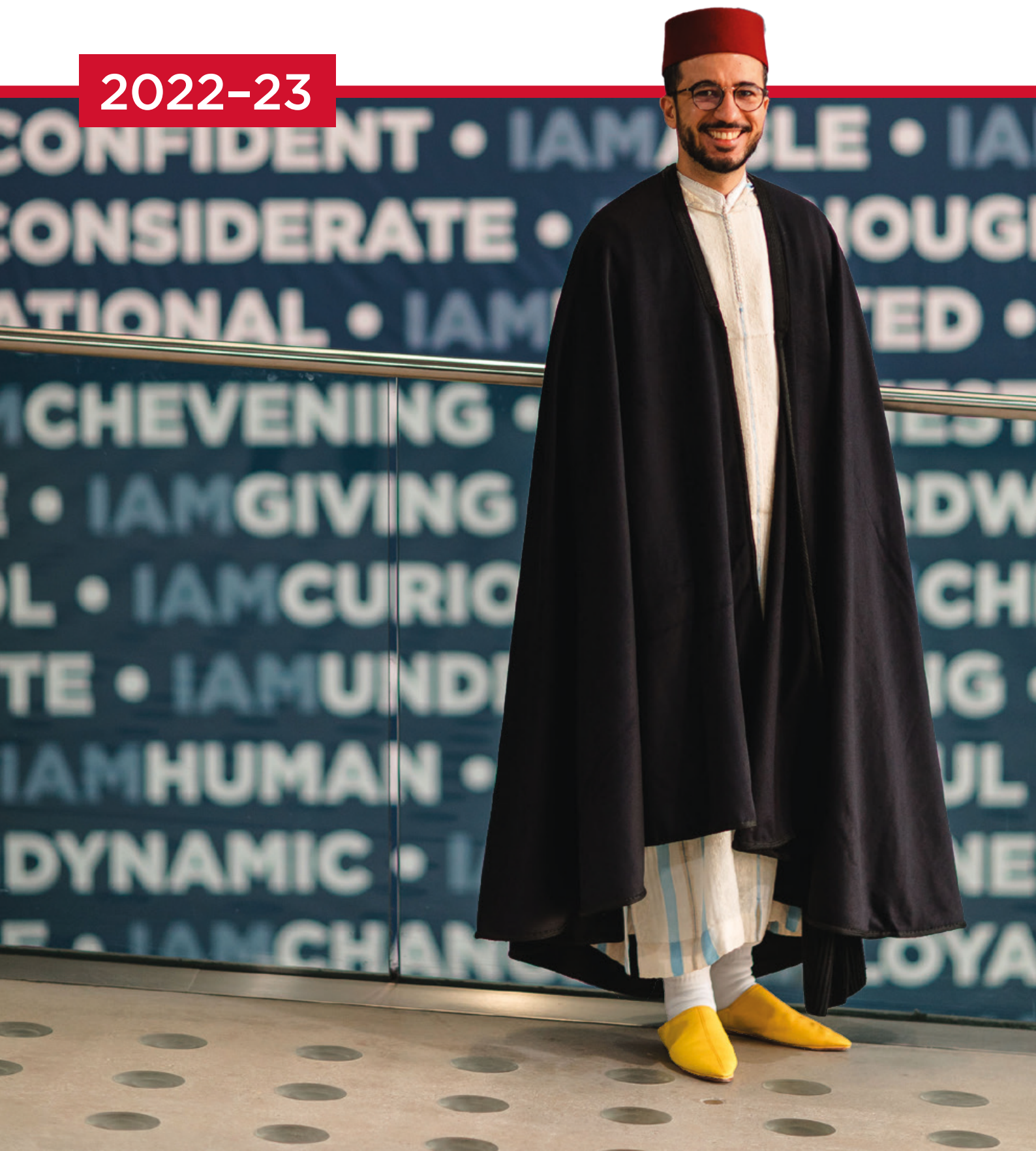


# CHEVENING IMPACT REPORT

2022-23



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# Ministerial foreword



## The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP

Minister of State in the Foreign,  
Commonwealth and Development Office

**I am delighted to welcome you to the Chevening programme's annual impact report for 2022-2023.**

Chevening Scholars build on their scholarship year in the UK to create positive, lasting impacts around the world as alumni. I have had the great pleasure, this year, of meeting some of our scholars. They are all inspiring people who will assuredly make a difference. You can read some of their inspirational stories in this report.

