30th Anniversary Yearbook

Chevening
UK Government Scholarships

30TH ANNIVERSARY
YEARBOOK
Developing tomorrow’s leaders
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WELCOME FROM THE FCO</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF THE CHEVENING SECRETARIAT</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEVENING’S MISSION</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CHEVENING SCHOLAR</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERSHIPS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central partnership cultivation</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014 SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CHEVENING EXPERIENCE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome receptions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th anniversary topical talk series</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddying</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOST UK &amp; International Students House</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar-led initiatives</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014 SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devolved Government: University of Cardiff</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevening Walking Club, University of Manchester</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK Heritage, University of Sussex</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevening Conference, Durham University</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevening Sports Day, Loughborough University</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014 SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALUMNI</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevening Alumni Alliance</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevening Alumni Alliance</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Alumni Directory</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevening Alumni Project Fund (CAPF)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIGITAL IMPACT</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction of e-newsletters</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevening Instagram</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation webinars</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014 SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLICATIONS FOR 2014/2015</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application figures</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility reviewers – webinar training</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading committees</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next steps</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Top-up training’ for embassies and high commissions</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future developments</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014 SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholars</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripling</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014 SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT INFORMATION</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WELCOME FROM THE FCO

It is only natural for anyone who reaches a milestone to look back with pride and marvel at how far they have come.

In 2013/2014, Chevening had the opportunity to do just that as the scheme celebrated its 30th anniversary culminating in a fantastic summer festival at Chevening House. In the presence of partners, alumni and departing scholars, the scheme’s history came face to face with its future.

In light of the funding increase announced in this year’s budget, the future of Chevening seems evermore secure, and that increase suggests an acknowledgement of the importance of scholarships and fellowships to developing a network of global leaders and simultaneously achieving FCO objectives.

The growth in funding has enabled Chevening to not only scale up its numbers, but also to amplify its ambitions and its international clout. A renewed commitment to securing partnership funding is already paying dividends, and I expect that new central and local partnerships will further expand the scheme’s sphere of influence and ensure that more of the most outstanding future leaders and mid-career professionals choose to further their education and enhance their career prospects in the United Kingdom as Chevening Scholars and Fellows.

The signs are positive. On the recruitment side, application numbers are already on course to eclipse last year’s total, and we’ve seen a marked improvement in the quality of applications thus far. On the programme side, scholars and fellows are being afforded a hugely enriched programme of events, which offers them more opportunities to network with each other, meet influencers, and absorb all aspects of British life. I am also encouraged to see signs that Chevening is growing in relevance in other areas of the FCO.

As is only natural for anyone who reaches a milestone to look back at how far they have come, Chevening has demonstrated throughout its 30th anniversary that it is not content with retrospective pride. Chevening is a forward thinking scheme with clear short-, mid- and long-term objectives. We aim to look ahead with renewed purpose, confident that the scheme’s achievements over the last thirty years become the baseline standard for even greater impact under the reinvigorated Chevening banner.

David Crellin-Jones
Head of Scholarships
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
This year has seen huge development for Chevening with a dedicated resource coming online to tackle two key areas: partnerships and alumni. We have implemented a bold and dynamic strategy to strengthen our digital reach and have revitalised the support provided to embassies and high commissions around the world. Engaging the scholars themselves has been at the core of our work in the UK and we are delighted that the events and opportunities offered this year have contributed to the transformational experience we provided, and left scholars with positive memories of the UK.

Chevening Scholars are high achievers working in government, business, academia, the media, and civil society who demonstrate the qualities and ambition to rise to positions of leadership in their home countries. Look out for our scholar profiles throughout this report which will give you an insight into who Chevening Scholars really are.

This year was also a chance for us to reflect on past successes of Chevening as we celebrated our 30th anniversary in the grounds of the house that gave the programme its name. The multi-layered event celebrated the achievements of 30 of our most notable alumni, thanked our partners for their generous support of Chevening over the years, and bid a fond farewell to our 30th anniversary cohort. The event, hosted by Hugo Swire, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, brought together scholars, alumni, partners, and FCO staff to share their experiences of Chevening, celebrate all that has been achieved, and launch an alumni initiative that would ensure that Chevening’s future is even brighter than its past.

Indeed, the outlook is bright for Chevening’s future following confirmation of the tripling of funding for official development assistance countries for 2015/2016 awards. This will expand Chevening’s global reach exponentially, cementing Chevening’s position as a leading global awards scheme funded by the UK government.

Michael Scott-Kline
Head of the Chevening Secretariat
CHEVENING’S MISSION

Attracting the brightest, the most dynamic, and the most influential scholars from across the world to study in the United Kingdom is an important element in Britain’s public diplomacy efforts. Evidence suggests it furthers the UK’s economic interests and global influence. It enhances the career prospects of the scholars whilst fostering a sense of global citizenry.

Chevening Awards enable young professionals who have already demonstrated outstanding leadership potential to study in the UK. By creating lasting positive relationships with future leaders, influencers, and decision-makers, Chevening supports UK foreign policy priorities and helps achieve FCO objectives.

ABOUT THE CHEVENING SCHEME

Chevening is the UK government’s international scheme aimed at developing global leaders. Funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and partner organisations, Chevening offers two types of award – scholarships and fellowships.

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to outstanding emerging leaders to pursue one-year Master’s degrees in any subject and at any of the UK’s leading universities.

Chevening Fellowships are offered to mid-career professionals who have reached a position of influence, and want to increase their knowledge, networks, and potential through tailored short courses at UK universities.

Chevening operates in more than 160 countries and territories, and in the 2015/2016 academic year the scheme will support over 1,500 individuals.
Chevening Scholars come from all corners of the globe, and move to the UK to study for one year at Master’s level. What unites them is their strong academic background combined with their passion to develop into leaders in their home countries. The typical Chevening Scholar would have had at least two years’ work experience under their belt, and a strong academic background at undergraduate (and sometimes postgraduate) level.

