



# **Chevening: An effective long-term foreign policy asset**



CHEVENING

# Content



- 05 Executive summary
- 06 Building global networks of influence
- 08 Developing global talent in UK priority sectors
- 16 Ambassadors of UK values
- 22 Connecting leaders to the UK for life
- 26 Strategic partnerships and funding



# Executive summary

For more than four decades, Chevening has supported outstanding future leaders to study in the UK, build lifelong connections, and return home equipped to lead reform and drive innovation across fields as diverse as science and technology, public policy, law, finance, journalism, and more.



Throughout that time, Chevening has demonstrated its ability to support meaningful change and build stronger ties between the UK and our partners around the world. It is a model of partnership that is central to our international work, and essential to meeting today's global challenges - from economic development and climate change to governance and security.



Today's global challenges demand new ideas, creativity and ingenuity. By investing in future leaders, Chevening supports development, builds lasting relationships, and turns ideas into action to improve lives around the world.

The stories of Chevening scholars demonstrate the lasting value of this programme, the strength of the UK's global partnerships, and the optimism we should all feel about what this network will achieve in the years ahead.

I am grateful to our teams and partners who make Chevening possible, and I encourage you to explore the stories in this report.

Rt Hon Baroness Chapman of Darlington, Minister of State (International Development and Africa), FCDO

# Chevening: An investment in the UK's long-term influence

Funded by the UK government and 145+ partners contributing £16.5 million annually, we:

Building global networks that extend the UK's global influence:



## 60,000+ Chevening alumni

across 140+ countries form a trusted global network with enduring connections to the UK.



## 22 alumni have served as heads of state or government

giving the UK access to senior decision-makers worldwide.



## 98% recommend the UK as a place to study

strengthening the UK higher education sector's global reputation.



Strengthening global capacity to support international development and advance UK priorities:



**Alumni are shaping policy and driving change in sectors aligned with UK priority areas** including climate (21%), security (24%), international development (24%), and growth (23%).



## 88% of alumni apply the skills and knowledge gained in the UK

to drive stability, prosperity and positive change in their home countries.



## 90% share the knowledge they've learned in the UK with others

strengthening local institutions and building the expertise that supports long-term stability and more effective partnerships for the UK.

Connecting future leaders to the UK for life, creating global ambassadors for UK values and interests:



## Alumni act as ambassadors of UK values and interests

74% have promoted UK values since returning home and 10 alumni are currently serving as UK ambassadors to their home countries.



## Almost all alumni have a positive experience in the UK

99% report a positive experience, and 96% say the skills they gained in the UK have advanced their careers, fostering lasting goodwill and engagement with the UK.



## Alumni strengthen UK business ties

47% have recommended the UK as a good place for business, and approximately one in ten (12%) have personally conducted business with the UK.

# Developing global talent in UK priority sectors

Chevening equips alumni with the knowledge, skills, and networks to drive sustainable development in their home countries and address shared challenges aligned with UK priorities:



## Growth and prosperity

# Bernado Ivo Cruz



**Country:** Portugal

**Title:** Portugal's Secretary of State for International Trade and Foreign Investment

**UK institution:** University of Bristol, 2001

Chevening alumnus Bernado Ivo Cruz is strengthening UK-Portugal economic relations at the highest levels of government and business.

During his time as Director of the Portuguese Trade and Investment Agency (AICEP), he co-developed 'Innovating Portugal,' connecting high-growth Portuguese companies with UK investors and industry leaders across priority sectors including renewable energy, digital technologies, and aerospace. The programme supported organisations to expand into the UK, strengthening bilateral trade and investment.

As Secretary of State, he continued to promote UK-Portugal collaboration, encouraging closer economic engagement and new commercial opportunities following the UK's exit from the European Union.



Since 2006, I have connected UK institutions and Portuguese actors. Chevening enabled me to operate across cultures, translate priorities, and build trust-based relationships.

It offered access to a world-class education and to a lifelong network of practitioners, policymakers and leaders committed to public service and international cooperation.

## Climate and sustainability

# Olesia Kompaniiets



**Country:** Ukraine

**UK institution:** University College London, International Relations, 2014-15

After completing her Chevening Scholarship, Olesia returned to Ukraine during a critical period of conflict and reform. Over the past decade, she has drawn on her UK education and international networks to strengthen national resilience, support governance reform, and advance Ukraine's ambition for NATO membership.

