British Chevening Scholarship awarded to 53 Pakistani scholars

53 talented Pakistanis were formally awarded Chevening scholarships today by the British High Commissioner Thomas Drew CMG.. These scholarships are for the academic year 2019/20.

The scholars were selected through a highly competitive process and will shortly proceed to the UK to study a one year master's programme, fully funded by the UK government. For the 2019/20 intake, over 3000 mid-career professionals applied for the scheme from across Pakistan.

The High Commissioner presented the scholars with a certificate confirming their award and wished them success in the coming year.

The event was attended by Chevening scholars, officials from the British High Commission and members of the Chevening alumni.

The British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Thomas Drew CMG said:

> I would like to congratulate the 53 new Chevening scholars on their achievement. Chevening is a unique experience, allowing scholars to study at some of the world's most prestigious universities, to boost their career prospects and network with scholars from around the world.
>
> The scholars will now join an influential network of nearly Chevening 2000 alumni, many of whom are leaders in their respective fields.
>
> Our Chevening scholars always make the most of their time in the UK. Along with their studies, they are able to explore British culture and values, heritage and history. On their return to Pakistan, they will come back with new perspectives, a wealth of connections and a rich experience that will further strengthen the links between our two countries.

The scholars have chosen courses at the UK's top universities including the London School of Economics and Political Science, Oxford University, SOAS, University of London, King's College London, the University of Sussex, the University of Warwick, the University of Leeds and Queen Mary University London among many others.

Applications for Chevening Scholarships to study in the UK in 2020/2021 are open between 5th August and 5th November 2019. To find out more about eligibility and to apply, visit www.chevening.org/scholarships

Editorial Notes

More information on the Chevening Programme and Fellowships is available at www.chevening.org/pakistan. The online application window is open from 5th August until 5th November 2019 to receive applications for the academic year 2020/21.

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals with demonstrable leadership potential who also have strong academic backgrounds and a strong vision for the future. The scholarship offers full financial support to study for any eligible master's degree at any UK university whilst also giving access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences.

The Chevening Scholarships are funded by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and administered by the Association of Commonwealth Universities London.

Contact
Press Office
British High Commission
Islamabad;
tel. +92 300 5005306

For further information:

For updates on the British High Commission and the Chevening Programme, please follow our social media channels:

World's largest genetics project to tackle deadly diseases launches

The £200 million whole genome sequencing project is being created, forming a partnership of pharmaceutical firms and health experts which will examine and sequence the genetic code of 500,000 volunteers at the UK Biobank, based in Stockport.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

> Britain has a proud history of putting itself at the heart of international collaboration and discovery. Over 60 years ago, we saw the discovery of DNA in Cambridge by a team of international researchers and today we are going even further. Now we are bringing together experts from around the globe to work in the UK

> on the world’s largest genetics research project, set to help us better treat life-threatening illnesses and ultimately save lives.
>
> Breakthroughs of this kind wouldn’t be possible without being open to the brightest and the best from across the globe to study and work in the UK. That’s why we’re unveiling a new route for international students to unlock their potential and start their careers in the UK.

Genomics research has the potential to create a genuinely predictive, more personalised healthcare system and the UK has a clear desire to seize the opportunities that research in this area offers, which is why the government has committed to carrying out five million analyses of DNA by 2024.

The new project aims to improve health through genetic research, improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of serious and life-threatening illnesses including cancer, heart diseases, diabetes, arthritis and dementia.

Business Secretary Andrea Leadsom said:

> Today’s funding will support one of the world’s most ambitious gene sequencing programmes ever undertaken, reflecting the UK’s determination to remain at the forefront of scientific endeavour and progress.
>
> Its results could transform the field of genetic repeated research – unlocking the causes of some of the most terrible diseases and how we can best tackle them. It will be a major step forward for individually tailored treatment plans, and will help us better understand why some people get certain diseases while others don’t.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

> I am incredibly excited by the potential of genomics to change the way we think about disease and healthcare. In an ageing society with an increasing burden of chronic diseases, it is vital that we diagnose earlier, personalise treatment and where possible prevent diseases from occurring altogether.
>
> This project will help unlock new treatments and grow our understanding of how genetics effects our risk of disease. It is one part of our world leading set of genomics programmes, including the NHS’ Genomics Medicine Service and the Accelerated Detection of Disease challenge, and shows that the UK is the go-to destination for genomics research and development.

The UK Biobank recruited 500,000 people aged between 40 and 69 years between

2006 and 2010 from across the country. They have provided blood, urine and saliva samples for future analysis, detailed information about themselves and agreed to have their health followed on an anonymous basis.

Much of the sequencing will be by experts at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, based in Cambridge, and the results will help the NHS treat patients better.

