

Blue Charter Fellowships



2018-19
BEIS
Cohort 1
38 fellows

2019-21
Waitrose
Cohort 2
10 fellows

The Commonwealth Blue Charter is an agreement by all Commonwealth countries to collectively tackle ocean-related challenges. To deliver on its own commitment to the Blue Charter, the ACU established the Blue Charter Fellowships programme with funding from UK BEIS and Waitrose & Partners. Since 2018, the programme supported 48 outstanding researchers from 14 Commonwealth countries to undertake diverse, collaborative research projects on a range of topics related to marine plastics pollution, from consumer behavioural change to community-based recycling strategies. They have not only produced insightful research outcomes, but their commitment to driving change has also generated greater momentum to tackle one of the biggest environmental challenges of our time.

To support Fellows in communicating their research outcomes and engaging key policy, industry, and community actors, Waitrose & Partners have also funded a series of 9 online training modules on knowledge exchange, research uptake, and research impact launched in 2020. All Fellows who completed the training were also eligible to apply for a Knowledge Exchange Grant Scheme, designed to help them plan and deliver impactful community-based activities to tackle plastic pollution and raise ocean awareness across the Commonwealth.



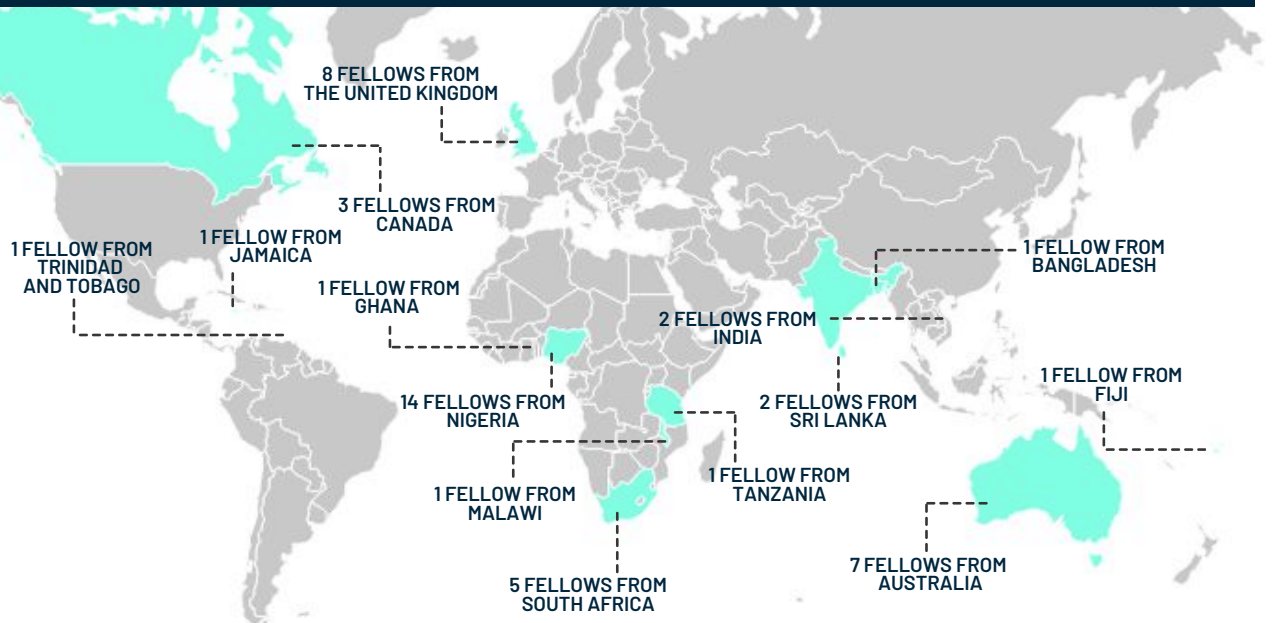
Degree
52% post-PhD
48% PhD students



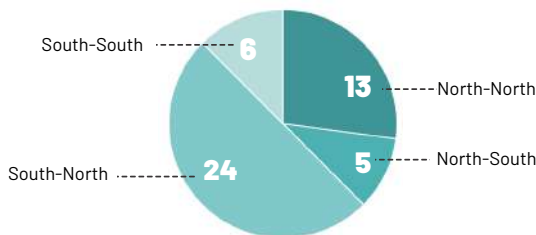
Gender
50% female
50% male



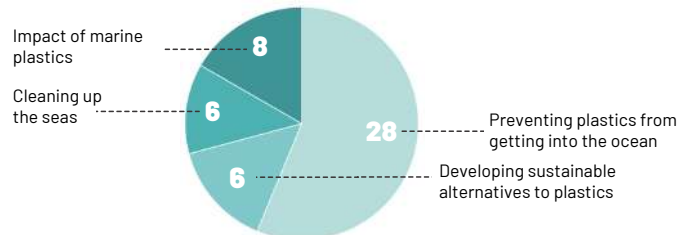
Collaborations
85% new
15% existing



Fellowship direction



Primary research areas



60 activities

including workshops, community engagements, field demonstrations, and site visits, have been funded through the Knowledge Exchange Grant Scheme.



280+

policy, industry, and community stakeholders across 9 countries have been reached via programme-funded activities to date.



The Association of Commonwealth Universities



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

