

# UK announces bursaries for Chagossians to study at Middlesex University Mauritius

As part of its commitment to deliver the Chagossian Support Package, the UK government has announced a programme of financial support for individuals of Chagossian descent who wish to study at Middlesex University Mauritius.

Middlesex University Mauritius is part of Middlesex University, and offers highly regarded qualifications underpinned by the British education system. The university campus is located on the west coast of the island of Mauritius. The university offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in accounting, advertising, business, computing, and law, as well as an international foundation programme. Learn more about the university on the [Middlesex University Mauritius](#) website.

As a bursary recipient, you will benefit from full fee waivers, free university accommodation, and a contribution toward living costs, for a period of 1 year. Bursary awards for subsequent years of study will depend on availability of UK government funding and are not guaranteed.

To be eligible, you will need to prove that you were born on the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)/Chagos Archipelago, or are descended from someone who was.

If you are not a Mauritian citizen, you can still apply for a bursary, but you will need to pay for your own travel costs to Mauritius and obtain a student visa from the Mauritian government.

The number of initial bursaries available is limited. If more applications are received than the number of bursaries available, bursary recipients will be selected by Middlesex University Mauritius on the basis of academic merit.

If you are interested in applying for a bursary, complete the [Middlesex University Mauritius' online form](#) and someone from the university will be in touch with you.

Courses start in February 2023 and September 2023. If you would like to apply for a bursary for a course starting in February 2023, you must register your interest using the online form by 10 January 2023 at the latest.

If you have any general queries about the bursary scheme or studying at Middlesex University Mauritius, contact Vanessa Ramchandrar at [v.ramchandrar@mdx.ac.mu](mailto:v.ramchandrar@mdx.ac.mu).

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# Strategic Command personnel recognised in Operational Awards List 2022

News story

Members of Strategic Command have been recognised in the Operational Awards List for their services to Defence.



Members of Strategic Command have been recognised in the Operational Awards List for their services to Defence. The list recognises the bravery, commitment, and commendable service of armed forces personnel.

The following individuals have been recognised:

## **Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)**

- British Army Lieutenant Colonel W J Meddings

## **Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)**

- Royal Air Force Squadron Leader J J Eddison

## **Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service (QCVS)**

- British Army Staff Sergeant (now Warrant Officer Class 2) M K Bradbury
- British Army Acting Corporal S Cole

## **Joint Commander's Commendations**

- British Army Lieutenant Colonel A Cox
- British Army Lieutenant Colonel R King-Evans
- British Army Lieutenant Colonel C O'Brien
- British Army Major D Reed
- British Army Captain J Armstrong
- British Army Captain N Reynolds
- British Army Lieutenant D Austin

- British Army Sergeant K Groom
- British Army Lance Corporal J Watts
- British Army Private N Samuel

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Published 25 November 2022

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## Major boost for North East tourism as region is chosen for initiative to increase visitor numbers

- Aim is to create one-stop shop to show off the best of region, attract investment and boost local economy
- Scheme will help attract more visitors through new initiatives and target major national and international events and markets

The North East has been selected as the location for a major tourism project which aims to attract more investment, welcome more sporting, business and cultural events, support business growth, create new jobs, and boost domestic and international tourist numbers.

Tourism boards, known as Destination Management Organisations (DMOs), help businesses and visitors find out about an area and often lead the development of the local tourism sector.

But last year's independent review into DMOs carried out by Nick de Bois, found the landscape is overcrowded and fragmented. For example, there are more than 150 DMOs of all shapes and sizes in England which makes it confusing for tourists planning breaks and businesses looking to invest.

To fix this problem and make sure the country is providing tourists with the best service, the government is streamlining DMOs by accrediting the top performing organisations so they can grow the visitor economy and attract major business, cultural and sporting events. The [plans](#) were set out earlier this year.

As part of plans to overhaul the current system, NewcastleGateshead Initiative in the North East has been selected to lead a pilot in partnership with Visit Northumberland and Visit County Durham working across seven local authority areas. The partnership will receive £2.25 million to help successfully develop and market the region as a must-visit destination while attracting further private investment and driving growth.

The aim of the partnership model is to extend the tourism season and attract more visitors from across the UK and abroad through initiatives such as the creation of Tour de Yorkshire, following the Tour de France stage in Yorkshire back in 2015, or the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham this summer.

By working in partnership, tourism boards will be able to attract new hotels, develop major attractions such as the Eden Project in Cornwall, build on local heritage and cultural assets through the likes of UNESCO World Heritage bids, grow the food and drink offer and maximise the potential of the region's natural assets, including its dark skies, beaches and national parks.