### What our scholars study

| Development | 67 |
| Law         | 38 |
| Management  | 37 |
| Environment | 27 |
| Politics    | 23 |

### Where our scholars go to study

- **University of Edinburgh**: 14
- **Durham University**: 8
- **University of Sheffield**: 13
- **University of Nottingham**: 23
- **University of Manchester**: 14
- **University of Bristol**: 13
- **University of Cambridge**: 29
- **LSE**: 65
- **University of Oxford**: 46
- **University of Birmingham**: 24

### Where our scholars comes from

- **China**: 80
- **India**: 75
- **Malaysia**: 50
- **Republic of Korea**: 40
- **Brazil**: 30
- **Egypt**: 20
- **Indonesia**: 20
- **South Africa**: 20
- **Mexico**: 10
- **Pakistan**: 5
A Chevening Partnership is an agreement between a partner organisation and Chevening (represented by the FCO in London, or a British Embassy or High Commission overseas) to jointly fund a select number of scholars and fellows (awardees) under the Chevening banner.

Partnerships enable awardees to establish deeper and more enduring connections with the partner organisation. Awardees who are recipients of a Chevening Partnership Award stand to benefit from unique networking opportunities and other bespoke enrichment events offered by the partner organisation, in addition to those they are a part of as a Chevening Awardee.

Partnerships facilitate closer connections between the partner organisation, the FCO, and the extensive Chevening Alumni network.
Central partnership cultivation

To drive forward new partnership initiatives, a new senior partnerships and development officer role was created within the Chevening Secretariat in 2014, and the value of this dedicated resource has already yielded incredible results for Chevening.

Several new central partnerships were negotiated or finalised between September 2013 and August 2014:

- Bangor University
- Cambridge Commonwealth European and International Trust
- Durham University
- London School of Economics
- Cardiff University
- Swansea University
- Coventry University
- Brunel University
- Surrey University Business School
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Oxford University Foreign Service Programme
- University of Nottingham
- University of Birmingham
- University of Southampton
- Schumacher College
- University of Glasgow
- Queen Mary University of London
- Scottish Government-funded scholarships for two Zambian scholars were also confirmed

During this period, a number of valued partners continued or renewed their collaboration with Chevening:

- University of Edinburgh expanded existing partnership arrangement
- The relationship with Mansion House was formalised
- Clore Leadership Programme renewed MoU
- HSBC renewed MoU
- University of Exeter Applied Strategy and Security Institute

Multilateral interest in hosting Chevening events and scholar engagement activities was expressed across all university partners.

In addition to the expansion of central partnership arrangements, Chevening posts across the globe have actively maintained pre-existing local partnerships and have sought a wide variety of new local partnership arrangements with diverse organisations.

In addition to the Cambridge Trust funding, negotiations with those mentioned above that have reached a stage of near-completion or total agreement will result in nearly £245k additional partnership contributions to the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 budgets.

Malaysian scholars visit the BAE Systems base in Warton
Alisson Braga de Andrade, Brazil
University of Warwick

Alisson, who studied for an MA in International Political Economy, is certain that the scholarship has enabled him to study in one of the most prominent programmes in the world within his specialism. It has given him a solid theoretical basis and the opportunity to discuss important issues affecting Brazil with renowned academics and talented students.

He has been incredibly active, participating in conferences and symposiums at other universities, such as Oxford, LSE, Durham, Cardiff, Sheffield, and Birmingham. Alongside this he has taken part in the Secretariat enrichment event at Cardiff and a lecture and debate at the FCO.

Gayathiri Jambulingam, Malaysia, LSE

Gaya describes her Chevening experience as a dream come true.

‘I applied for a Chevening Scholarship as I heard about its outstanding programme from previous scholars. It particularly attracted me as human rights was one of the selected areas of study. It was amazing to see the value given to human rights and its development. I have always wanted to study in the UK to experience the education and lifestyle. This would have been out of my reach without Chevening’s full funding.’

She has already taken advantage of the opportunities to network and by being a part of the UK culture, has attended talks and events which have included internationally renowned leaders.

Aksel Zaimovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cardiff University

Aksel’s interest in journalism arose during his school years when he worked with local broadcasters in his hometown, Travnik.

‘The Chevening Scholarships programme gives a person a valuable experience to meet other people with diverse backgrounds. The opportunity to be in a place with tremendously talented individuals from all corners of the world enriches you in many aspects. It helps you to understand how unity in diversity can make such a powerful impact on people’s lives. I am looking forward to sharing the knowledge I have grasped here from former BBC professionals. I am confident that the skills that I have been developing for some time will improve the journalistic standards not just in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also in other developing countries.’
The development of Chevening Scholars and Fellows lies at the heart of the scheme. Having progressed through a rigorous and highly competitive selection process, they enrol in world-leading academic institutions and are exposed to British culture and expertise through a series of events that enrich their experience. On graduating, they become part of a unique life-long network which spans the world and a generation.

As Chevening is a life-long experience, the time awardees spend on award in the UK is relatively short, but it is hugely transformational, and deliberately so. Exposing scholars to as many facets of UK life and culture as possible, and providing platforms and opportunities for scholars to network, facilitates the formation of strong life-long connections with both the UK and with each other. Indeed, whilst it is still true that many of the world’s leading universities are in the UK, it is the non-academic aspects of the programme that enhance the scholarship experience and make it a truly British and a uniquely Chevening experience.

Over the years, as our accomplished alumni reflect on their Chevening experience in the UK, they may regard it as the springboard from which they were able to leap further in their careers. The team responsible for delivering the programme in the UK have developed a unique schedule of activity that enables the scholars to learn, network, and excel whilst they are on award.
Welcome receptions

Following arrival in the UK, all scholars are invited to attend a welcome reception. These events are hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or in partnership with a UK university.