Through the Biobank research, industry can work with experts to create new treatments and preventative measures which will help those suffering from illnesses and may eventually reveal why some people develop diseases and others do not.

Funding for the genome project comes from a consortium formed by the government's research and innovation agency, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) with £50 million through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, £50 million from the research organisation, Wellcome.

A further £100 million has come from four of the world's leading biopharmaceutical and healthcare companies Amgen, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Johnson & Johnson.

The samples will be sequenced in equal numbers at the Wellcome Sanger Institute in Cambridge and the deCOde site in Iceland, from the genome sequencing company, Illumina.

Notes to editors

This follows a shake-up of immigration rules announced by the Prime Minister in August to encourage the world's top scientists to move to the UK. The government will set out plans in the autumn to significantly boost public R&D funding, provide greater long-term certainty to the scientific community, and accelerate our ambition to reach 2.4% of GDP.

The new immigration route enables international students who have successfully completed a course in any subject at undergraduate level or higher to work, or look for work, at any skill level, giving them valuable work experience at the start of their careers. There will be no cap on the number of students who can apply for the new graduate route.

Students who start courses in 2020/21 at undergraduate level or above will be able to benefit from the new route. Those on the route will be able to switch onto the skilled work route if they find a job which meets the skill requirement of the route.

The new route for international students builds on the already strong offer available, which is why university-sponsored visa applications are at record levels and over 450,000 international students are currently studying in the UK per year. This will boost the government's plans to increase the number international students by 30% to 600,000 by 2030, as set out in its International Education Strategy.

The genome project builds on a £34 million pilot programme funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) that saw the first 50,000 UK Biobank

participants analysed. This pilot or Vanguard project refined the approach needed to complete this globally unique project. All data held by UK Biobank is anonymised and protected.

The addition of complete genetic information to the information held by UK Biobank is expected to reveal why some people develop particular diseases and others do not. It may also hold the key to more precise treatments for a range of conditions tailored to the genetic makeup of an individual and help predict and prevent life-changing diseases.

Through this research, industry will be able to work with experts to create new products and services which will help those suffering from illnesses.

The government funding forms part of the delivery of the Life Sciences Sector deals and the modern Industrial strategy and is funded through the wider £210 million Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund: Data to early diagnosis and precision medicine, administered by UKRI.

Sir Mark Walport, Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation said

> As one of the half million participants in UK BioBank, I'm very excited by the potential of the Whole Genome Sequencing Project, which will sequence the genetic code of everyone in UK BioBank to help develop novel and personalised forms of healthcare.
>
> UK BioBank is globally unique in the depth and quality of the information that it contains about so many people in health and disease. Adding whole genome sequencing data to this will provide major opportunities to improve how we prevent, diagnose and treat the chronic conditions that afflict so many of us as we live longer lives.

Prof Sir John Bell, HMG's Life Sciences Champion, said:

> This genome sequencing project will provide exciting new insights into the causes of many major diseases.
>
> It builds on 70 years of pioneering work in genetics research and exemplifies the creation of a whole new sector in Life Sciences that the UK Life Sciences Industrial Strategy has been developing. We do not know what the project will uncover but it is certain to be both novel and informative.

John Lepore, Senior Vice President, Research at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) said:

> This historic whole genome sequencing effort is a welcome asset for researchers and testament to the volunteers who believe in the power of data to advance science.

> Genetically validated drug candidates are twice as likely to become registered novel medicines, and efforts like this bring us closer to developing transformational medicines that can significantly improve patient health and change lives.

AstraZeneca quote: Mene Pangalos, Executive Vice President, BioPharmaceuticals R&D, AstraZeneca, commented:

> Whole genome sequencing on this scale is unprecedented, and through this collaboration we hope to unlock the potential of genomics to evolve our understanding of complex diseases such as cancer, heart disease and chronic kidney disease.
>
> These new insights will guide our drug discovery programme and will help us bring innovative new precision medicines to patients who need them most urgently.

Richard Tillyer, PhD, Global Head, Discovery, Product Development & Supply, Janssen Research & Development, LLC, one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, commented:

> We are proud to participate in this ground-breaking initiative to generate genomics data from samples obtained through the generosity of citizens/people in the United Kingdom.
>
> The insights gained from the analysis of this rich data set will guide our efforts to develop safe and effective therapies so that diseases aren’t just being treated, they are predicted, pre-empted and stopped in their tracks to help generations of people live their healthiest lives.

NB: Contract entered by Janssen Biotech, Inc., one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson

David M. Reese, M.D., Executive Vice-President of Research and Development at Amgen said:

> We are pleased to partner on a project with immense potential to advance public health.
>
> This collaboration reflects our belief in the power of human genetics to transform medicine and the need for continued growth in the size and diversity of the data that can be mined for new discoveries for patients with serious life-threatening diseases.

