as well as participating universities.

Together, participants have undertaken a wide variety of university-designed projects that address important local, national and international issues reflecting the unique concerns of diverse communities. Examples include:

- *Promoting International Community-University Partnerships in Global and Indigenous Health*, University of Manitoba;
- *Community Partnership for Food Security and Health*, University of Saskatchewan;
- *The Canada-Sub Saharan Africa (CANSSA) training program in global health leadership*, Simon Fraser University;
- *Bridging the Digital Divide in Rural Uganda*, Saint Mary's University;
- *Integrating Innovative Research & Training Methods for Improved Sustainable Livelihoods of Smallholder Dairy Farms*, University of Prince Edward;
- *Literacy and Indigenous Language Education in South Africa*, University of St. Michael's College; and
- *Réseau ULaval – Commonwealth : Des forêts pour un monde en mutation* ; Université Laval.

“We see ourselves taking the role of global leaders. It's a very powerful feeling.” – Queen Elizabeth Scholar

The majority of the scholarships were involved with Commonwealth nations in Africa. Uganda, Ghana and India received the most number of Canadian scholars. Incoming scholars are mostly from Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria.

Environmental and health-related issues are the most popular themes chosen by scholars, including some of the following sub themes: climate change, urbanization, mining, land and degradation, conservation, clean water and renewable energy; global health, nutrition and mental health.

“The QES program is an opportunity to open doors that you didn't know existed in the first place.”

– Queen Elizabeth Scholar

CONNECTING WITH QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOLARS

Participants are encouraged to use social media to connect and interact throughout their experience. Some write blogs, which allow us to follow their journey across the globe and get to know a little more about their work. Here are a few quotes from blog posts we love.

Ebenezer Dassah, Ghana January 2016

As a QE II Scholar and a PhD student in the School of Rehabilitation Therapy, I am improving my research skills, and I hope to eventually return to Ghana to be involved in the continued efforts for full inclusion of people with disabilities. We have a long way to go, but our incremental progress is inspiring.

Linds, Samoa November 2015

My time in Samoa was a 133 day whirlwind of emotions and experiences. Through being abroad for the first time and pushing myself so far out of my comfort zone, I found myself. I have never felt so secure or proud of the person that I am, the things I believe in, and the future that I can achieve. I have proven to myself (and many others) that I can thrive in uncertainty, embrace the journey, be joyous through turmoil, and find comfort in the unknown. What an incredible life it is that we lead, day in and day out, without truly realizing the magic that is constantly around us.

Michael Small, Botswana December 2015

My trip to Botswana has turned out to be one of the best things to ever happen to me, and I have loved every second of it. It is because of Botswana that I have had such amazing life experiences, experiences that I believe have shaped me to be a better person. I met great people, and I saw amazing things! I cried and laughed, I sang and I shouted, and would not change a thing if I had a chance to do it again. Africa has been great to me, and I can't wait to see where life takes me next.

Braden Kingdon, Tanzania June 2015

Although I am far from home, I never feel alone when my coworkers surround me and want to know everything about me in the first 5 minutes of us meeting. It has been eye opening to be surrounded by the generous people of Tanzania. I look forward to increasing my ability to speak Kiswahili in order to get to know my coworkers on the level in which is expected in Tanzania. This is already proving to be and experience of a lifetime.

FOR MORE POSTS AND PHOTOS FROM PARTICIPANTS, PLEASE GO TO

WWW.QUEENELIZABETHSCHOLARS.CA

AND CLICK ON THE #QESCHOLARS SECTION.



“It has been the most fulfilling experience of my life and has definitely sparked my interest in future international efforts.”

– Queen Elizabeth Scholar

BUILDING A GLOBAL NETWORK OF QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOLARS

Universities ensure that all scholars participate in community engagement activities to integrate academic and cross-cultural experiences, as well as facilitate personal, professional, and academic growth. We define leadership and community engagement activities as applying global experiences or knowledge to enhance the local community; strengthening character and professional skills through public speaking, networking, problem solving, and leadership activities; participating in community events, such as roundtables, and panel discussions; and helping kick-start an idea, initiative or project that has a lasting local impact.

We encourage interaction and engagement between scholars and program alumni, and seek to create a dynamic community of young global leaders across the Commonwealth who are interacting and learning from each other before, during and after the program. Alumni engagement activities include peer mentoring, cross-cultural exchanges, knowledge sharing, and networking. Our hope is that knowledge, experience and linkages built through international education, research and innovation will be leveraged.

DEMONSTRATING THE POWER OF INCLUSIVENESS AND COLLABORATION

Inclusiveness and the power of collaboration lie at the heart of the Queen Elizabeth Scholars program. While retaining the rigorous standards and prestige of a world-class scholarship program, the initiative is open to students from diverse communities and interests. This diversity also shows up in the many project proposals reflecting the social, environmental, economic and cultural challenges of a wide range of communities.

TOWARDS A 21ST CENTURY COMMONWEALTH

The program’s broad geographic reach across Canada and the Commonwealth aligns strongly with the strategic importance of fostering connected and globalized talent in today’s world. Together, the Rideau Hall Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada and Universities Canada are exploring opportunities to extend the impact and reach of the Queen Elizabeth Scholars program further beyond what it was originally conceived.

“Working in the Indigenous academic community as a whole has inspired me to further my research in areas of identity and reconciliation.”

– Queen Elizabeth Scholar

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAM, INCLUDING PARTNERS
AND A COMPLETE LIST OF PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES, PLEASE VISIT

WWW.QUEENELIZABETHSCHOLARS.CA

*We look forward to continuing
to share in the journey of
Queen Elizabeth Scholars with you.
Thank you.*

A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE THROUGH:



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