For the 2013/2014 cohort, four events took place in total: two at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, one with the support of the University of Edinburgh, and the last with the support of the University of Sheffield.

We have developed a strong programme of exclusive events and other engagement initiatives that run throughout the year. This events programme has been instrumental in introducing scholars to Chevening and embedding them into the UK, with 82% of scholars confirming that the events programme made them feel part of Chevening.

30th anniversary topical talk series

Chevening Scholars were treated to a topical talk series which focused on current issues related to Foreign and Commonwealth Office priority areas. The lectures gave scholars access to expert opinion and speakers and facilitated conversation about ways in which UK practices and expertise are globally transferrable. In 2013/2014 topics covered included: the UK economy; science, innovation, and enterprise; and diplomacy and education.
Internships

Chevening Scholars are required to have at least two years’ work experience (or equivalent) prior to applying for a scholarship. Whilst on award, many scholars value the opportunity to gain additional experience inside UK-based companies, affording them the ability to put into practice some of their newly-acquired knowledge, widen their professional networks, and improve their employment chances on returning to their home countries. UK companies value diversity of background and experience which, along with leadership attributes and strong academic backgrounds, is something Chevening Scholars are well placed to offer.

The Secretariat is exploring opportunities to provide internship opportunities to scholars, which they can take up after they complete their scholarship and before their visa expires. An internship with the Green Investment Bank (GIB) had been agreed for 2013/2014. Two places were available on a competitive basis. The scholars selected for this opportunity joined GIB’s Edinburgh offices where they worked with the Risk and Green teams.

Buddying

In recognition of how daunting it can be to come to another country – in some cases for the first time – we have been able to draw on our vast alumni network to provide support for new scholars. The Chevening Buddy Scheme links new scholars with Chevening Alumni to discuss life and study in the UK, enabling scholars to talk to someone who is well placed to provide their own personal insights on a shared experience.

We are able to facilitate connections either between those who have studied at the same UK university, those with similar academic interests, or those from the same home country. This year we were able to create 78 Chevening Buddy relationships, which is just one of the ways in which we’ve helped scholars adjust to their new life in the UK, thus giving them the best possible chance of making the most of this unique opportunity.

It also helps make use of our active alumni community and offers them the opportunity to give back to the scheme, whilst exposing scholars to the network of Chevening Alumni based in the UK.
HOST UK & International Students House

Chevening has a long standing relationship with the HOST organisation. By arranging for international students, based at UK universities, to spend time with a British family in their own home, HOST and Chevening hope to encourage cross-cultural understanding and friendships, and give scholars an authentic taste of what it is like to live in the UK. In 2013/2014 78 scholars were placed with families around the UK.

Chevening also holds membership of the International Students House, a charity which provides a focal point for international students in London. They offer accommodation and a range of services and opportunities for their residents.

Scholar-led initiatives

As Chevening aims to develop future leaders, it is also important that the programme gives them the opportunity to shape their own experience. One of the ways we achieve this is to give scholars the chance to plan, develop, and run their own initiatives throughout the year. A summary of scholar-led activities follows:

Regional Chevening ambassadors

Regional Chevening ambassadors were selected following a competitive process at the beginning of the year. Their remit was to connect Chevening Scholars in the same region via social and professional networking activities. 2013/2014 events included afternoon tea, an exclusive talk by Dr Trevor Davis of IBM, and behind the scenes access to the BBC.

Cristina Lisii
Moldova
Ambassador for Northern England

Ira Paulo Pozon
Philippines
Ambassador for the Midlands

‘Ira proved to be a star scholar, and focused his attention on charity work. During his time here he managed to organise a sponsored bike ride around Nottingham and raised money for an orphanage in the Philippines. Ira put himself forward to act as a student representative at Nottingham University and helped with events put on by the international department. He also gave a speech at the Nottingham scholar reception, sharing his experiences with all the other scholars present at this event.’

James, Programme Officer
Eduardo Duarte Zanelato  
Brazil  
Ambassador for London

June Rubis  
Malaysia  
Ambassador for Southern England and Wales

Chibueze Nnanna Anyanwu  
Nigeria  
Ambassador for Southern England and Wales

Heba Waleed Mohammad Alnasser  
Jordan  
Ambassador for London

Xinzhe Xu  
China  
Ambassador for London

Phuong Giang Tran Thien  
Vietnam  
Ambassador for Scotland and Northern Ireland
### Scholar-led events

Chevening Scholars are regarded as future leaders and it is with this in mind that we encourage them to take charge of elements of their own programme, by opening up a competitive process through which they can submit a bid for support for events that they would like to put on through a small fund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Organiser</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 May 2014</td>
<td>‘Reimagining the Anthropocene’, organised by June Rubis (University of Oxford, Malaysia) at the University of Oxford’s School of Geography and the Environment</td>
<td><a href="#">Details</a></td>
<td>The one-day conference brought together academics and practitioners to discuss alternative framings of the Anthropocene. The topics discussed included novel ecosystems, post-growth realities from an ecological economics perspective, and the indigenous perspective. A workshop on transformative storytelling was conducted by Ishmael Hope, an Alaska Native storyteller.</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 May 2014</td>
<td>‘The Neo-Citizen’, organised by Karthigayan Ramakrishnan (University of Sheffield, Singapore) at the University of Sheffield</td>
<td><a href="#">Details</a></td>
<td>The agreed themes included community mobilisation, education inequity, and online and environment responsibility which ignited critical thinking amongst the delegates and addressed contemporary social, political, economic, and environmental challenges globally.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 June 2014</td>
<td>Human Rights in Asia Conference, organised by Rukamanee Maharjan (University of Essex, Nepal) at the University of Essex</td>
<td><a href="#">Details</a></td>
<td>The conference was attended by human rights practitioners, researchers, and students. The conference included speeches from Professor Sir Nigel Rodley, current chairperson of UN Human Rights Committee; Professor Paul Hunt, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health; Ms Horia Mossadiq, a notable human rights activist; and Ms Nirmala Rajasingam, a Sri Lankan Tamil author and activist.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 June 2014</td>
<td>‘The New Pattern of Development Cooperation’, organised by Maria Petrenko (University of Glasgow, Russian Federation) at the University of Glasgow</td>
<td><a href="#">Details</a></td>
<td>This event aimed to represent and discuss current changes and challenges taking place globally: South-South development cooperation; new players in international aid and new priorities of aid allocation (middle income, low income, and fragile countries); MDGs, post-2015 SDGs, inequality issues and development patterns’ adjustment; present and future of international development institutions and other relevant topics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 June 2014</td>
<td>Debate on documentary films, organised by Lucina Friedman (Imperial College, Mexico) at Imperial College London</td>
<td><a href="#">Details</a></td>
<td>The debate analysed the conflicts that arise when constructing narratives for news stories and documentaries. The panel explored the dilemmas deriving from this construction when representing reality from their own experience as journalists and filmmakers. Following a screening of <em>Undercover Syria</em> the participants heard speeches from the director of the documentary, Wael Dabbous, as well as Gareth Mitchell of the BBC, Alok Jha of ITV, and documentary filmmaker Chris Riley.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rukamanee Maharjan, Nepal, University of Essex

