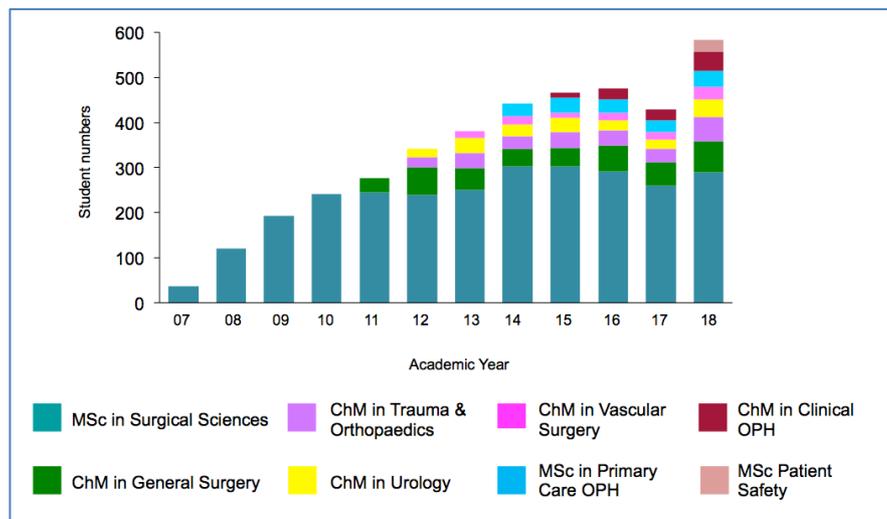


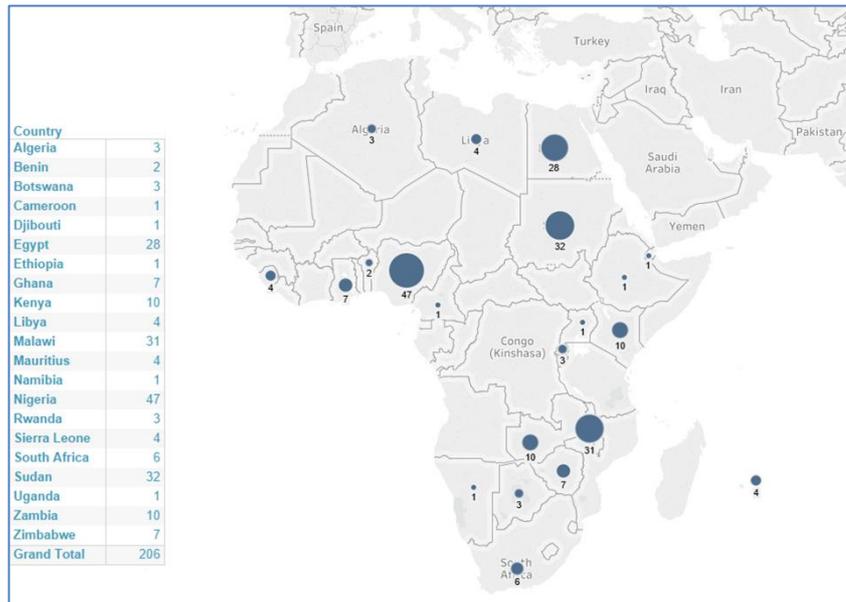
## Extending scholarship opportunities for training surgeons in COSECSA region to undertake online masters programmes

In 2007, the University of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh launched the Masters in Surgical Sciences (MSc SurgSci), a novel three-year online educational programme, also known as the Edinburgh Surgical Sciences Qualification (ESSQ) and designed to support the professional and academic development of the surgical trainee. It was thought that student recruitment would come principally from Great Britain and Ireland since the programme content was based on the intercollegiate MRCS curriculum. However, the MSc SurgSci and our subsequently developed masters (ChM) programmes aimed at supporting later training (FRCS equivalent), now reach a much greater global audience. Students have come from some 70 countries over the last ten years. In November 2018, our 1005<sup>th</sup> student graduated with a certificate, diploma or masters level qualification through the Edinburgh Surgery Onlinemasters programmes. There are currently some 600 students from some 70 different countries enrolled in our masters programmes.