In her work with NATO's Ukrainian office, Olesia led a professional development programme for government officials responsible for Euro-Atlantic integration, supporting 56 defence and security agencies. This work helped shift institutional approaches to secure senior-level buy-in for reforms aligned with Ukraine's NATO aspirations, in close collaboration with the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.



For more than ten years, I've remained deeply connected to the UK and the British Embassy. That connection comes from genuine appreciation and gratitude. Whenever I reach out to UK partners, I am taken seriously. I feel heard, seen, and supported.

She has also expanded NATO Ukraine programme funding from a single UK donor to four international contributors, multiplying the reach and sustainability of UK expertise in Ukraine.

Finally, Olesia has co-founded a Ukrainian NGO that works with multiple government ministries to support vulnerable groups and strengthen social cohesion in preparation for Ukraine's longer-term post-war recovery.

## Development for inclusive societies

# Anelize Lenzi Ruas de Almeida



**Country:** Brazil

**Title:** Attorney General's Office for the National Treasury (under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva)

**UK institution:** University of Oxford, Public Policy, 2019

Anelize has played a central role in strengthening Brazil's fiscal governance, helping to position the Attorney General's Office for the National Treasury as a key contributor to economic policymaking.

She has led major legal and fiscal reforms, including:

- Introducing a new fiscal framework to keep Brazil's government borrowing at safe, manageable levels over the long term
- Advancing tax reform by introducing a value-added tax to make the tax system fairer, simpler and more sustainable
- Shaping Brazil's response to global trade pressures, including tariffs imposed by the United States
- Supporting the **ecological transformation plan**, which encourages changes in the economy to support sustainable development
- Supporting economic transformation initiatives affecting activity representing around 30% of GDP

In 2025 alone, Anelize's work contributed to the recovery of over R\$68 billion in outstanding tax liabilities.



Without Chevening, my civil service career would have been a much more conventional and restricted one - one in which I would have passed up opportunities.

Exposure to people from different cultural and political backgrounds enhanced my ability to consider other perspectives and move up to senior leadership roles.

Doors began to open for me after Chevening.

Her leadership is helping to strengthen Brazil's economic stability, legal clarity, and institutions in one of the UK's key Latin American partners, making it a more predictable place for international collaboration and investment.

## Security and stability

# Vivek Yadav



**Country:** India

**Title:** Director for IT and Cyber Security at India's Ministry of Defence

**UK institution:** Cranfield University, Chevening India Cyber Security Fellowship, 2023

Drawing on expertise and international relationships developed through the Chevening India Cyber Security Fellowship at Cranfield University, Vivek Yadav is helping to shape India's digital and AI agenda, and reinforcing opportunities for deeper collaboration between the UK and India on cyber resilience and emerging technologies.

By engaging with UK experts including the Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre at the University of Oxford and the UK Defence Cyber Agency, the fellowship strengthened his approach to working strategically with international partners on cyber security policy and AI governance.

For example, since returning home Vivek has contributed to national discussions on India's AI infrastructure and digital security, including as a panellist at the India AI Impact Summit, where he contributed to discussions on shared security challenges and the importance of secure, resilient and responsibly governed national AI capabilities. He also led the development and implementation of a comprehensive governance, risk, and compliance framework to strengthen resilience against evolving cyber security threats.



Relationships that would typically take years to build only took months, thanks to the Chevening network.

Chevening did not simply expand my horizons. It raised my sense of obligation to put that expanded perspective to work in service of something larger than my own career trajectory.

Vivek continues to collaborate with the contacts he made in the UK as part of his Chevening Fellowship, including researchers and faculty members at Cranfield University's Shrivenham campus, who provide ongoing insight into emerging technologies in the cyber security field.

# Hear from Head of the Pakistan Group

## Richard Barlow

Head of the Pakistan  
Group at the Foreign,  
Commonwealth and  
Development Office:



“

I have experienced for myself, both as a Chevening Board member and also as Head of FCDO's Pakistan Group, just how impactful Chevening is.

For example, Chevening alumna Maha Kamal is championing women's leadership in Pakistan's clean energy transition, strengthening UK-Pakistan collaboration in sustainable energy.

