



---

UNIVERSITY OF  
**GIBRALTAR**

# **THE GIBRALTAR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME**

2017 Prospectus

*Creating a research legacy...*

---





## *Leverage your talent with a Gibraltar Commonwealth Scholarship*

The Gibraltar Commonwealth PhD Scholarship provides financial support to include University fees, one annual return trip to and from country of residence and monthly stipend towards completion of a three-year full-time doctoral postgraduate qualification at the University of Gibraltar.

***Purpose:***

To enhance individual teaching and research capacity, leading to increased institutional sufficiency in academic and other sectors in Commonwealth countries, and to contribute to Gibraltar's higher education and research by attracting high-calibre international candidates and encouraging links and collaboration.

***Intended beneficiaries:***

High-quality graduates who have the potential to become influential leaders, teachers, or researchers in their home countries, and whose proposed research topic has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the selection committee to have a developmental and leadership focus.

***Application:***

All applications must be made through the process described in the 'How to Apply' section of this document.



## CONTENTS

---

**6** | GIBRALTAR -  
A welcoming home

WHY THE UNIVERSITY OF GIBRALTAR?

**8**

**10** | THE GIBRALTAR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME -  
How to Apply

THE GIBRALTAR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME -  
Selection Process

**11**

**11** | THE GIBRALTAR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME -  
Tenure and Placement

THE GIBRALTAR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME -  
Value

**12**

**13** | THE GIBRALTAR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME -  
General Conditions

THE GIBRALTAR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME -  
Research Themes

**14**

## GIBRALTAR - A WELCOMING HOME

Gibraltar and its people are rightly proud of a long association with Britain. We retain the red letterboxes that pepper a rural and urban United Kingdom and feel reassured when we see the archetypal Bobby on our streets.

However, Gibraltar has an identity of its own that is genuinely unique in a world where big global brands appear to eschew the wonder of difference. Perhaps this is driven by our historically multicultural society. Like honey placed at one end of the continent of Europe Gibraltar has caught many travellers in its charms and seen them keenly put down their roots. We have a legacy of becoming home to people from around the globe, brought together in part because we are simply welcoming by nature.

The needs and aspirations of students have always extended far beyond the learning and academic prowess of a university. We feel an ingrained sense of confidence in Gibraltar as a home which means we can focus on educational attainment and let Gibraltar's many attractions and the warmth of its people provide the welcome we wish.

On approach by air we are dominated by the Rock, famed as a symbol of steadfast trust and reassurance and linked justifiably with a well-regulated Finance sector. On entering Gibraltar, though, the microcosm of our uniqueness opens out to reveal a location that boasts history running through the ages and into the future. Gibraltar's human story runs from

Neanderthal settlements to the Phoenicians who first recorded Gibraltar around 950 BC. To the Carthaginians and Romans who later worshipped Hercules in shrines said to have been built on the Rock of Gibraltar and then onto the Moors in the 8<sup>th</sup> century, the Spanish until the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and, after the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713, the British settlement. All these peoples left their influence to form this Mediterranean jewel, filled as it is with myriad cultures, languages, art and society.

Much as we relish exploring our past Gibraltar is always evolving with an eye on the new and innovative. Marina developments in recent years have seen towering skyscrapers breaking through the skyline and superyachts finding a holiday berth along our shores. Sporting headlines have been dominated by our acceptance into the UEFA family of national teams in 2013 but the reality is of a diverse passion for activities that range from cricket and basketball to hockey, athletics and Rugby Union.

Gibraltar has never sat back and waited to be found but rather has offered a home to all. To lovers of chess with an annual, international tournament, and for those with a thirst for literature, the International Literary Festival provides an annual opportunity to meet and listen to a wide range of authors.

We believe in the power of Gibraltar to amaze with music, with food and with our people. In a place where diversity is the norm and difference celebrated. We are a home from home to all who wander through our narrow streets and thoroughfares, brush past our shoreline or find themselves so bewitched by the welcome and colour that leaving seems impossible.

In the midst of all this it seems appropriate that we now have a university thriving and growing, to take our name and reputation out into the wider academic world.