Rukamanee completed an LLM in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the University of Essex. Before becoming a Chevening Scholar, she was a programme associate at the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). She gained her LLB degree in 2008 and her LLM degree in 2012 from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Due to her past experiences both academically and within the workplace, she identifies as ‘a human rights defender at first place and, secondly, legal professional.’

She applied for a Chevening Scholarship in order to become more knowledgeable in her field and contribute substantially to her community and country. She also wanted to ‘do better and be one of the best if not the best’ and felt that she could achieve this by becoming a Chevening Scholar.

Nart Mohammad Hameed Dohjoka, Jordan, University of St. Andrews

During his time at the University of St. Andrews, Nart helped coordinate a group visit to Jordan and played a key role in organising the agenda. He arranged both the visit to the Jordanian parliament and the meeting with the NGO think-tank Arab Thought Forum. During this trip, students had the chance to exchange views with Jordanian experts and policymakers on issues related to poverty, water, and human security. Nart is extremely pleased with the impact this experience has had on his fellow scholars as it has influenced the course of study for many of his peers.

Upon returning to his home country, Nart aims to promote engagement between scientists, policymakers, and academics with a view to fostering peace and prosperity. He is a firm believer in the role of science in promoting peace and prosperity, and in resolving conflicts and disputes. With this in mind, he sees his future revolving around serving his country, Jordan.

Jia Yaw Kiu, Malaysia, SOAS

Jia Yaw Kiu, from Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, studied an LLM in Environmental Law at SOAS, University of London. Jia Yaw was incredibly busy during his time as a Chevening Scholar. He became a volunteer assessor for the Raleigh ICS programme. The programme brings together youth volunteers who want to make a difference as global citizens. He also co-chaired the Public Interest Environmental Law (PIEL) UK annual conference, entitled ‘Corporations’ Role in the Environmental Crisis: Problem or Solution?’ which was held on 11 April 2014. The aim of PIEL is to champion environmental justice and joins postgraduate students from various universities across London.

‘Being a Chevening Scholar is not only about doing well academically but also to gain different experiences and form meaningful relationships while living here in the UK’ he says. Upon returning home Jia Yaw hoped to ‘establish the hub to support purpose-orientated enterprises’ and to ‘influence the business world and bring social and environmental considerations to the fore where they belong.’
The Chevening Scholarships programme has been developed with the aim of providing cultural, social, political, and sporting experiential learning and networking opportunities for scholars outside of their academic responsibilities. In order to enhance the scholars’ experience by giving them unrivalled access to local expertise, several events have been organised in partnership with universities. Working with universities not only delivers cost savings to the scheme and scholars alike, it crucially deepens the relationship between Chevening and UK universities by demonstrating the value inherent in hosting Chevening Scholars.
Devolved Government: University of Cardiff, 4 February 2014
Following a reception by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin Riordan, Chevening Scholars experienced a lecture and introduction to Welsh in the council chambers. From there, they visited Cardiff Bay where a lecture about Welsh governance was delivered in the Pierhead Building. They later visited the Senedd, the National Assembly for Wales, to observe the plenary session.

Chevening Walking Club, University of Manchester, 22 March 2014
The four mile walk was led by Professor Mike Bowman from the University of Manchester. Professor Bowman holds a part-time Chair in Development & Production Geology at the university. Prior to retirement he was BP’s functional and global head of geoscience, widely recognised as one of the industry’s most experienced and expert geologists.

Professor Bowman provided talks about the geology and industrial history of the area as the group ascended Mam Tor. At the summit the weather took a turn for the worse and it began to snow heavily. The temperature dropped to just over 0 degrees Celsius and the group walked on to the Windy Knoll where scholars were taught about geological and environmental issues pertaining to the area.

UK Heritage, University of Sussex, 14 April 2014
Chevening Scholars visited the University of Sussex and Lewes Castle. Professor Maurice Howard gave a talk entitled ‘Funding and presenting national and regional heritage: the changing landscape of modern times’, which explored issues of heritage around the country before focusing more specifically on the Grade I listed buildings on the Sussex campus.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Michael Davies, welcomed the scholars to Sussex and highlighted Sussex’s international focus and the strengths of its campus community.

Fiona Courage, Special Collections Manager & Mass Observation Curator at The Keep (an archive centre), delivered a presentation on the challenges and potential of the new building and its resources. As is common with the talks arranged under the Chevening banner, scholars were given the opportunity to ask the speakers questions.

At the castle, guide Joanna Wilkins gave a comprehensive tour of the building and detailed the history of the area. The group took in beautiful views of the South Downs from the top of the castle, and enjoyed the fine weather by taking photos at the castle. The scholars were given a unique opportunity to handle medieval artefacts and learn more about the weaponry, architecture, and clothing of that era.
Chevening Conference, Durham University, 25 April 2014

The inaugural Chevening Conference took place in April at Durham University. The theme of the conference was leadership, which gave scholars from all over the country a chance to talk about their research, studies or work.

