



June 2011

Commonwealth Commission/Chevening Scholarships for African human rights advocates to undertake postgraduate study in international human rights law at the University of Oxford.

The University of Oxford is pleased to announce five scholarships for candidates from African Commonwealth countries to study for the part-time Masters in International Human Rights Law, starting September 2012.

The course

The Master's degree in International Human Rights Law is offered jointly by the Department for Continuing Education and the Faculty of Law. It is taught over 22 months and consists of two periods of distance learning and two residential sessions in Oxford. The degree programme is designed in particular for lawyers and other human rights advocates who wish to pursue advanced studies in international human rights law but may need to do so alongside work or family responsibilities.

The aim of the degree programme is to train and support future leaders in the field of international human rights law. A central objective of the course is to ensure that participants not only know but can also use human rights law. The curriculum places roughly equal emphasis on the substance of human rights law, its implementation, and the development of human rights advocacy skills.

For further information about the course please visit our website at <http://humanrightslaw.conted.ox.ac.uk/MStIHRL/index.php>.

The scholarships

The scholarships are jointly funded by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Chevening Fund. They are intended for human rights advocates from African Commonwealth countries who would be unable, without assistance, to take up their place on this course.

The scholarships provide course and college fees at the University of Oxford over two years, a stipend to cover living costs and return air travel from the scholar's home country for each residential session.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- (i) display intellectual ability and leadership potential;
- (ii) have an adequate standard of English, as defined and required by the University for studies at which the awards are given (see <http://humanrightslaw.conted.ox.ac.uk/MStIHRL/admissions/index.php>);
- (iii) be citizens of a developing African Commonwealth country (see list below) and resident/working in a developing African Commonwealth country at the time of their application and during the tenure of their award (this does not have to be their home country).

and will normally:

- (i) already hold a law degree to a high standard. The degree must be at a level at least equivalent to a Bachelor's degree in Law awarded in the UK. Applications from those with extensive human-rights related experience, but without a law degree, will also be considered.
- (ii) have work experience in a related field/s;
- (iii) not already have received or be currently receiving financial benefit from a previous British Government funded scholarship or a previous Commonwealth Commission funded scholarship.

A preference will be given to applicants who have not previously studied outside of their home country.

Employees, employee's relatives (or former employees who have left employment less than 2 years before) of FCO (including FCO Posts), the British Council or the Commonwealth Commission will not be eligible to apply for these awards.

Application process

Admissions for the course and scholarships will open in September 2011 for the course starting in September 2012. Detailed guidance notes about the application procedure and selection process will be made available shortly in the Fees and Funding section of our website at <http://humanrightslaw.conted.ox.ac.uk/MStIHRL/fees/index.php>. If you would like to be notified when this information is posted to our website, please send an email to iphumrts@conted.ox.ac.uk entering 'African scholarships' in the subject line.

List of African Commonwealth countries

- Botswana
- Cameroon
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Tanganyika
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe*

* Applications from candidates living and working in Zimbabwe cannot be accepted although Zimbabwean citizens who are living/working in another Commonwealth Southern African country and who have refugee status may apply.