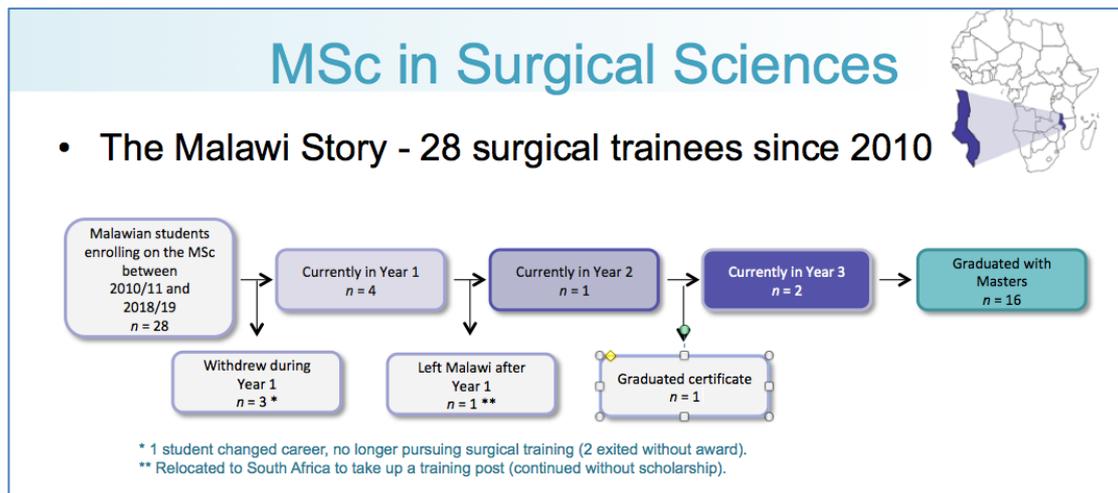
<https://www.edinburghsurgeryonline.com>



The impact of the masters programmes on surgical training worldwide has been considerable over the last ten years and some 200 training surgeons from Africa have been supported through their academic and professional development by the masters programmes.



Many of our international students have been innovative in securing personal financial support to meet the fees. However, a number of funding opportunities have now been made available by the ESO team to widen access and support training surgeons particularly in low and middle income countries. The impact of our scholarship programme has perhaps been greatest in sub-Saharan Africa. Specifically, 31 Malawian trainees have had access to full scholarship funding since 2010 and 28 of these have been supported by educational grants from Johnson & Johnson with some additional support from Physicians for Peace. Of these 28 training surgeons, 16 have graduated from the MSc SurgSci and remained in Malawi.



Based on this success, we have explored ways of extending support to surgeons in sub-Saharan Africa and whose training environment may be challenging. In 2017, funding was secured for 5 trainees from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC) and 5 further matching scholarships were funded by ESO. Our Johnson and Johnson Scholarship funding will now include applicants from Malawi, Zambia, Uganda and Rwanda. Under a new Memorandum of Agreement between the RCSEd and the University of Edinburgh scholarship

opportunities have been extended to trainees in low and middle income countries by ring-fencing programme income to widen access through full funding of scholarships. Twenty such Edinburgh Surgery Online Global Scholarships were provided in 2018 to support training surgeons from the World Bank list of low and middle income countries coming from East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Fourteen of these were awarded to trainees in the COSECSA region.

In addition to this core funding, we also have received support from Women and Health Alliance International to fund a female training surgeon in Benin. For 2019, we have secured further CSC funding for 10 successful applicants. It is also anticipated that funding will be made available this year for an additional 20 fully funded Edinburgh Surgery Online Global Scholarships. The application process for Commonwealth Commission Scholarships opens on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 with the deadline for receipt of applications set by CSC for 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. The deadline for the 20 Edinburgh Surgery Online Global Scholarships is xx xxxxx 2019. We appreciate that the geographical distribution of our scholarship students is variable and it is not clear whether the opportunities for financial support are fully appreciated. Full details of scholarship opportunities are available on our website.

<https://www.edinburghsurgeryonline.com/scholarships>

- Online masters programmes are available to support early surgical training (MSc Surgical Sciences)
- Our online masters ChM programmes also support specialist training in general surgery, trauma and orthopaedics, urology, vascular and endovascular surgery
- Full scholarship funding is available to support trainees in the COSECSA region
- Key deadlines for scholarship applications are 22 March 2019 (CSC scholarships) and 1 June 2019 (ESO Global and other scholarships)
- We wish to identify a surgeon who can serve as a link and advocate for our online programmes and their capacity building in the COSECSA region

We would like to further strengthen the relationship between Edinburgh Surgery Online and COSECSA. Part of the agreement for CSC funding requires delivery of a capacity building retreat aimed at students within one year of graduation. The first two Commonwealth scholars (ChM graduates) will participate in such a retreat in 2019/2020. The precise format of the retreat is yet to be agreed but student feedback has indicated that a programme around leadership, non-technical skills for surgeons (NOTSS) and basic/advanced surgery simulation would be appreciated and would consolidate the professional and academic development provided through the online masters programmes.