Roberta Blackman-Woods, MP for the City of Durham, welcomed the scholars before Professor Tim Clark gave the keynote speech. The afternoon saw speeches from Pro-Vice-Chancellor Tom Ward as well as Ambassadors Wasim Mir and Philip Parham.

However, this conference is about the scholars taking centre stage and sharing their academic output with their peers. The programme was designed in such a way that scholars had the opportunity to give talks, present posters, and take part in workshop sessions. There was also ample time for networking throughout the day.

The day concluded with a tour of Castle College. Scholars had the option of attending Evensong in the Cathedral or attending a debate. In the evening, the conference dinner was hosted at Hatfield College.

Chevening Sports Day, Loughborough University, 30 May 2014

Chevening Scholars were invited to put their bowling, batting, and fielding to the test at a cricket-themed day, where they were trained by some of the best professional coaches in the country.

Loughborough University hosts the training facility of the English international team and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) generously gave access to their elite sporting facilities and equipment to Chevening Scholars.

Aside from the physical elements of the day – which included a training session at the state-of-the-art facilities and a game of cricket – they discussed the 2013 Ashes series and sport psychology.
Paige Morrow, Canada, LSE

Paige Morrow completed a Master of Law programme at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her dissertation studied non-judicial grievance mechanisms for multinational corporate activity. She was also a researcher at the LSE Centre for the Study of Human Rights, examining responsible business practices and international regulation of investment. Paige's research interests include business and human rights, corporate accountability, and strategic litigation.

‘The Chevening programme is far more than an academic scholarship – it is a global community of current scholars and alumni from across the world. In less than a year, I made life-long friendships with amazing people from a broad range of academic and professional backgrounds from more than 50 countries. The many conferences, lectures, and events organised by the Chevening Secretariat fostered an exchange of ideas and insights with scholars working on similar issues that has enriched my work.’

Nawal Ba-Abbad, Yemen, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Nawal studied Health Policy in order to sharpen her experience through scientific work and gain specialist knowledge in the UK. At an event entitled ‘Transform Her Future’, Nawal gave a speech on a panel with The Rt Hon Justine Greening, MP, Secretary of State for International Development. The speech was about her professional and social experience on child marriage in Yemen. Nawal also spoke at another panel in May about midwifery, and was glad to be one of the presenters at the conference celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Chevening scheme at Durham University.

Nawal dreams of contributing to the development of more effective health policies for Yemen. She aspires to become a world leader and to ‘make improvements in women’s and children’s health, and achieve a better future for the youth of Yemen’.

Muhammad Aman Azhar, Pakistan, SOAS

Muhammad studied towards an MA in Anthropology of Media at SOAS, University of London. Being a Chevening Scholar, opened up the opportunity to study at one of the most respected UK universities, and he found himself a part of a prestigious network.

‘I saw myself as a progressive, motivated and competitive leader and Chevening encourages and develops those skills. Studying in the UK was enormously beneficial in refreshing my perspective as a person and a professional.’

Muhammad hopes to be heard alongside the progressive and independent voices in his home country and is sure that the opportunity that Chevening presented him with will strengthen his own professional goals.
Numbering 43,000, Chevening Alumni constitute an influential and highly-regarded global network. They have an excellent record of rising to positions of leadership across a wide range of fields including politics, business, the media, civil society, and academia.

Chevening Alumni form the backbone of the Chevening scheme, enabling the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to cultivate lasting positive relationships with future leaders, influencers, and decision-makers from all over the world, and giving alumni access to a community of global leaders built over the last 31 years.

The Chevening Secretariat has developed a number of initiatives which will harness the force in this network and create sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships.
Chevening Alumni Alliance

The Alliance was formally incorporated as a private company limited by guarantee on 30 June 2014, and publicly launched at the 30th Anniversary Celebration and Farewell Festival on 9 July 2014. The Alliance is both an alumni association for those living in the UK, and also the global umbrella association, linking Chevening alumni alliances worldwide.

The senior alumni relations officer has met with directors of the Alliance to set out the parameters of Secretariat support for the Alliance and discuss plans for its development.

Chevening Alumni Alliance board

Olga Banchikova
President - Chevening Alumni Alliance
Russia Chevening Scholar, 2009/2010, MArch Urban Design, UCL

Laura Vanessa Muñoz
Director - Chevening Alumni Alliance
Mexico Chevening Scholar, 2006/2007, MA International Public Relations, Cardiff University

Yaki Wo
Director – Chevening Alumni Alliance
Hong Kong Chevening Scholar, 2009/2010, MSc Environment and Development, LSE

Cynthia Vega
Director – Chevening Alumni Alliance
Mexico Chevening Scholar, 2006/2007, MA International Relations, University of Nottingham

Soushiant Zanganehpour
Director – Chevening Alumni Alliance
Chevening Scholar, 2010/2011, MA Public Policy and Corporate Development, SOAS

Francois Josserand
Director – Chevening Alumni Alliance
France Chevening Scholar, 1998/1999, MSc European Studies, LSE
Online Alumni Directory

We were excited to launch a new, searchable online directory for Chevening Alumni. The directory went live via the Chevening website in June 2014 shortly before the formal launch at the 30th Anniversary event in July. At launch, the directory contained full profiles of 2,300 Chevening Alumni and a basic register of over 43,000 individuals who have been granted a Chevening Award. The directory is searchable by name, country of origin, year of award, and institution. Where information has been provided, it is also searchable by subject area and occupation.

Directory of Chevening Alumni

Welcome to the Chevening Alumni Online Directory. This initiative was launched at the 30th anniversary celebration of Chevening.