## WHY THE UNIVERSITY OF GIBRALTAR?

---



The University of Gibraltar is a fresh and ambitious research University, that builds upon a long-standing tradition of academic inquiry on the Rock. The University seeks to build interdisciplinary frames and supports research studies that have social as well as academic impact. Our students benefit from a rich and stimulating, intellectually challenging community where postgraduates learn alongside staff across our Research Institutes. The *Institute of Life and Earth Sciences* and the *Institute for Gibraltar and Mediterranean Studies* serve as focal points for our research and research education work. We are also pleased to count on the academic support of our Associate Campuses: the *Gibraltar Botanic Gardens*, the *Gibraltar Museum*, the *Gibraltar Garrison Library*, the *Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change*, and the *Gibraltar Health Authority*.

As a PhD student you will be encouraged to take an active role in this academic community and develop skills through leading projects, teaching at the undergraduate or MA level, presenting work at research seminars, participating in international and regional conferences as well as publishing papers.

# THE GIBRALTAR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP

Gibraltar is proud to be part of the Commonwealth and The University of Gibraltar is delighted to be able to offer a prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship, an opportunity for researchers who are members of the Commonwealth to come and study at our iconic Europa Point Campus.

This prospectus describes the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme for PhD study in Gibraltar funded by Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar (HMGoG) in 2017. These scholarships are funded through HMGoG's Department of Education (DoE) with the aim of supporting excellence in higher education, and sustaining the principles of the Commonwealth.

## HOW TO APPLY

This is a joint application system whereby the application is for both the scholarship and for a place to read for a PhD at the University of Gibraltar.

Applications must be made directly to the University and must include:

- a completed application form, including your research proposal; <http://www.unigib.edu.gi/apply-gcs>
- all of the required documentation (i.e. copies of University/College transcripts, award certificates, and certificate of English proficiency where necessary);
- the names and contact details of three personal referees;
- the names and contact details of up to three subject specialists whom you think the University might approach to review your PhD proposal and/or who might be able to offer expert supervision in your field of study.

Incomplete applications will not be processed and will be returned to the applicant.

The application must be submitted by: **Thursday 15th June, 12 noon Gibraltar time (GMT+1)** and applications will be acknowledged by email receipt by 5pm Gibraltar time (GMT+1) on the same day.

Full applications must be made through the dedicated email account:

[commonwealth@unigib.edu.gi](mailto:commonwealth@unigib.edu.gi)

## Eligibility

To apply for this scholarship, you must:

- Be a citizen of a Commonwealth country other than the host country (UK and/or Gibraltar) or British protected person;
- Be permanently resident in a Commonwealth country (<http://thecommonwealth.org/member-countries>);
- Be available to start your academic studies in Gibraltar by the start of the academic year in October 2017;
- By October 2017, hold a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) honours standard.

Additionally applicants should usually:

- hold a Master's degree awarded by a UK University, or an overseas Master's degree of equivalent standard, provided that the Master's degree is in an appropriate cognate area and that the Master's degree included training in research and the completion of a research project;
- ideally have research and/or professional experience at postgraduate level as evidenced in published work, written reports or other appropriate evidence of accomplishment.

If English is not your first language you must

demonstrate evidence of English language ability to the following (or equivalent) minimum level of proficiency:

- an IELTS score of 6.5; or
- a TOEFL score of 600; and
- have achieved a minimum of English Language competence equivalent to at least IELTS 5.5 across all four areas of competence – writing, reading, speaking and listening.

An IELTS test will be considered valid only if it is taken after 1 October 2016 and before 10th June 2017.

The intention of the scholarship scheme is to promote equal opportunity, gender equity, and cultural exchange and, in principle, applications are encouraged from a diverse range of candidates. However, you should be advised that currently Gibraltar's immigration and study permissions are managed through the UK government. Therefore if you are considering making an application it is strongly recommended that you establish the necessary study and visa permissions via any British Diplomatic Visa issuing post in your normal country of residence and/or consult the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>.

## SELECTION PROCESS

This is an open, competitive application process and only one scholarship per year is available.

Applications are considered according to the following selection criteria:

- Academic merit of the candidate
- Quality of the research proposal
- Potential strategic impact of the work

The detailed selection criteria are available to download at <http://www.unigib.edu.gi/apply-gcs>. These selection criteria are clearly reflected in the requirements of the application form and in the guidance therein for writing the PhD proposal.