It has been a difficult year for some in the Chevening Community. I have great admiration for Chevening Scholars who have travelled from challenging environments to embrace their scholarship opportunity in the UK and join our supportive, global community.

Chevening embodies our values of openness and understanding, but also champions debate and intellectual challenge in a deeply troubled world that craves fresh thinking and creative solutions.

Britain is proud to work with our global friends and partners to create a better future for all of us. I hope scholars and alumni find inspiration and lifelong friendships within the Chevening Network and with the UK.

I encourage all the Chevening Community to embrace the words of American civil rights activist Marian Wright Edelman:



**Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”**

# Chevening's year in numbers

**1399**

scholars supported from **143** countries.

**310**

scholars supported by Chevening partners, making up **22%** of the cohort.

**113**

fellows supported across **12** fellowship programmes.

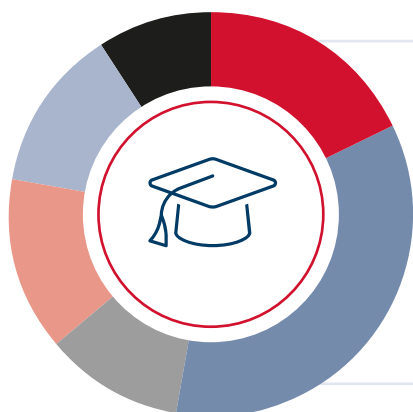
**40**

scholars supported from Ukraine.

**2221**

hours spent by Chevening Scholars volunteering for organisations across the UK.

The highest number of scholars per country came from Brazil, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Ukraine.



## The wide range of courses studied by Chevening Scholars

- STEM **18%**
- Social sciences **35%**
- Law and legal studies **11%**
- Health sciences **14%**
- Business and management **13%**
- Arts and humanities **9%**

## Scholar events



**46**

events held



**35**

were held face-to-face



**11**

were held virtually

# Chevening's year in numbers

## Our social media presence

**1.2m**

followers on social media, representing a **11.5%** growth since 2022.

## Our alumni

**57,000**

global Chevening Alumni.

**20**

current or former heads of state.



## Top six professional fields that Chevening Alumni work in

- 1 International development and humanitarian assistance.
- 2 Higher education teaching and/or research.
- 3 Civil service, government, and politics.
- 4 Legal and judicial professions.
- 5 Medicine, healthcare, and social care.
- 6 Banking and finance.

Source: 2022 Chevening Alumni Impact Evaluation Survey.



**£59.3m**

annual budget



**£7m**

corporate partnership income or in-kind support from university partners.



## 40 years of impact

Since **1983**, Chevening has supported future leaders from across the globe to study in the UK before returning to their countries to drive innovation and help build a more sustainable, equal, and connected world.

**This report shares the impact that some of these extraordinary Cheveners have had over the past 40 years.**



## Focusing global attention on the human dimensions of climate change as President of Kiribati

**Anote Tong was one of the first Chevening Scholars, embarking on his Chevening year at the London School of Economics in 1987. From there he went on to serve three terms in office as President of Kiribati, at a time when the effects of climate change on countries like his were crystalising.**

‘When I spoke about climate change and sea-level rise at the 2004 United Nations General Assembly, I was the first world leader to highlight the impacts of climate change for people and countries on the frontline. Nobody else spoke about it.

I felt like a bit of a fool when I returned home and wondered – is it really an issue? Why does nobody else seem to care? Of course, by the next year other Pacific Island countries started to join me. By 2007, when the fourth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report came out, it was quite clear that climate change was no longer a speculative issue: it was human-induced and countries like Kiribati were at risk of becoming uninhabitable before the end of the century.’

Looking back at his career and time in office, Anote pinpoints his efforts to focus global attention on the impacts of climate change on humans as his proudest achievement.



**For a long time, climate change was just discussed out of scientific curiosity, but not many people associated it with the threat to human lives, and what it means for people like us who will lose our homes because of climate change.**

While working to increase global attention on the risks of climate change for his people and the urgent need for action, Anote put the wheels in motion to increase Kiribati's climate resilience. Among other actions taken, in 2014 he directed the purchase of land in Fiji as a contingency refuge for his people. His efforts led to him being dubbed a 'climate warrior', remembered for pioneering the notion of migration with dignity to avoid the people of Kiribati becoming climate refugees.

The influence that Anote exerted on the international stage was 'without a doubt' strengthened by his Chevening experience, he says.