The aim of the directory is to profile the achievements and success of our alumni. We hope that it will also help alumni find each other, connect and collaborate. We will continue to develop and expand the directory in the coming years.

Structure

The Profiles section of the Directory lists current contact, career and study details for more than 2,300 of our alumni. These can be searched by a combination of personal, award and/or occupational data.

The Register section of the directory contains the names, countries of origin, and years of study for nearly 44,000 individuals that have held awards under the Chevening programme since it began in 1989. This section is also searchable.

Directory Update

The directory is updated regularly. The next update is scheduled for January 2015. All new entries will be included and can then be found in searches.

If you were a Chevening Scholar or Fellow and would like to have a profile in the directory, please complete the Alumni Registration Form.

Alternatively, if you have a profile and would like to inform us of any changes, please contact the Alumni Relations team at alumni@chevening.org, providing your full name (also include your last name during your award, if this has changed), the year of award, your country of origin and tell us what changes you would like to make to your profile.

Chevening Awards are supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

The directory is the public output of information from the Secretariat’s internal central database. One of the big successes of the year was creating a central database of all Chevening Scholars and Alumni for the first time. We are grateful to all the relevant UK missions for their assistance by sending us their individual data lists.

The creation of the directory brings Chevening in line with comparable scholarship programmes as well as other higher education institutions and we envisage the growth of the directory as it is brought to the attention of more alumni.
Chevening Alumni Project Fund (CAPF)

The CAPF annual central funding competition received some excellent bids in 2013/2014. There were 54 applications of which half were fully supported. Successful bids included the creation of a BritMex initiative to celebrate 2015 being the year of the UK in Mexico and Mexico in the UK, and a Chevening Argentina 30th Anniversary yearbook. The yearbook, containing details of 400 Chevening Alumni from Argentina was launched to fanfare by Ambassador John Freeman in November 2013.
Introduction of e-newsletters

Tailored e-newsletters have been introduced as a regular means of communicating with scholars, and embassies and high commissions throughout the year. They have been an extremely effective way of providing updates and notifications, keeping recipients informed of what is going on in the UK and across the global Chevening network.

Chevening Instagram

Instagram is Chevening’s newest and fastest developing social media platform. Images are used to increase Chevening’s exposure to external audiences and to highlight Chevening’s visual identity and convey our values and mission to the general public.

Instagram has also been a fantastic way of engaging with scholars through photo contests. It is more sophisticated than Facebook as it allows voting and the use of hashtags.

The #MyChevening competition opened in May to mark the launch the new Chevening Instagram account. Scholars were encouraged to post photos of their time in the UK and experiences studying at UK universities. Over 500 entries were submitted, with the best exhibited at 30th anniversary event.

#myChevening

Chevening choice
Alex Belinsky, Israel
University of Cambridge

Scholar choice
Ryan Chua, Philippines
City University
**Orientation webinars**

Using the online conferencing platform GoToMeeting, the programme team led four orientation webinars in October 2013 for the 2013/2014 cohort. Hugely positive feedback indicated that they were a success. It was hoped that a 50% attendance rate would be achieved and expectations were ultimately exceeded with 82% of scholars attending.

We evaluated the webinars and in response to the question, ‘How helpful did you find the Chevening webinar (with 5 being the most helpful and 1 the least helpful)?’, 80% rated the webinar as ‘extremely helpful’ or ‘very helpful’.

A new series of two webinars was developed for the 2014/2015 cohort. These webinars took place in the pre-departure period to make sure that scholars are more effectively engaged and better prepared before coming to the UK.

The webinars for 2014/2015 scholars were as follows:

- **Webinar 1** – Candidates’ workshop: mapping out the procedure from selection until confirmation

- **Webinar 2** – Pre-departure briefing complementary webinar: Flights, visa information, pre-departure information
Jermaine Grant, Guyana, University of East Anglia

Jermaine said that his choice of degree complemented his academic background, his work on societal security matters in Guyana, and his interest in international relations. He integrated into university life seamlessly, and demonstrated his leadership potential when he was elected as a student representative by his peers at the London Academy of Diplomacy. He successfully lobbied for a students’ study visit to Brussels and went on a tour of the European Union and NATO headquarters in March 2014.

‘My service as a student representative was rewarding as I gained insights into management and university affairs in a predominantly European setting whilst broadening my cultural awareness. My Chevening experience is one of gaining new friends and creating an extensive network that spans continents. My Chevening experience is a personal journey towards academic excellence in the UK to better my contribution to Guyana’s development.’

Patrick Lamptey, Ghana, Aberystwyth University

Patrick studied for an MSc in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing. His main motivation for applying for a Chevening Scholarship was to pursue his interest in GIS and to experience the UK’s world class educational system.

‘Being a part of the Chevening community has been a great experience for me because I have met many interesting people from all over the world. I have also learnt a lot of things including innovative approaches to environmental monitoring.’

He believes his experience as a Chevening Scholar will go a long way to impact his work at the Ghana Meteorological Agency in terms of efficient and effective service delivery. In the future, he intends to get more involved in research involving the integration of GIS and Remote Sensing applications with security, environmental management, and commerce.

‘One of the interesting things I have experienced about UK education is the drive to contribute to global knowledge and the application of technology, and this has really inspired me to also work towards that goal.’

Amir Hussain Hussaini, Afghanistan, LSE

Amir studied MSc Diplomacy and International Strategy at the LSE. He was impressed by the international and multicultural nature of the UK. He also found that the lecturing was world class, and was pleased by the high standard teaching environment. Amir was proud to be part of a diverse and dynamic network of Chevening Scholars.

‘Chevening is a prestigious scholarship which opens windows of opportunities to future leaders.’
APPLICATIONS FOR 2014/2015

Application figures

Out of the 27,595 applications received for 2014/2015, 9,385 have been long-listed.

