



Criteria for the award of Associate Fellow of The Royal Commonwealth Society

Background

In November 2014, the Council of The Royal Commonwealth Society elected to re-introduce a fellowship scheme. Historically, the Society had the right to award fellowships under Royal Charter provisions. Following a period of disuse, it has been re-instated with the hope that a revitalised scheme would have contemporary value and resonance.

The aim of the fellowship is to broaden engagement with Commonwealth citizens, including young people from around the Commonwealth, who have shown a particular determination in committing to the Society's mission of promoting the value and values of the Commonwealth and, in particular, the application and promotion of the Commonwealth Charter 2013.

Criteria

It is **essential** that the individual is:

1. A citizen of a Commonwealth country
2. Between the ages of 18 and 35 years of age.

Individuals will be assessed on the following bases:

1. A demonstrable level of activity and experience in contributing to local, national or regional projects and programmes which improve the lives of Commonwealth citizens
2. Proactive and positive engagement with external partners (such as local government, community organisations, schools or businesses) to further the improvement of the lives of Commonwealth citizens on a particular project
3. Evidence of proactive self-development to pursue advocacy
4. Examples of advocacy and social action in areas such as civil society, education, rule of law, democracy, environment, cultural promotion and arts
5. Creative thought in expressing views about areas of concern and communicating those to persuade others (e.g. through the use of technology or change of attitudes)
6. Overcoming obstacles to deliver a particular outcome for a local community
7. Support of and engagement with The Royal Commonwealth Society and/or its networks.



Awards Process

From 2018, after the close of QYL, Associate Fellows can only enter the scheme through nomination by an RCS branch, staff or board member:

In order to nominate an individual, the nomination form must be completed by the nominator. It should be submitted along with a personal statement from the nominee and a statement from a professional or academic referee. For further details, please see the [nomination form](#).

Nominees will be assessed against the criteria above by trustees of The Royal Commonwealth Society.

Notes

The Fellowship confers no honorific title or post-nominal.

The Fellowship does not have the facility to make individual grants to in-country projects.

Certificates will be made available to Associate Fellows.

If it is discovered that an Associate Fellow has acted inappropriately, or against the Commonwealth Charter, their Fellowship will be revoked.