'My Chevening experience became a part of me. It gave me that confidence that I needed to interact at the international level while giving me a more balanced perspective of the people that the world is made up of. Often it's not the classroom where you learn the best lessons, but rather the people who you get to interact with. I believe that Chevening also helped give me the standards, the values, and the principles that I applied later in life [during my political career].'

The fact that Anote embarked on his Chevening year in 1987, at a time when Kiribati had only recently become independent, was also significant for his political development.

'Although today I would say that it's always been my destiny to go into politics, at that time I was reluctant. I am a bit of technocrat really. But my country was in an interesting stage of its political development. We were now fully responsible for our own future and so there was a great deal of pressure on the political leadership.

I also felt that pressure myself. Coming back to Kiribati as one of the few educated people with a degree, I felt an enormous burden that, having had that education, it was incumbent upon me to deliver something for the people.

Being a Chevening Scholar means you have already shown that you have the capacity to influence decision making in whatever field you might be in. So one must make maximum use of that and understand that if you've been selected for such a scholarship, you have been given a gift. You must use that talent for the purpose of serving not just yourself, but others too.



**Politics also needs good people, not just educated people, but good people. And if you are a Chevening Scholar, then you are one of the good ones.**

## Anote Tong's key achievements



Being elected as President of Kiribati and serving three terms in office from 2003–2016.



Pioneering the notion of 'migration with dignity' to avoid the people of Kiribati becoming 'climate refugees'.



Directing Kiribati's purchase of land in Fiji in 2014, as a contingency refuge for his people, following advice from the IPCC that Kiribati could be submerged by rising sea levels within a few decades.



Receiving the Peter Benchley Ocean Award for creating one of the world's largest and most biologically rich marine protected areas in the Phoenix Islands Protected Area.



# Establishing the first one-stop breast cancer clinic in Zambia



**Mercy Nachalwe Chipampe is a 2009 Chevening Scholar and a leading expert in radiography and mammography. She has made innovative strides in early cancer detection and treatment in Zambia.**

After a fifteen-year career in radiography and radiation therapy, in 2009 Mercy embarked on an MSc in Diagnostic Radiography on a Chevening Scholarship at the University of Cardiff. The knowledge and skills gained through this degree helped her to progress to the post of Principal Radiographer at Lusaka’s Cancer Diseases Hospital and helped her to establish Zambia’s first one-stop breast clinic in Lusaka, an initiative which was later rolled out across the country to Zambia’s nine provincial hospitals.

**What were you doing before Chevening? What were your career aspirations at the time?**

I had been working as a radiographer at the Cancer Diseases Hospital in Lusaka since it opened its doors in 2006. The early cohorts of patients that we treated had very advanced stages of cancer that had spread due to late diagnosis and treatment. I found this very demoralising and became determined to advance my studies and learn more about early detection and more effective methods of treatment.

**What made you apply for Chevening?**

I knew that the United Kingdom was a leader in

the field of radiography and early detection of breast cancer through the use of mammography. I thought that the hospital could benefit hugely from my exposure to these new skills and processes. I felt that I could not continue treating patients that were just coming to the hospital to die. I wanted to gain the skills needed to detect diseases early, offer treatment to women, and give them a chance to live.

**What is the most important thing you learned during your Chevening experience?**

In the UK, I engaged with a variety of healthcare professionals and was exposed to several new procedures and techniques. After returning to Zambia, I set out to apply what I had learned, but adapting it to the local context. With my team at the Cancer Diseases Hospital, I set up a one-stop breast clinic in Lusaka, encouraging women to come in for screening. Following the success of the Lusaka clinic, this initiative was rolled out to the nine provincial hospitals of Zambia. As the only trained mammographer in the country, I was appointed as the ‘trainer of trainers’ for radiographers throughout.



# Building a better future for women and girls in India

**Kanta Singh has dedicated her whole career to tackling issues of gender inequality. In 2019, she embarked on the Chevening Gurukul Fellowship for Leadership and Excellence. The programme allowed her to expand her network and capacity even further to help her on her mission to build a more equal India, one girl and one voice at a time.**

Working for the UN was the earliest dream that Chevening Fellowship Alumna Kanta Singh can remember having.

‘Coming from a rural community in India with a mother who had never been to school, working for the UN was an impossible dream. So, when in 2010 I joined the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) I promised myself that every dream I would have thereafter would be to help other girls realise their dreams. It has been 13 years now and I have stayed true to that promise.’

Today, Kanta works as the Deputy Country Representative for UN Women India. Across all the projects she has worked on, she has remained focused on women’s issues.