Eligibility reviewers – webinar training

For the 2014/2015 cycle, changes were made to ensure a higher quality and quicker speed of eligibility review. In addition to the guidance document we produced for sifters in 2013/2014, this year, two webinar training sessions were held for eligibility reviewers. This proved to be useful training before the reviewers began their work, and greatly reduced the incidence of errors relating to applicants’ degree and course checks. The training covered an introduction to Chevening, the eligibility criteria, the selection process for Chevening applicants, and key information relating to degree equivalencies and university course checks. Sifting for all 118 Chevening countries was completed in early January 2014. 53 reviewers participated in the sifting process during this year’s cycle.

Reading committees

Similar to the eligibility review training, a webinar (in addition to the regular face-to-face training) was introduced and provided to all reading committee members. This year there were 12 committees in total. Both webinar and in-house training covered the eligibility criteria and course selection required for all potential Chevening applicants, the roles and responsibilities of the committee members (academic specialist, regional specialist, and lay member), and the scoring procedures.

This year the responsibilities for both academic and regional specialists have changed with the academic specialist responsible for chairing the meeting and completing the academic advice form. The regional specialist produces the country report which is then used as feedback for embassies and high commissions.

Next steps

The committee meetings concluded at the end of January 2014. Longlists from the committees were established and sent to embassies and high commissions for shortlisting. The international liaison officers communicated with them to confirm interview dates between March and April 2014. Reference requests were sent during February and March, with the invitation to interviews sent only once candidates’ references were received.
‘Top-up training’ for embassies and high commissions

In February and March 2014 two top-up training sessions were planned for embassies and high commissions. The aim of these sessions was to provide more support, and to encourage them to harmonise policies, procedures, and the agreed timeline for shortlisting and interviewing candidates. The first session focused on the interview process and the latter on the selection authorisation report (SAR), helping embassies and high commissions to understand the procedure for upgrading reserve candidates.

The format of the top-up training took place through a series of short videos. Scripts were produced for both training sessions, and videos were made available to diplomatic missions immediately after each session.

Embassies and high commissions conducted their interviews between 31 March and 18 April 2014, with all candidates informed of the outcome of their application by June. Successful candidates needed to have satisfied all outstanding conditions by 15 July 2014.

Future developments

The Secretariat worked with WCN and the FCO’s Digital Transformation Unit to develop a new online application system through which candidates could apply for Chevening Awards. Despite a tight timeline, the new online application system was successfully launched on 1 August 2014.

Prior to launch, as part of the testing phase, a group of Chevening Scholars were invited to the Secretariat to test the new system. Having had the experience of applying through the old eChevening system, their feedback was particularly valuable to us and helped shape certain areas of the system for the benefit of future applicants.

We also invited Chevening colleagues in embassies in the China network to test the system. Their feedback was positive, relaying their impression that it was a great improvement on the eChevening system. As with the scholar testing, their feedback was also crucial in developing a system that would also be of use to them.

Phil Buckley of the FCO’s Digital Transformation Unit subsequently wrote a blog for the FCO website titled Transforming the Chevening Scholarship application system. In this blog, he convincingly argued that, at nine years into its life, a new system was not only long overdue but it was an expectation of users that a system for a prestigious scholarship scheme should fit modern technological standards.

Whilst technology will always move at a faster pace than many organisations can realistically keep up with, we are confident that the improvements made to the online application system will bring benefits to those who work on Chevening and those who apply for it, thus improving the overall quality of everyone’s Chevening experience.
Roman Fishchuk, Ukraine, UCL

Roman became a Chevening Scholar in order to follow his aspiration of improving healthcare services provided in Ukraine, and completed an MSc in ENT Practice (Otology) at University College London Ear Institute. Following on from his Chevening Scholarship, Roman sees himself progressing into a skilled ear surgeon with the hope of conducting joint research with international colleagues.

‘I hope to implement a sustainable education programme for the Ukrainian medical and non-medical community, and establish a charity that will support people with hearing impairment and deafness’.

‘By becoming a better doctor I will improve people’s health. By becoming a UCL alumnus I will continue sharing experience between Ukrainian and British medical communities. By becoming Chevening Alumnus I will promote international cooperation and values’.

Jun-Han Su, Taiwan, University of Cambridge

‘For me, being a Chevening Scholar means a responsibility to make the most of my time in the UK and disperse the knowledge and insights learnt to those who are less privileged. Moreover, I believe, as Chevening Scholars, we serve as envoys between the UK and our home countries and have an obligation to promote mutual understanding and push for a win-win scenario. I feel Chevening will help advance my career tremendously and will also help my home country – Taiwan, as it provides bright young people a chance to learn at some of the best universities in the world and an incredibly powerful global network that one could tap into.’

What Jun-Han appreciated the most about studying in the UK is that the ‘modules are highly practical without sacrificing any rigour or depth. Furthermore, the student community is remarkably diverse and international – my course, for example, boasts 15 nationalities amongst its 23 students’.

Rajab Mohandis, South Sudan, University of Manchester

The Chevening Scholarship enabled Rajab to attain a Master’s degree in International Development: Politics and Governance from the University of Manchester.

‘I was motivated to apply for a Chevening Scholarship because the courses in the UK were in line with my career interests and relevant to the situation of my country.’

‘Being a Chevening Scholar affords you the opportunity to receive quality education, and meet, interact, and build relationships with colleagues from different parts of the world. The postgraduate programmes are well structured and so intensive that pursuit of a Master’s degree within one year is possible.’
On 9 July, Chevening held its 30th anniversary celebration which also served as the current cohort’s Farewell Festival. This was an opportunity to thank partners who have supported the programme over the last 30 years, cultivate new leads, engage with alumni, and say farewell to the current cohort whilst introducing them to the opportunities that await them as alumni. The celebrations also involved an alumni lunch hosted by the minister, a partners’ afternoon tea reception and the Farewell Festival for scholars.