Kari Stefansson, CEO of deCODE Genetics, a subsidiary of Amgen, said:

> deCODE is taking human genetic research to a new level, applying the methods we pioneered in Iceland to lead a worldwide search for disease genes.
>
> As drug development programs backed by genetics are twice as likely to succeed, the data sequenced and analyzed through this collaboration will be essential to help the broader scientific community identify and validate promising drug targets for some of the most challenging diseases patients face.

Sara Marshall, Head of Clinical Research and Physiological Sciences at Wellcome, said:

> This exciting new project will help scientists and doctors develop new ways of preventing, diagnosing and treating a range of life changing diseases such as cancer and dementia.
>
> By sequencing the genomes of the UK Biobank participants, the research community will have an unprecedented resource to gain new insights into human disease.
>
> This work would not be possible without the generous support of the 500,000 participants of the UK Biobank who, without any direct benefit to themselves, have allowed their lives to be studied through blood tests, body scans and information from their medical records all in the hope that it will benefit others.

Sir Michael Rawlins, Chair of UK Biobank’s Board said:

> We are delighted that government, charity and industry have come together to unleash the full potential of UK Biobank by supporting the sequencing of all the participants.
>
> It is a tribute to the altruism of the half million people who agreed to be part of UK Biobank, and it recognises the valuable findings that have already emerged from the project. Scientists around the world will be eager to use these genetic data in imaginative ways to further improve the health of the public.

Paula Dowdy, Illumina’s Senior Vice President and General Manager, EMEA, said:

> Illumina would like to thank the Biobank volunteers who have generated this invaluable resource over more than a decade.
>
> We are proud to support the project through the use of whole genome sequencing technology and unlock the power of 450,000 genomes to deliver world-leading genetic data that could transform the lives

of so many.

About UK BioBank

UK Biobank was established by the Wellcome Trust medical charity, Medical Research Council, Department of Health, Scottish Government and the Northwest Regional Development Agency. It has also had funding from the Welsh Government, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK and Diabetes UK. UK Biobank is supported by the National Health Service (NHS). UK Biobank is open to bona fide researchers anywhere in the world, including those funded by academia and industry. The medical research project is a non-profit charity which had initial funding of about £62 million and a subsequent investment over the past 10 years of around £180 million.

About the Wellcome Sanger Institute

The Wellcome Sanger Institute is one of the premier centres of genomic discovery and understanding in the world. It leads ambitious collaborations across the globe to provide the foundations for further research and transformative healthcare innovations. Its success is founded on the expertise and knowledge of its people and the Institute seeks to share its discoveries and techniques with the next generation of genomics scientists and researchers worldwide.

About UK Research and Innovation

UKRI works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities, and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish. We aim to maximise the contribution of each of our component parts, working individually and collectively. We work with our many partners to benefit everyone through knowledge, talent and ideas.

Operating across the whole of the UK with a combined budget of more than £7 billion, UKRI brings together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England.

Developing affordable urban heat networks – apply for funding

Published 11 September 2019
Last updated 2 October 2019 + show all updates

1. 2 October 2019 The deadline for applications has been corrected to

Monday 4 November 2019.
2. 16 September 2019 New, later briefing event date added and extension to the application deadline
3. 11 September 2019 First published.

If your charity last did an annual return before 12 November 2018

Before you can start your annual return you must confirm all your charity's details are correct, including all trustees' contact details.

You cannot start your annual return until you've confirmed your charity's details. It might take you a while to collect any missing information, for example all trustees' email addresses and phone numbers.

What your charity needs to do

We recommend you:

1. Check you can log in to your charity's account.
2. Collect information and use the service to confirm your charity's details.
3. Start your annual return.

1. Check you can log into your charity's account

You'll need your charity's:

- registration number
- password

If you cannot log in and do not have access to your charity contact's email address, it can take up to 2 working days to get a new password.

Log in to your account or find out how to get a new password.

2. Collect information and use the service to confirm your charity's details

Log in and select 'Update Charity Details' from your list of available services. You'll need to check and confirm all your charity's contact and administrative details we have on record are correct.

If any of this information is missing on your charity's record, you'll need to fill it in. Leave enough time to be able to check details with all your

trustees and people who manage your charity's finances.

Find out how to use the new 'Update Charity Details' service for the first time

3. Start your annual return

After you have submitted your confirmation of your charity's details you can start your annual return:

1. Check what your charity needs to submit.
2. Gather information.
3. Log in and select 'Annual Return' from your list of available services.

If your charity's income is over £10,000, or it is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), you'll also need to check if any of the new questions on the annual return apply to your charity.