Each application is initially considered by an internal review panel. Applications, shortlisted in this first phase of the selection process, are sent for external review to an expert in the subject area concerned. The external reviewer will evaluate the PhD proposal and advise the Selection Committee on the applicant's score against the three criteria listed above. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an online interview via Skype (or similar internet-based video-conferencing technology). Once a preferred candidate is identified the University Research and Research Degrees Committee (RRDC) will confirm the quality, viability and originality of the proposed research study and judge the potential of the candidate to undertake PhD study.

## TENURE AND PLACEMENT

The scholarship award is specific to three years of **full-time** PhD study and degree completion. The scholarship will not be extended to enable candidates to complete a qualification in addition to or other than that for which the selection was made.

Awards are made in respect of **full-time study only** and no other course of study may be undertaken at the same time.

Commonwealth Scholars will be required to adhere to the Research Degree Regulations of the University of Gibraltar which include, for example:

- the review of a formal research proposal and

# THE GIBRALTAR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP

- the quality of the candidate;
- where necessary the ethical review of a proposed project;
- attendance of the PhD seminar series;
- completion of five online research skills modules;
- regular meetings with supervisors;
- the annual review of candidate progress;
- and confirmation of candidature within 12 - 24 months of registration.

The Research Degrees Regulations are reviewed on a regular basis and there may be changes to the expectations placed on candidates.

Commonwealth Scholars will be expected to contribute to the academic life of the University and may be reasonably required, for example, to: support curriculum development in their specialist field and/or undertake teaching in their specialist

field or more generally on research courses, project coordination, mentorship or study opportunities.

## VALUE

Each scholarship provides:

- Approved airfare (economy class) from your home country to Gibraltar and return at the end of your award, as well as one single, annually available, return airfare to and from your home country;
- Approved tuition and examination fees;
- Stipend (living allowance) at the rate of £1,068 per month;
- Thesis grant towards the cost of preparing a thesis or dissertation, where applicable; and
- Annual research support grant (towards the cost of prior approved research related costs up to approx. £2,000).



## GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A Gibraltar Commonwealth Scholarship covers fees, fares, and personal maintenance.
- The University reserves the right to publish a short biography of the selected candidate on its website and the scholarship holder will be expected to provide an update each semester to be posted on the Scholarship pages of the website. The University also intends to publish short video-clips of the candidate talking about their work and experience as a Commonwealth student. By applying for an award, you are giving your consent for your details to be published in this way if your application is successful;
- If your application is successful, the University will inform you and send you a formal Notification of Scholarship (i.e. a conditional offer);
- When all conditions of the Notification of Scholarship have been met, the University will send you a Confirmation of Scholarship (i.e. an unconditional offer);
- You will be required to submit a medical report before your Confirmation of Scholarship can be issued;
- You will be required to sign an undertaking to return to your home country as soon as possible after the end of your award;
- You are expected to start your award on the date stated in your Notification of Scholarship.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the necessary visa permissions for the period of study to travel to Gibraltar and to study in Gibraltar, and you are advised to consult the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>.
- You are generally expected to reside in Gibraltar throughout your award, and to seek approval from the Deputy Director of Research and Academic Programmes in advance for any overseas travel.
- You must not undertake paid employment during your scholarship without approval from the Deputy Director of Research and Academic Programmes in advance.
- On completion of the award the University cannot provide a letter of support for you to remain in Gibraltar or the UK to work or undertake postdoctoral study.
- The RRDC may recommend that your scholarship is terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress, or attendance. In such circumstances you will be required to leave Gibraltar with immediate effect.
- The University is committed to administering and managing DoE scholarships in a fair and transparent manner.
- All terms and conditions of the scholarship are subject to Gibraltar local law and practices, and are subject to change by the University and DoE.

## RESEARCH THEMES

---

### MARINE SCIENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Applications in this category will relate to the effects of climate change on marine coastal ecosystems, integrated coastal management/marine spatial planning, marine species/habitat conservation and marine disaster/climate resilient development in small territories. The University is particularly interested in proposals which focus on developing methodologies for prediction of and strategies for protection against the effects of future climate change scenarios in marine coastal environments and the challenges and opportunities faced by small nations with large coastlines (relative to their size).

