

**QUEEN
ELIZABETH**
Scholars

A global education for a global generation

2016-17 Report for the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II
Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Program



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www.queenelizabethscholars.ca
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A vision of knowledge exchange

The vision of the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship program, often referred to as the QES program, is to mobilize a dynamic community of young global leaders to create lasting impacts both at home and abroad through knowledge exchanges encompassing international education, inquiry, and professional experiences.

Since its inception in 2012, the QES program has adapted and matured, guided by broad, uniquely Canadian principles and values embodied in the Office of the Governor General and in the respected institutions that comprise the managing partnership: the Rideau Hall Foundation, Universities Canada and Community Foundations of Canada.

Partners and stakeholders of the QES program believe collaboration among and between students, civil society, universities, and community-based organizations holds inherent and fundamental value. International mobility enhances Canada's talent base and prepares youth to be the leaders of the future. In the pages to follow you will learn about how the QES program is transforming lives

and helping to build a stronger Canada and an interconnected world. Thanks to donor support, to date, we have planned for more than 800 Queen Elizabeth Scholars, and we will engage close to 2,000 by 2018. Thank you for your most generous contribution and your commitment to fostering Canada's next generation of leadership.

“I've discovered the value of patient advocacy in nursing practice. As an observer, health disparities have become more apparent and I recognize the need to move towards the notion of 'one world, one health.' I believe nurses around the world need to work together to achieve global health equity.”

- Ashley Tisseur, University of Calgary, internship in Uganda



World-renowned primatologist and activist Dr. Jane Goodall is flanked by two Queen Elizabeth Scholars, Alex Papp and Justine Cowitz, both of the University of Victoria. The scholars assisted with conservation efforts during their internship with the Kesho Trust in Tanzania. Photo courtesy of Justine Cowitz and the University of Victoria.

“This experience really allowed me to build on my communication skills, decision-making skills, and leadership skills. I was also able to build on my technical nursing skills, such as giving immunizations. [...] I am not only going to be a better nurse because of this experience, but a better person.”

-Michelle Russell, University of New Brunswick, internship in Malawi

History of QES

The idea for the QES program was born from the desire to celebrate and honour the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne in 2012. Under the leadership of the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien and His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and with generous contributions from the Government of Canada, provincial governments, and the private sector, the QES program was created. Three years later, the first Queen Elizabeth Scholars began their journeys of knowledge exchange throughout the Commonwealth. The program continues to thrive, with plans for ambitious growth in the coming years.

An expanded platform for global exchange in 2016

Thanks to funding from the International Development Research Centre and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council announced in 2016, a new phase of the QES program will place greater emphasis on graduate scholarship for both outbound Canadians and inbound international researchers, and will expand the program beyond the Commonwealth.

The expansion of the QES program will provide a unique two-way exchange: doctoral, post-doctoral, and early career researchers in low- and middle-income countries will have greater access to the advanced education, training, and mentorship that are vital to cutting-edge innovation, while Canadian researchers will gain more exposure to the international experience they need to become leaders in globally competitive work environments. Another distinctive feature of the program will be direct opportunities for recipients to engage with key stakeholders in local development, including contributing to local capacity building in sectors like health, education, climate change adaptation, and economic development.

A national initiative with a global vision

What makes the QES program unique is that it requires participating universities to conceptualize and structure projects reflective of their expertise, and that leverage their relationships, both domestically and globally. This creates a decentralized model of program ownership, where much of the design and innovation of the program happens at the university level, reflecting local priorities.

Scholars are selected by their home universities to contribute to existing projects with partner universities abroad, and are required to commit to an overseas placement of no less than 90 days. In addition, all scholars are required to participate in community engagement and leadership development while abroad.