‘Everything that I have done has been with women, for women. And that includes my work at the grassroots level, whether helping to influence a policy change that affects millions of girls or helping just one girl to find her voice.’

In 2019, Kanta went to the University of Oxford for the Chevening Gurukul Fellowship for Leadership and Excellence.

‘There I learned that what you know is just part of the business. You need to continue learning from your environment, from the people around you, and from other experts. And on the fellowship, I was with some of the best of the best, all of them were inspirational leaders and achievers.’

The environment in Oxford also provided me with ample opportunity to reflect on what kind of leader I wanted to be when I went back to India. For me, this meant becoming a leader who listens to others, and who always pays attention to different points of view.'

From there, Kanta's impact continued to grow. She returned to her job at the UN and also helped a local NGO set up an initiative to train and prepare women for political leadership, with funding from the Chevening Alumni Programme Fund (CAPF).

'The fact that there are so few women in the Parliament [in India] impacts all of us. We need to have more women in positions of power who can speak for themselves and for other women. This programme was put together with a local NGO and with funding from CAPF. It has so far

trained up 200 women for political leadership - that's 200 more women who are thinking of joining politics. The project has also received much political attention, including being mentioned in a G20 speech by the UK High Commissioner to India.'

Reflecting on her proudest achievements in her career so far, Kanta recounts the 'goodwill' she has helped to generate around the work that she does.

'Every time I am able to influence a parent to support their daughter's education, every time an MP enthusiastically agrees to come and speak to the women on our programme; this gives me hope. I do not have a goal to influence 200,000 minds in a day, but even if I can influence one mind, I feel happy and proud that one more girl has been taken care of.'

Kanta Singh on her Chevening Gurukul Fellowship in 2019.



Kanta admits there are also difficult days and setbacks, when she continues to see acts of violence and discrimination against women around the globe. However, she sees these ongoing issues as temporary expressions of chaos and confusion which are to be expected in a world of changing gender dynamics. Kanta remains refreshingly and inspiringly optimistic about what the future holds for women and girls.



**I really feel that women will come into their full potential in the next 25 years. It's great to be a woman today and I am shouting for all of you and lending my voice to help you wherever it is required.**

Young women today know their rights far better than I did when I was 18. We have no business to be getting disheartened.

If you give girls the basic support to voice their opinions, they don't need anything else because they are already out there, quietly working, gaining degrees, learning, building skills, paying attention to their health. So it won't be long before girls are equally represented in all spaces. I am really looking forward to a better future for women and girls.'

## The Chevening Alumni Programme Fund (CAPF)

CAPF supports exceptional Chevening Alumni to design and deliver activities and projects that will increase Chevening's impact around the world. In 2022, CAPF supported 39 alumni projects which tackled a range of issues, from raising awareness of the role that civil society can play in contributing to the peacebuilding process in Colombia to supporting women who are struggling to return to work after having children in Mongolia.

## Kanta is also helping to contribute to a more engaged alumni network in India

'The CAPF project that Kanta helped with had an impact on approximately 200 women, empowering them with the skills and knowledge to participate and take on leadership roles in political and electoral processes through trainings. She was also instrumental in getting support of other Chevening Alumni to interact with the women leaders, thereby helping to contribute to a more engaged alumni network in India.'

**Pradyumna Bora, Chevening Senior Programme & Relations Manager, India**

# Supporting reconstruction efforts in Ukraine



**Viktoriia Neiman graduated from Kings College London this year on a Chevening Scholarship with an MSc in Public Policy and Management. Mere months after graduating, Viktoriia is already putting her learnings into practice, working on the UK-led Partnership Fund for a Resilient Ukraine to support reconstruction efforts in her home country.**

I applied to Chevening to access a world-class education in the UK, build a global network, and enhance my skills and perspectives to help me contribute meaningfully to Ukraine's reconstruction efforts and development.

The most important lesson I gained from Chevening was the power of diverse perspectives and collaboration, fostering an environment where I could learn from a rich tapestry of cultures and experiences. Here in the UK, I met civil servants from the UK, Indonesia, Japan, Chile, Taiwan, and Georgia - which made for extremely fruitful group discussions on different country approaches to public policy. My Georgian groupmate, in particular, shared such helpful insights on policies implemented in her country to speed up economic growth. Since Georgia and Ukraine have much in common, I am already putting the lessons learned from her into practice in Ukraine.