### MARITIME STUDIES

Applications in this category will relate to the importance of maritime administration, traffic, trade and naval activities to small territories and the roles that these have or will continue to play on the larger global canvas. The University is particularly interested in proposals which contextualise the role which small maritime nations or territories with important port structures and associated administrative/operational facilities and articulate their importance in the broader global canvas, as well as analysing the challenges and opportunities that they have faced in the past (and how these challenges and opportunities have shaped communities) and continue to face into the future (and through this, explore potential upcoming scenario mappings).

### INSTITUTE FOR GIBRALTAR AND MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES

Concentrating primarily on social sciences and on cultural, historical, anthropological and archaeological studies, this Institute will develop authentic and non-traditional research methods to reflect the religious and geopolitical setting of this part of the world, with focus on the Strait region as the meeting point of people, politics and power. The Institute convenes interdisciplinary research into areas such as, colonial and postcolonial studies, the aim being to address questions of identity, ethnicity, self-determination and nationalism. A wide interdisciplinary approach to spatial history and social geography will offer the tools with which to study the distribution and reconfiguration of domestic, public and military space. The Institute will house a centre for Three Cultures (Christianity, Judaism and Islam) which will engage not only with the historic convergence of these three Abrahamic religions and cultures in Gibraltar, but also their continued joint presence on the Rock over more than six hundred years. It will include Sephardic history and culture.

### INSTITUTE FOR LIFE AND EARTH SCIENCES

The Institute for Life and Earth Sciences is concerned with the physical and natural sciences and the interaction of these two branches of Natural Science. Its focus is primarily, but not exclusively, interdisciplinary with a focus in biology, geology and the environment. Disciplines as ecology, evolution, palaeontology, geomorphology, conservation biology, climatology and soil science lie at its core of its work. Researchers focus on temporal windows into our understanding of present-day phenomena informed by such diverse fields as conservation biology and climate science having implications for studies into sea level change, invasive species, species re-introductions or human health. Migration studies, historical biogeography (including the study of glacial refugia) and climate impact studies are examples of pertinent areas of research.

### MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES

Applications in this category will relate to research covering the Mediterranean basin and its littoral. Such projects can be based in a wide range of disciplines such as anthropology, archaeology, cultural studies (to include food culture, language and sociolinguistics, gender studies and research into migrations). Research relating to trade, economics, maritime history and associated links with the Royal Navy and the history of Empire are also of interest, as are enquires into politics, geopolitics and international relations. Mediterranean Studies will also be concerned with ecology and environmental studies, including geography, geology, geomorphology, prehistory and Quaternary studies. The University is particularly interested in interdisciplinary proposals that focus on key research strengths as identified by its Research Institutes.

### BREXIT AND GIBRALTAR

The proximity of Britain's exit from Europe and the complex negotiations that are sure to follow the triggering of Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon by the UK have significant implications for the future of Gibraltar. As a British Overseas Territory that voted overwhelmingly (96%) to remain in the EU, it is nonetheless destined to follow in the footsteps of its Member State which is Great Britain. The effects that Brexit will have on Gibraltar are as of yet unclear, but given Gibraltar's unique situation, they are likely to be very far-reaching politically, economically, socially, environmentally and legally. Applications in this category will relate to research that will analyse the consequences and ramifications of Brexit for Gibraltar and identify methods by which these challenges and opportunities can be best addressed including suggesting approaches which will mitigate negative scenarios and maximise potential benefits to Gibraltar as a whole stemming from this process.



# UNIVERSITY OF GIBRALTAR

University of Gibraltar  
Europa Point Campus  
Gibraltar, GX11 1AA

+350 200 71000  
info@unigib.edu.gi

[www.unigib.edu.gi](http://www.unigib.edu.gi)

The information in this prospectus is accurate at the time of going to press to the best of our knowledge. However, changes can occur in the interval between publication and the academic year to which the Prospectus relates.

Applicants should visit [www.unigib.edu.gi](http://www.unigib.edu.gi) for further information, updates or changes.

Design and production: Christian Camilleri