Through the Chevening Climate Mentoring Scheme UK-trained Chevening alumni are also mentoring young climate professionals in Pakistan, building technical skills and policy insight that supports climate resilience.

Alumni go on to serve in senior roles including as Chief Commissioner of Islamabad, Additional Secretary for Climate Finance, and senior members of the judiciary.

# Ambassadors of UK values

Chevening Scholars build lasting UK connections through their academic studies, Chevening events, and professional networks fostered by the programme. These experiences shape positive perceptions of UK culture and values, which they carry into their careers, strengthening future collaboration with the UK on shared global challenges.

 **95%**

of alumni believe the UK is an example of a strong democratic society

 **94%**

believe the UK is an open and welcoming place

 **91%**

believe the UK is a force for good in the world



The Chevening events programme helps scholars gain insights into UK perspectives, values, and approaches to leadership and diplomacy.



## Mohammed Alkafarna

**Country:** Palestine



My vision is to use the knowledge and perspective I gain here to help rebuild and strengthen health systems in crisis-affected regions, especially in my homeland. Every lecture, every conversation, every moment in this new chapter reminds me that perseverance can turn even the hardest struggles into purpose, and that hope, when nurtured, always finds its way forward.

16 March 20



## Rina Ademi

**Country:** Kosovo



Discussing ideas with fellow Chevening Scholars about building fairer, more inclusive societies [at a Chevening event] was a reminder of how important the Chevening network is in building professional connections and exchanging ideas that can later translate into impact at home.

# UK values abroad

When they return home, scholars bring these values into their leadership, where they champion democratic principles, inclusive societies, and fundamental freedoms. For example:



**99%**

of new alumni believe individuals should be allowed to express their opinions and views freely, even if they disagree with 'official' views

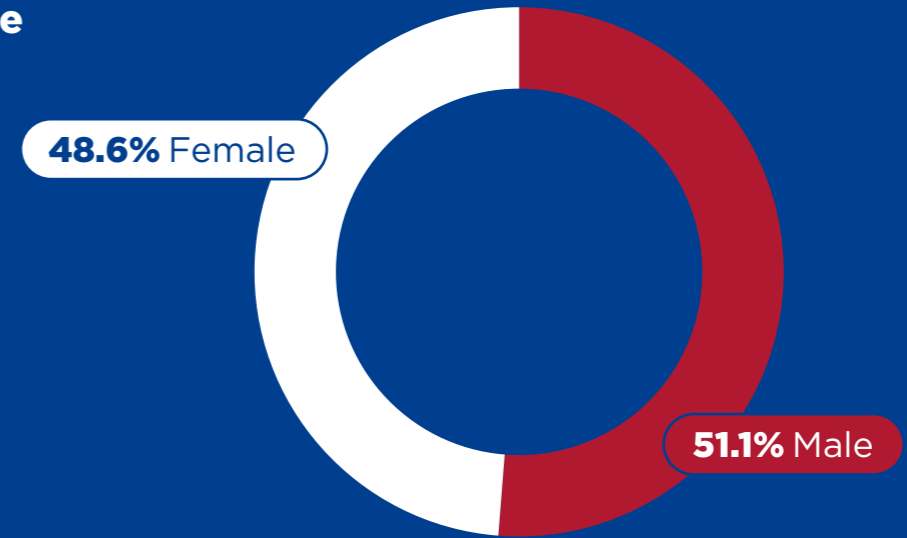
**92%**

believe the media should be allowed to publish news with no interference from the government