Queen Elizabeth Scholars undertake a wide variety of projects that address important local, national, and global issues. Some of the projects students embarked on in 2016 include:

- Improving Individual and Community Wellness in the Commonwealth, University of Alberta
- Partenariat pour un leadership en santé globale bilingue dans le Commonwealth, Université de Montréal
- Professional Masters Program on Global Health Systems in Africa, Western University
- Food Systems in the East African Region, University of the Fraser Valley
- Connected Learning across the Commonwealth, University of New Brunswick
- Formation scientifique d'étudiants indiens pour la recherche en énergie durable et en sciences biomédicales, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

QES by the numbers



Active Queen Elizabeth Scholars to date:

593

Number of participating countries:

36

Canadian scholars from all 10 provinces have participated, with the University of Victoria having sent the greatest number of students abroad, at 47. The University of British Columbia has received the most incoming students, hosting 18 scholars from around the world. More than 41% of Canadian Queen Elizabeth Scholars come from Ontario.

Statistics below are for April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.



Outgoing scholars

Top four destinations:

United Kingdom	39
Australia	38
Tanzania and Uganda	30 each
India	25

Outgoing scholars in developing countries **228**

Outgoing scholars in developed countries **119**



Most popular themes

Health	237
Environment	207
Education	132
Economic Growth	132

Number of participating Canadian universities:

36

Number of projects:

48

Incoming scholars

Top four home countries

India	42
Kenya	21
Ghana	17
Nigeria	12

Incoming scholars from developing countries **140**

Incoming scholars from developed countries **12**



Scholars by component

Scholarships for Canadian scholars to Commonwealth universities	109
Internships for Canadian scholars to Commonwealth countries	249

Scholarships for scholars from the Commonwealth to study at Canadian universities

153



Scholar engagement

The QES platform promotes and facilitates interaction and engagement between scholars and program alumni, to foster a dynamic community of young leaders across the globe who are learning from each other before, during, and after the program. Alumni engagement activities include peer mentoring, cross-cultural exchanges, knowledge sharing, and networking.

Social media is an important platform where Queen Elizabeth Scholars around the world can connect and share stories. The **#QEScholars** hashtag is an important tool in making those connections. Below are some statistics regarding that online engagement.



Social media

Twitter followers: more than 550

Tweets to date: more than 1,325
www.twitter.com/qescholars

Instagram followers: 194

Instagram posts: 87
www.instagram.com/qescholars

Facebook QES group: 248 members

This is a public group where Queen Elizabeth Scholars—both current scholars and alumni—can connect with each other to share information and advice.

www.facebook.com/groups/qescholars

“Whether with students, professionals or organizations/institutions, I now have contacts in India and across Canada, and I owe it to the QES program. Indeed, the QES program goes a long way beyond funding, and connects people together. [...] The QES experience has been the greatest thing that could have happened to me at this stage of my career.”

-Claudia Bojanowski, Université de Montréal, internship in India

QES Live chat with the Governor General of Canada

Governors general since Confederation have taken an enduring interest in how Canadians learn and how they apply learning to advance themselves and their communities. In March 2016, a group of Queen Elizabeth Scholars were invited to participate in a live chat with His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, to discuss their experiences of community engagement and leadership. More than 20 students participated in the live chat, sharing stories from their placements overseas, and expressing enthusiasm for both the program and the opportunity to connect in real time with other scholars.



His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, chats with Queen Elizabeth Scholars during a visit to Rideau Hall in June 2016. Photo: MCpl Vincent Carbonneau, Rideau Hall, OSGG

Below is a sample of the scholars' exchanges with His Excellency.

@GGDavidJohnston

How do you engage with your host community and fellow Queen Elizabeth Scholars?

“I’m currently working with an organization called Volunteer Youth Corps on their National Career Guidance Program. I currently manage the program’s implementation and have also worked on getting it embedded within the Ministry of Education and developed tools for the program’s pilot of a follow up curriculum, which is now implemented in four of our 11 participating schools. I am also conducting research on how civil society is influenced by other actors in regards to responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.”

“I am volunteering every Friday to contribute to a new store where people with intellectual impairment and people with mental illness get on-the-job training to work in the retail store and later they are supported with job placement support.”

“I am thankful to the QE Scholars program for supporting my PhD studies in Human Genetics at McGill. Through my PhD I will be working towards computational methods to address research questions in cancer development. My experience so far has been positive and enriching.”