Working with the tourism industry and the growing digital cluster, partnerships will also make sure that the tourism offering is fully accessible to all visitors including families and visitors with access needs. For example, NewcastleGateshead Initiative recently worked with tech company Kerckhoffs to capture an immersive experience of Newcastle's Quayside Market using Eyemmersive technology. The video means that visitors can explore the market virtually and prepare children with special educational needs and disabilities before they experience it in real life.

Tourism Minister Stuart Andrew said:

From Hadrian's Wall to Durham Cathedral and the bright lights of Newcastle, the North East has much to offer tourists from around the world, but we want to go further and attract even more visitors.

We are looking at what more we can do to streamline the way the region's tourism bodies work together, improve the region's offer and the way it markets itself.

With £2.25 million in funding, we hope the North East can be a pioneer for other areas in unlocking its potential and putting its best foot forward.

VisitEngland Director Andrew Stokes said:

Congratulations to the North East on being announced as the pilot region for the Destination Development Partnership (DDP).

The UK Government's decision to proceed with a pilot approach is a valuable opportunity to prove the DDP concept, demonstrating the benefits that these reforms will have if rolled out nationwide. We will also be able to really measure an element of funding at a regional level to develop tourism and what impact that will have, strengthening the case for future funding.

We look forward to working with NewcastleGateshead Initiative and Northumberland and Durham tourism boards to develop the DDP pilot,

ensuring we have the right infrastructure in place to enable England to continue to be a compelling destination for domestic and international visitors.

Sarah Green, CEO, NewcastleGateshead Initiative:

This pilot is an incredible opportunity to unlock our growth potential in the North East, attracting more visitors, reaching new international markets, creating jobs, growing businesses, attracting investment, and reinforcing local pride in our place.

As the first Destination Development Partnership, we will work with our partners in Visit County Durham and Visit Northumberland to ensure the tourism sector is supported and grows across all seven local authorities in the region. Our region will act as a blueprint for the rest of England, and we could not be prouder to help shape the future landscape of destination management organisations, working in partnership to deliver local economic growth through the visitor economy.

From Auckland Castle to Alnwick Gardens, from dark skies to sparkly venues, from fish and chips to fine dining – the aim of this partnership is to provide an inclusive welcome for all, attracting more international and domestic visitors with a fantastic regional offer and visitor experience.

Partnerships should support businesses to create sustainable tourism offers, reduce their carbon footprint and offer consumers opportunities to enjoy themselves whilst minimising their impact on the environment.

Thanks to the new partnerships, tourists will know where to go to find quality, trusted information, tailored to their destination. Going forward, it will also mean that tourism boards can work more effectively with local authorities to explore new initiatives such as travel initiatives that make it seamless for tourists to get around the local area.

Evidence will be collected throughout the pilot to understand how effective the proposed model is and to support any future funding considerations.

If the pilot is successful, the government will look to roll the partnership model out to other regions across England.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- See the full DMO review response on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)
- DCMS is backing the country's powerhouse sectors to grow the economy and make a difference where people live.
- DCMS sectors, like tech, telecoms and the creative industries,

contributed £211 billion to the economy last year and support more than four million jobs across the UK. And they are creating new jobs, with 250,000 more jobs now than in 2019, before the pandemic.

- Tourism is vital to England's economy. It contributed £74 billion to the UK in 2019, employs people across the country, delivers local economic growth and makes people feel proud of where they live.
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## **Operational Honours and Awards List** **November 2022**

The latest Operational Honours and Awards List has been announced recognising the bravery, commitment, and commendable service of Armed Forces personnel.

The recipients have all shown outstanding courage and dedication while on operations.

The full list is below:

### **Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)**

Commodore (now Rear Admiral) Stephen Mark Richard MOORHOUSE, OBE, Royal Navy

### **Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)**

Commander Claire Fiona THOMPSON, Royal Navy

Lieutenant Colonel William James MEDDINGS, The Royal Anglian Regiment

### **Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)**

Chief Petty Officer Logistician (Supply Chain) Laura PERRY, Royal Navy

Warrant Officer Class 1 Engineering Technician (Marine Engineering) Clint WHEELER, Royal Navy

Major Benjamin Sean Costello ATTRELL, Corps of Royal Engineers

Major Steven John HOWARD, Army Air Corps

Squadron Leader Jonathan Jack EDDISON, Royal Air Force

Flight Lieutenant Victoria Grace KELLAGHER, Royal Air Force

### **Mention in Despatches (MID)**

Sergeant Adam James HUMPHREYS, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards

## **Queen's Commendation for Bravery (QCB)**

Lance Corporal (now Retired) Fraser Alan Duncan GEE, Royal Tank Regiment

## **Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service (QCVS)**

Petty Officer Warfare Specialist (Electronic Warfare) Timothy Stephen DODGE, Royal Navy

Lieutenant Commander Alexandra Katherine HARRIS, Royal Navy

Leading Warfare Specialist (Underwater Warfare) Jake Ryan HOBDAI, Royal Navy

Warrant Officer Class 1 Engineering Technician (Communications and Information Systems) Christopher ROBBINS, Royal Navy

Staff Sergeant (now Warrant Officer Class 2) Meghann Kylie BRADBURY, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps

Captain Andrew Robert MACBETH, Royal Tank Regiment

Corporal (now Acting Sergeant) Toyah Louise PALMER, Intelligence Corps

Captain Helena Katheryn RICHARDSON, Royal Regiment of Artillery

Acting Warrant Officer Kevin Edward JONES, Royal Air Force

Flight Lieutenant Graeme John RITCHIE, Royal Air Force

Acting Corporal Stefan COLE, Royal Army Medical Corps

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## **Boost for UK fishing industry with new infrastructure projects**

Funding to boost the UK fishing industry through projects to upgrade infrastructure and revive local docks has been announced today, as the latest round of investment opens for bids from the UK-wide £100 million Seafood Fund to modernise the sector.

[Winning projects set to receive a share of £20 million](#) include the expansion of processing facilities for popular British fish like Scottish salmon and Cornish sardines, alongside money to bring an ageing dry dock back to life.

[The UK Seafood Fund](#) is a landmark government investment supporting the long-term future and sustainability of the UK fishing and seafood industry, with the infrastructure strand of the Fund helping to pay for upgrades to ports, processing and aquaculture facilities so they can meet future demand whilst

also boosting jobs and economic growth.

As well as announcing the winners from the first round of this scheme, the government has today also confirmed a further £30 million will be made available for infrastructure projects as the latest round of funding opens for bidding.

The infrastructure scheme also supports businesses to become more environmentally sustainable, with successful bidders in Round 1 investing in greener technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to more reusable materials.

### **Fisheries Minister Mark Spencer said:**

Fishing communities are an important part of the UK's heritage and they make a valuable contribution to our economy, so we are backing them with funds to boost growth and opportunities across the industry.

This funding will ensure seafood businesses throughout the supply chain are well-equipped to keep pace with increasing demand at home and abroad, boosting production and sustainability and building a resilient sector for the future.

Successful bidders from the first round of infrastructure funding will receive a share of £20 million from the government, matched with nearly £50 million of investment from private sources. They include:

- HSH Coldstores who are investing in a cold storage and logistics facility to further expand seafood processing in Grimsby and generate new jobs in the area;
- Scottish company Denholm Seafoods who will install equipment to increase production of mackerel and herring landed at Peterhead;
- Cornish based Falfish who will invest in new technology to grade, freeze and pack pelagic fish in support of building two purpose-built Sardine fishing vessels;
- Shoreham Port who are transforming a historic dry dock into a modern facility for local and visiting fleets.

### **Tom Willis, Chief Executive at Shoreham Port, said:**

We are delighted our application to redevelop the Dry Dock at Shoreham Port has been successful. An essential facility for vessel owners, it is one of the few dry docks remaining in the south of England and is part of our proud history, serving users since the 1930s.

When engaging with the fishing community, investment in improving Dry Dock capability is consistently highlighted as a priority. The redeveloped Dock will offer excellent dry maintenance facilities



for vessels up to 50m in length, with workshop access and quayside space. Commencing shortly, the project will be completed by early next summer”.

**Allan Stephen, Director at Denholm Seafoods, said:**

We are delighted with the support we have received from DEFRA, which from the outset has been highly productive. Securing the DEFRA grant will enable Denholm Seafoods to invest in our new freezing and production facilities which will maintain our high quality product.

The UK has a thriving seafood sector with exports of salmon – one of the UK’s most important exports – worth around £600m annually and other abundant fish stocks such as Cornish sardines in demand on the continent for their quality.

For the second round of the UK Seafood Fund infrastructure scheme, which is worth £30 million and opens today, businesses will have until March 2025 to deliver their transformational projects meaning a wider range of organisations will be able to apply.

Defra will also shortly announce successful applicants from the [Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships \(FISP\)](#) scheme, part of the UK Seafood Fund, which funds data collection and research to support sustainable fisheries management. The final FISP round will launch in December 2022.