We are also keen to identify a surgeon from the COSECSA region who could serve as a key link to the development of such a retreat, serve as an advocate for the

online masters programmes and the scholarship programme, to help to identify opportunities for extending the reach of online masters programmes in the COSECESA region and to consolidate the links between COSECESA and the ESO team. There would be opportunity for that individual to receive professional and educational support through the current Commonwealth Commission Scholarship grant and this would involve a visiting observership in Edinburgh and funded access to accredited online educational support from the University of Edinburgh.

In the short time that the University of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh have offered online surgery masters programmes the growth of these innovative programmes has been remarkable. We are very keen to extend support to training surgeons in the COSECESA region. Our masters graduates will also have access to a new University of Edinburgh portal, Platform One, which will provide a means for alumni to keep in touch with each other and mentors as well as to provide access to university resource that may be valuable to the further professional development of the surgeon.

Professor James Garden,  
Director of Edinburgh Surgery Online,  
Dean International, University of Edinburgh.

## **Edinburgh Surgery Online and COSECSA Advocate**

### **Person Specification**

Interest is sought from surgeons based in the COSECSA region to serve as an advocate for the online surgery masters programmes delivered by the University of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. The appointed surgeon would serve as a key link between COSECSA and Edinburgh Surgery Online.

Full scholarship funding has been secured from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC) to support training surgeons from the World Bank list of low and middle income countries coming from East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

As part of this CSC funding, the supported educational programmes are required to deliver a capacity building retreat on the graduation of the student in collaboration with an international partner, the College of Surgeons of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). Edinburgh Surgery Online (ESO) represents a partnership between the University of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons. ESO delivers a three year online Masters in Surgical Sciences the content of which is aligned to the early years of surgical training whereas its two year online ChM programmes support the later professional and academic development of the trainee as he or she move towards independent specialist practice in general surgery (ChM Gen Surg), trauma and orthopaedics (ChM T&O) as well as urology (ChM Urol), vascular and endovascular surgery (ChM VEV).

### **Requirements**

The individual would:

- have completed surgical training, have a fellowship in surgery
- be able to demonstrate evidence of an interest in education, training and surgical research
- have insight or experience of online education in surgery
- be expected to support the development of a capacity building retreat working with the ESO team to ensure that programme content is fit for purpose.
- serve as an advocate for the online masters programmes as well as the scholarship programme
- support the mentorship of online masters students and graduates
- help to identify opportunities for extending the reach of online masters programmes in the COSECSA region and to consolidate the links between COSECSA and the ESO team.
- have opportunity to receive funded professional and educational support through the current Commonwealth Commission Scholarship grant that would include a visiting observership in Edinburgh and funded access to accredited online educational support from the University of Edinburgh.

## **Edinburgh Surgery Online Scholarship opportunities for surgical trainees in COSECSA region**

### **Scholarships include full tuition fees and contribution towards costs of internet access, printing and project**

#### **Edinburgh Surgery Online Global Scholarships (20):**

- Applicants must be resident in Africa, South Asia, Caribbean Islands, Pacific Islands or Central and South America.
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019

#### **Edinburgh Surgery Online Global Tutor Scholarship (2):**

- Residential requirement same as ESO Global Scholarship.
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019

#### **Johnson & Johnson Scholarships (2):**

- Applicants must be resident in Malawi, Zambia, Uganda or Rwanda.
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019

#### **Commonwealth Scholarships (10):**

- Applicants must be resident in one of the countries listed: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Eswatini, The Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia.
- APPLICATION DEADLINE:

#### **WAHA (Women and Health Alliance) Scholarship (1):**

- A single scholarship is available to support a female surgical trainee based in Africa.
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019

#### **NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) (5):**

- Applicants must be involved with the NIHR Global surgery initiative and be resident in Africa, South Asia, Caribbean Islands, Pacific Islands or Central and South America.
- Funding for 2019/20 to be confirmed.

### **Scholarships with contribution towards tuition fees**

#### **The Garden Scholarship – MSc in Surgical Sciences (1):**

- This Scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit and evidence of a commitment to a career in surgery, to a second or third year student enrolled only on the MSc in Surgical Sciences [am I not supporting a ChM student?]. Applicants must be both nationals of and resident in a country defined as a low and middle income country
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019

#### **Edinburgh Surgery Online Patient Safety Scholarships (10):**

- To support any graduate health care professional undertaking the MSc in Patient Safety & Clinical Human Factors. No residential requirement.
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019

#### **eoSurgical Scholarship (1):**

- Applicants for the MSc in Surgical Sciences must be both nationals and resident in Africa, South Asia, Caribbean Island or Pacific Islands.
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019