“I am learning a lot about Native Canadians and their culture. Canada is quite open-minded, so there are a lot of things that make international students feel welcome.”

Meet the Scholars



Jarrett Costron

4th year Sport Management, Brock University
Partner institution: Botswana National Olympic Committee



Jarrett Costron helped execute a series of taekwondo coaching workshops during his internship in Botswana.
Photo courtesy of the Commonwealth Games Canada.

The goal of Jarrett's internship was to help advance long-term coaching development and grassroots programming within the Botswana Taekwondo Federation by providing them administrative support and mentorship.

During his placement, Jarrett helped execute a series of taekwondo coaching workshops, which will lead to nine coaches earning national certification. These coaches also teach basic taekwondo in primary schools to children aged 4-12, introducing nearly 1,000 students to the martial art, and helping establish sustainable sport programming in Botswana.

In his own words:

"My host organization provided me with work that challenged me and led me toward developing an array of technical skills within sport management."

"My experience living abroad has allowed me to grow personally and professionally in ways I didn't even imagine. I have been challenged, have grown immensely, and have built lifelong friendships."



Fatima Tuz Zohora

Master of Environmental, Resource, and Development Economics, University of Winnipeg
Home institution: University of Dhaka, Bangladesh



Fatima Tuz Zohora is welcomed to the University of Winnipeg by Dr. Mavis Reimer, Dean of Graduate Studies. Photo courtesy of the University of Winnipeg.

While studying as a Queen Elizabeth Scholar at the University of Winnipeg, Fatima was involved in research on "Basic income access in Canada" at the Public Interest Law Centre, and participated in various volunteer activities, including helping at the student association food bank. Her research focus is on poverty, economic development, and international policy.

Fatima successfully completed her Queen Elizabeth Scholarship and her Master degree at the University of Winnipeg, and is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Ottawa. She is involved in several research projects on development and trade-related issues in Bangladesh.

In her own words:

"As a Queen Elizabeth Scholar, I worked in a different environment than my home country Bangladesh. My experience and improved research skills have truly expanded. I learnt to take on the role of authority and work as a part of a team which will help me to pursue higher education and work."

Looking ahead

In the coming years, the QES program is expected to show significant growth as it becomes a more diverse scholarship exchange program that recognizes excellence, promotes international mobility, and reinforces Canada as a global hub for talent.

The long-term vision for QES is to establish a permanent scholarship platform with the capacity to contribute significantly to Canada's mobility aspirations. Furthermore, the QES program will continue to promote cultural and economic diversity, gender equity, and reconciliation, which are reflective of Canadian society and values.

The QES platform has the potential for specialized streams of scholarship, such as indigenous scholars, and could eventually include Canadian colleges as well as universities. In the future, the QES platform may give private and public sector funders an opportunity to have a degree of ownership and commensurate program-engagement, and the ability to help frame parameters for specific areas of

scholarship by informing the calls for proposals which universities will respond to. We are tremendously excited by the growth potential for the QES program, and the opportunity represented by the platform to engage a greater number of partners, funders, and scholars. Our goal is to ensure that the QES remains Canada's leading program promoting and orchestrating academic mobility and global exchange.

Thanks to your generous contributions, Queen Elizabeth Scholars are becoming the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, inventors, and leaders through this uniquely Canadian model of academic mobility and global impact. We thank you for your visionary support.

For more information about this program, including a full list of partners and participating universities, please visit www.queenelizabethscholars.ca

This program is made possible through the leadership of the Rideau Hall Foundation in collaboration with Universities Canada and Community Foundations of Canada.

The **Rideau Hall Foundation** serves as the QES program's primary interface with a generous network of private sector donors.



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Universities Canada works directly with the participating schools on the technical implementation of QES, helping to ensure the program runs smoothly and is improved upon from an administrative perspective, year after year.



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Community Foundations of Canada undertakes the financial management of the program and supports the QES Trustees who serve as decision-makers for submitted proposals.



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