World's largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and offer new offer for international students

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has unveiled plans to transform how talented international students are able build successful careers in the UK through a new immigration route, as a new ground-breaking project in the fight against life-threatening illnesses launches.

International students make up half of all full-time post-graduate students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects. The new immigration route announced today (11 September 2019) will mean international graduates in any subject, including STEM, will be able to stay in the UK for two years to find work.

Students will need to have successfully completed a degree from a trusted UK university or higher education provider which has a proven track record in upholding immigration checks and other rules on studying in the UK.

This will build on government action to help recruit and retain the best and brightest global talent, but also open up opportunities for future breakthroughs in science, technology and research and other world-leading work that international talent brings to the UK.

One example of pioneering research and international collaboration in the UK

is the world’s largest genetics project, the £200 million whole genome sequencing project of all volunteers in the UK Biobank, launching today.

The new project aims to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of serious and life-threatening illnesses including cancer, heart diseases, diabetes, arthritis and dementia, through genetic research that can explain why some people develop these conditions and others do not. The partnership of pharmaceutical firms and health experts from the UK and abroad will examine and sequence the genetic code of 500,000 volunteers at the UK Biobank.

This sits alongside the work by Genomics England in partnership with NHS England on the 100,000 Genomes Project, which has seen around 25% of patients with rare diseases receive a diagnosis for the first time, and for some conditions a diagnosis rate as high as 60%.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

> Britain has a proud history of putting itself at the heart of international collaboration and discovery. Over sixty years ago, we saw the discovery of DNA in Cambridge by a team of international researchers and today we are going even further. Now we are bringing together experts from around the globe to work in the UK on the world’s largest genetics research project, set to help us better treat life-threatening illnesses and ultimately save lives.
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> Breakthroughs of this kind wouldn’t be possible without being open to the brightest and the best from across the globe to study and work in the UK. That’s why we’re unveiling a new route for international students to unlock their potential and start their careers in the UK.

Business Secretary Andrea Leadsom said:

> Today’s funding will support one of the world’s most ambitious gene sequencing programmes ever undertaken, reflecting the UK’s determination to remain at the forefront of scientific endeavour and progress.
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> Its results could transform the field of genetic repeated research – unlocking the causes of some of the most terrible diseases and how we can best tackle them. It will be a major step forward for individually tailored treatment plans, and will help us better understand why some people get certain diseases while others don’t.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

> The new Graduate Route will mean talented international students,

whether in science and maths or technology and engineering, can study in the UK and then gain valuable work experience as they go on to build successful careers.

It demonstrates our global outlook and will ensure that we continue to attract the best and brightest.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

It is a testament to our world-leading universities that so many students from abroad want to study here. The important contribution international students make to our country and universities is both cultural and economic. Their presence benefits Britain, which is why we've increased the period of time these students can remain in the UK after their studies.

Our universities thrive on being open global institutions. Introducing the graduate route ensures our prestigious higher education sector will continue to attract the best talent from around the world to global Britain.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

I am incredibly excited by the potential of genomics to change the way we think about disease and healthcare. In an ageing society with an increasing burden of chronic diseases, it is vital that we diagnose earlier, personalise treatment and where possible prevent diseases from occurring altogether.

This project will help unlock new treatments and grow our understanding of how genetics effects our risk of disease. It is one part of our world leading set of genomics programmes, including the NHS' Genomics Medicine Service and the Accelerated Detection of Disease challenge, and shows that the UK is the go-to destination for genomics research and development.

Alistair Jarvis, Chief Executive of Universities UK:

This is very positive news. Evidence shows that international students bring significant positive social outcomes to the UK as well as £26 billion in economic contributions, but for too long the lack of post-study work opportunities in the UK has put us at a competitive disadvantage in attracting those students.

The introduction of a two-year post-study work visa is something Universities UK has long campaigned for and we strongly welcome this policy change, which will put us back where we belong as a

> first choice study destination. Not only will a wide range of employers now have access to talented graduates from around the world, these students hold lifelong links in the UK.

Prof Sir John Bell, HMG's Life Sciences Champion, said:

> This genome sequencing project will provide exciting new insights into the causes of many major diseases. It builds on 70 years of pioneering work in genetics research and exemplifies the creation of a whole new sector in Life Sciences that the UK Life Sciences Industrial Strategy has been developing. We do not know what the project will uncover but it is certain to be both novel and informative.

Sir Mark Walport, Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation said:

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> UK BioBank is globally unique in the depth and quality of the information that it contains about so many people in health and disease. Adding whole genome sequencing data to this will provide major opportunities to improve how we prevent, diagnose and treat the chronic conditions that afflict so many of us as we live longer lives.

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