Chevening also helped me to land a job immediately after graduating from King's College London earlier this year. I now work on a multi-donor project, led by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, that aims to support Ukraine's reconstruction and

recovery efforts at the state border and in frontline areas. This work is crucial to restore people's access to public services in war-affected areas, while also contributing to social cohesion within the community and increasing trust in the government. Some of the most recent projects I have worked on have included the restoration of hospitals, schools, administrative service buildings, and cultural centres, as well as helping to ensure bomb shelters are adequately equipped.

The Chevening and university networks I gained in the UK will also be invaluable assets for my future endeavours, providing an ongoing source of collaboration and knowledge exchange. This network serves as a dynamic platform for staying informed about global best practices, fostering partnerships, and accessing mentorship opportunities that will enhance my contribution to Ukraine's post-war development.

Looking ahead, I aim to continue playing a pivotal role in Ukraine's reconstruction, utilising the expertise and global network cultivated during my Chevening journey to drive positive change and sustainable development.

# What does our community say?

## OUR SCHOLARS



**Rebecca Gao**, 2022–2023 Chevening Scholar, China, MSc Comparative Education and International Development, The University of Edinburgh.

### **What does the word ‘Chevening’ mean to you?**

Chevening encourages me to believe in myself and my work. It means I am part of a prestigious community where we all share the same goal of making a real difference.

### **What was the highlight of your Chevening experience?**

The highlight of my Chevening experience was the networks I developed, whether with fellow Chevening Scholars or education professionals and experts across the world. It made me feel like

I belonged and reaffirmed my belief that I can make a difference in the field of education and development.

### **How has your Chevening experience benefited your life and career after graduating?**

After graduating I feel more confident and determined in my aspirations to enable as many as students as possible to access international education. Since I will be a Chevenor for my whole life, I know that I will always feel inspired to be a leader and make a positive impact in my career.

## OUR SCHOLARS



### Luis Felipe Molina, 2022–2023 Chevening Scholar, Colombia, MSc Digital Journalism, Goldsmiths, University of London

#### What does the word ‘Chevening’ mean to you?

The word ‘Chevening’ holds profound significance for me as it represents a transformative opportunity that has shaped my professional journey. It embodies the spirit of international cooperation and academic excellence and signifies a commitment to fostering global leaders and promoting understanding between nations.

#### What was the highlight of your Chevening experience?

The most meaningful moment of my Chevening experience came when I was accepted to the BBC World Service placement through Chevening. This was a unique opportunity to observe some of the best professionals in the journalism industry

globally. I had the chance to publish stories on BBC News Mundo in Spanish and work as a producer and presenter for the ‘What in the World’ podcast of the BBC World Service.

#### How has your Chevening experience benefited your life and career after graduating?

My Chevening experience and the connections I made have been invaluable for my personal and professional growth and have already proven to be instrumental in my career.

I have returned to Colombia ready to share the knowledge I gained from my university course, my BBC placement, and my time living in the UK. I could not be prouder to list ‘Chevening Alumnus’ on my CV.

## OUR FELLOWS

**Chevening Fellowships offer mid-career professionals who have reached a position of influence and want to increase their knowledge, networks, and potential, the opportunity to embark on tailored short courses, research, or professional placements at UK institutions. In 2022-2023, Chevening offered 12 fellowship programmes on a range of research areas - from cyber security to journalism.**



During my time as a Clore Fellow, I had the opportunity to connect with individuals from the UK and other countries, which helped broaden my knowledge and perspectives. However, the most significant impact that the fellowship had on me was the realisation of the cultural sector’s potential to address the climate crisis.

While working on a consultancy project at Somerset House, as part of the Clore Fellowship program, I was inspired to work on the intersection of culture and climate change. Since then, I have been developing courses for the United Nations, creating exhibitions, and pavilions for Climate Change Conferences worldwide. I also advocate for this cause in Brazil.’

**Eduardo Carvalho, Chevening Clore Leadership Fellow from Brazil**



The fellowship was a transformative experience, offering an immersive and intense three months of learning and networking. Working alongside brilliant professionals from the Western Balkans was particularly enlightening.’

**Fernala Sejmen-Banjac, Chevening Western Balkans Cyber Security Fellow from Bosnia & Herzegovina**



## OUR PARTNERS

Our partners boost the number of scholarships we can offer to outstanding individuals from around the world. This includes university partners, who waive fees for an agreed number of international students, and corporate partners, who fully or jointly fund Chevening Scholars' UK master's degrees. We are so grateful to all our partners for helping us to invest in the education of future leaders, innovators, and decision-makers.