The event was a huge success, and had tremendous symbolic significance as it took place at Chevening House, the place that gave the programme its name.
Partnerships

The partners’ garden party at Chevening House on 9 July was the first Chevening event to officially recognise partners and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the 70 guests in attendance. The guest list comprised a combination of senior and operational contacts from existing partner organisations as well as prospective partners.

The garden party was held in the afternoon and guests reflected warmly upon their relationship with Chevening.

‘A key focus of our social investment across Asia is education, which plays a critical role in the betterment of societies. Being able to help talented students across Asia achieve their full potential via the Chevening Scholarships is very gratifying, and is a natural fit with our desire to help Asian societies grow and prosper.’

Representative from Prudence Foundation

It was an opportunity for Chevening to formally thank partners for their valuable contribution to the programme. Partners expressed their appreciation at being invited to the momentous event.

There is definitely an appetite among partners for other similar opportunities to deepen their relationships with Chevening, to widen their networks by meeting with FCO staff and other partners, and to connect with alumni. There is clear scope here for Chevening to facilitate the connections between these key groups by developing a series of focussed partner engagement events.

‘The Chevening Scholarship is an established, highly prestigious programme for potential leaders. Our sponsorship will pave the way for selected students to be able to take advantage of this potentially life-changing opportunity. The sponsorship aligns perfectly with our approach to the promotion of education globally, where we support a culture of lifelong learning. In addition, the BAE Systems Malaysia Chevening Scholarships aligns with Malaysia’s aspiration to develop leaders who will grow and develop the economy through the ongoing Economic Transformation Programme.’

John Brosnan, BAE Systems
Alumni

The 30th anniversary event gave the Secretariat and Foreign and Commonwealth Office an opportunity to re-engage with alumni in a very special way. Alumni invited to the exclusive lunch left with high praise of the scheme and an enthusiasm to assist the programme where possible. We have already received offers from prominent alumni to provide case studies for our evaluation work.

One alumna has also published a moving blog about her time in the UK in which she expressed her feelings about the Chevening Scholarship she held.

‘Studying in the UK was a privilege. It enabled me to fight my own stereotypes and prejudices, to confront the myths that permeate my country and our region. Only by winning over those internal struggles was I able to confront the prejudices against the others, those in the region, in the UK or elsewhere in the world.’

Denisa Sarajlic-Maglic, Chevening Alumna, Bosnia and Herzegovina

An Egyptian alumnus who is an editor at BBC Arabic met current MENA scholars at the event and subsequently invited them to a very successful tour and radio interview at the BBC Arabic offices in London.

Through this meeting the Secretariat has also been able to establish links with two other alumni also working at BBC Arabic. They have all expressed willingness to provide interviews about their Chevening experience.
Scholars

The Chevening Farewell Festival was the first opportunity in the year to bring all scholars together. Enjoying the beautiful British weather, the entertainment for the scholars was provided by a line-up of British acts including the Baghdaddies, Beattie Wolfe, and Public Service Broadcasting. The food and drink was locally sourced from Kent-based suppliers.

Feedback from the event has been extremely positive. A Storify of the event can be found here: Storify | Chevening’s 30th Anniversary

Tripling

The Chancellor of the Exchequer’s Budget announcement on 19 March 2014 included a tripling of Chevening places in developing countries for the 2015/2016 academic year.

An FCO spokesperson said:

‘Chevening Scholarships are an important element in supporting Britain’s work overseas. The increase in Chevening Scholarships for 2015/2016 will boost the Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s reach and efforts to engage in developing countries and emerging powers. It will increase the number of outstanding young professionals, who have already displayed exceptional leadership talents, studying in the UK.’

The additional funding will bring over 1,000 additional potential future leaders to the UK to study at UK universities, with an estimated 1,500 Chevening Scholarships available for the 2015/2016 academic year.

All countries on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) list of Official Development Assistance (ODA) recipients will be eligible for additional scholarship places.

The distribution of these places will be decided in the coming months and will be determined by the UK’s security and prosperity priorities in developing countries and emerging powers.
Eric Parfait Essomba Ngono, Cameroon, University of Sheffield

Eric, from Yaounde in Cameroon, was awarded a Chevening Scholarship to study towards an MSc in Environmental Change and International Development at the University of Sheffield.

‘Being a Chevening Scholar means having the capacity and ability to drive positive change at different levels of society, be it local, national, or international.’

He was impressed by the standard of teaching in the UK, especially the way in which students are encouraged to critically reflect upon the subject matter, and looks forward to applying his knowledge back at home.

‘Being from Cameroon and then studying in the UK as a Chevening Scholar has given me a multi-dimensional perspective on environmental and developmental issues, and in mainstreaming sustainability into the development process in which Cameroon is engaged.’

Sadaf Khan Baig, Pakistan, LSE

Sadaf is a former journalist and a media development practitioner from Pakistan. She studied for an MSc in Media, Communications and Development at the London School of Economics through a Chevening Scholarship.

Prior to moving to London to further her studies, Sadaf worked as Director, Research and Communications with Intermedia Pakistan. It was her desire to alter her career path from media to media development that made her apply for a Chevening Scholarship.

She believes that Chevening has not just accorded her the opportunity to attain a degree from one of the best universities in the world, but has also allowed her to meet brilliant Chevening Scholars from all around the world, which in itself has been a valuable experience.

Evronia Azer, Egypt, LSE

Evronia studied Information Systems and Innovation at LSE.

‘The Chevening experience has opened many doors for me to the world of technology, and how plenty of people around the world have life-changing projects and ideas in the development and social media fields.’

‘Living in the busy London atmosphere has given me the opportunity to attend sessions at Google Campus and LSE, and meet people who pursued careers that I wasn’t aware of before. I think these opportunities, in addition to attending a Queen’s Celebration event, could not have been possible without the Chevening Scholarship.’

‘Even though the degree was really demanding, it was enjoyable to learn and do research at the LSE. The Chevening Scholarship has indeed impacted and changed my life permanently. It has given me the tools to learn so many things that I never imagined I could learn in only one year.’