

# 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 Commonwealth countries to collectively tackle ocean-related challenges. To deliver on its 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 has supported 48 outstanding researchers from 14 Commonwealth countries to undertake diverse, collaborative research projects on a range of topics relating 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. 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.



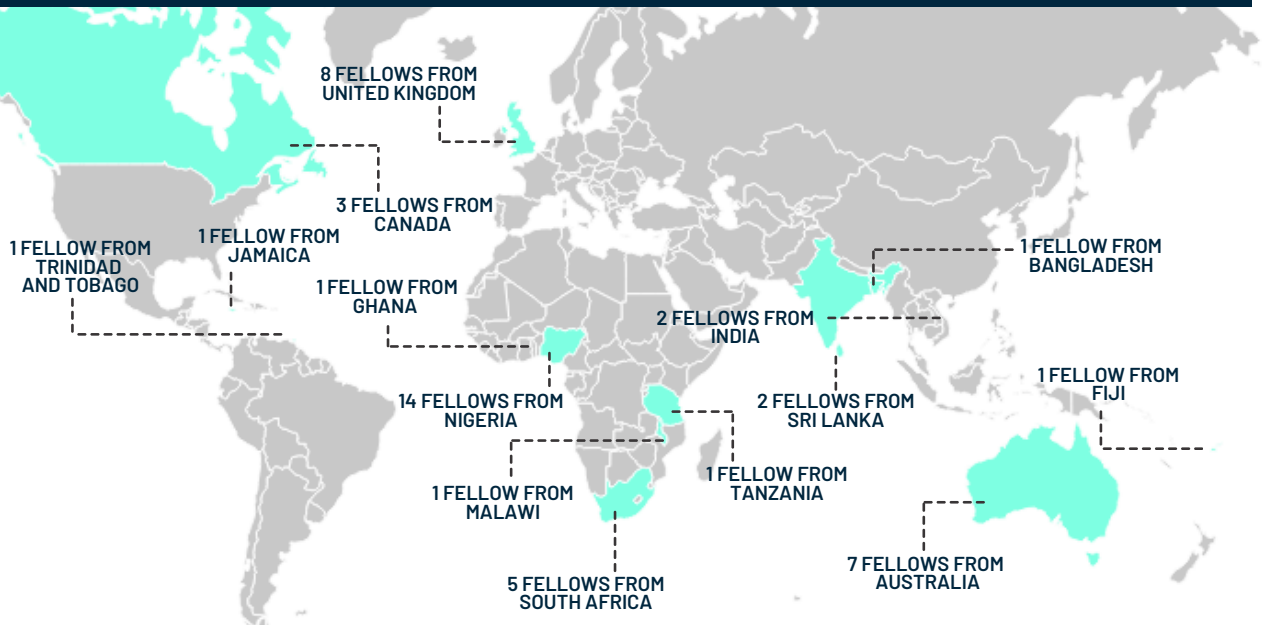
**Degree**  
52% post-PhD  
48% PhD students



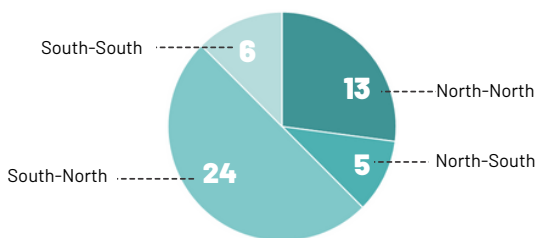
**Gender**  
50% female  
50% male



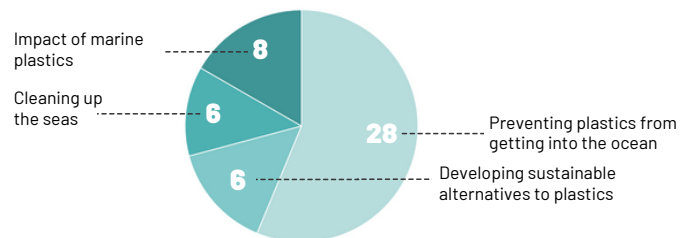
**Collaborations**  
85% new  
15% existing



**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.

Impact reports:

<https://www.acu.ac.uk/funding-opportunities/for-students/fellowships/blue-charter-fellowships/>



The Association of Commonwealth Universities



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy



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