Partnering with Chevening enables the City of London's Mansion House Scholarship Scheme to reach a wide pool of potential scholars looking to study in finance and related professional subjects. As they become more senior and influential, they invariably develop into some of the best ambassadors the City of London could wish for. We are immensely proud of our record in helping leaders of tomorrow and future influencers to deepen their knowledge of the City of London and the United Kingdom.

Mansion House



It was an honour to attend the Chevening 40th Anniversary reception to celebrate the longstanding success of the scholarship programme and the extraordinary achievements of the Chevening Scholars. The University of Bristol is a longstanding partner and proud supporter of the Chevening Scholarship programme and every year we host many outstanding Chevening Scholars who are, with no doubt, emerging leaders and future change makers

University of Bristol

## OUR PARTNER-SPONSORED SCHOLARS



With the invaluable support of the Carbon Trust and the Transforming Energy Access (TEA) platform, my academic and professional horizons have been significantly broadened. Pursuing a master’s in economics and policy of energy and climate change at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, has been not only an educational journey but also a life-changing experience. The mentorship scheme I participated in as part of Carbon Trust/TEA’s support was [also] instrumental in refining my academic pursuits and life experiences in the UK.

**Bah Jean-Yves Herve Kouadio, TEA/Carbon Trust partner-sponsored scholar from Côte d’Ivoire**



Studying at the University of Oxford was just a dream to me a year ago. CIMB and Chevening have helped me achieve this dream. With this master’s, I will be able to serve my country, in curating evidence-based interventions specifically to end violence against children in Malaysia, and bring about change for the betterment of society.’

**Amalina Annuar, CIMB partner-sponsored scholar from Malaysia**

# Thank you to all our partners

Aberdeen Scott - Aberdeen University  
 Aberystwyth University  
 Adani Group  
 American Hospital  
 Anglo American  
 ANII  
 Arab Palestinian Investment Company (APIC)  
 Azule Energy  
 Bangor University  
 Bank of Kigali  
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Schumacher College  
 Secretariat of Public Education (SEP)  
 Shell Mexico  
 Simfer Rio Tinto Guinea  
 SIREN Associates  
 SOAS  
 St George's University of London  
 Swansea University  
 Tree of Life  
 Trinity College, Oxford  
 TVS Motors  
 UK Space Agency & Icelandic Government  
 Unilever  
 Universities Wales  
 University College London  
 University of Bath  
 University of Bedfordshire  
 University of Birmingham  
 University of Bradford  
 University of Bristol  
 University of Cambridge  
 University of Central Lancashire  
 University of Dundee  
 University of East Anglia  
 University of Essex  
 University of Exeter  
 University of Glasgow  
 University of Hull  
 University of Kent  
 University of Leeds  
 University of Liverpool  
 University of Nottingham  
 University of Plymouth  
 University of Reading  
 University of South Wales  
 University of Southampton  
 University of St Andrews  
 University of Stirling  
 University of Strathclyde  
 University of Surrey  
 University of Sussex  
 University of Warwick  
 University of York  
 Winston Wong (Grace THW Group)  
 Yayasan Khazanah

# Final word



## Emma Hennessey

Head of Scholarships Unit,  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**Since becoming Head of the FCDO's Scholarships Unit in August 2023, it's been a great pleasure to meet many of our fantastic Chevening Scholars and Alumni and hear about the impact they are having.**

2023 was a very special year for Chevening as we celebrated its 40th anniversary in February 2023 and welcomed its 40th scholar cohort to the UK in September 2023. We were delighted that the then Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, hosted Chevening's 40th birthday party at Lancaster House in October, where one of our most notable alumni, President of Montenegro Jakov Milatović, gave the keynote address.

This year, we reflect both on past successes of Chevening, as well as looking ahead to the next 40 years! I'm very proud to close the Impact Report for 2022-23, which highlights some of the exceptional and inspirational achievements of Chevening Alumni in their

respective fields. This includes former presidents, activists, and researchers making groundbreaking discoveries.

In 2022-23, one in five scholars were supported by a Chevening partnership. We are incredibly grateful to our partners for their generous contributions to awards and for providing professional development opportunities such as internships. Through partnerships, we can give more awards and provide more life-changing experiences to scholars in the UK to help prepare them for future leadership roles.

Thank you for your interest and support. I look forward to hearing more Chevening success stories.



CHEVENING