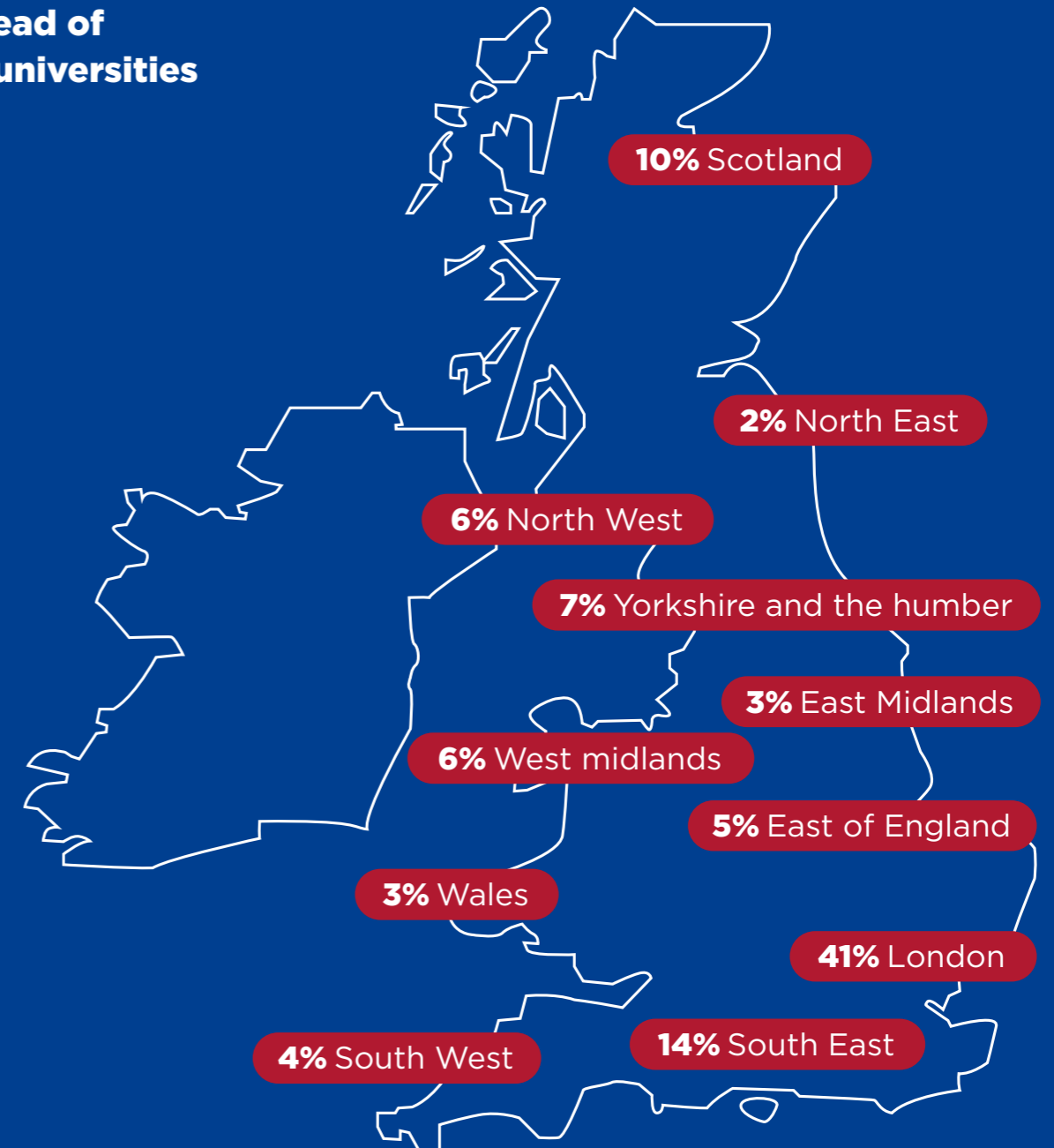
**81%**

agree the law should apply equally to all citizens

## Gender balance



## Spread of UK universities



# Connecting future leaders to the UK for life

Chevening fosters long-term partnerships that demonstrate the UK's enduring influence and commitment to shared international priorities.



## Climate and sustainability

# Oleksiy Povolotskiy

**Country:** Ukraine

**Title:** Head of the Office for Energy Infrastructure Recovery, DTEK

**UK institution:** University of Leicester, Comparative Policing and Social Conflict, 1998



Oleksiy is leading efforts to restore and modernise Ukraine's energy infrastructure, ensuring electricity and heat for more than 20 million households affected by the ongoing conflict.

As Head of the Office for Energy Infrastructure Recovery and Modernisation at DTEK, the largest private investor in the energy sector of Ukraine, he secures critical equipment and financing to repair damaged facilities and drive long-term upgrades needed to strengthen Ukraine's energy resilience and support stable energy supplies across Europe. His work has helped sustain the energy sector despite more than \$100 billion in damage.

'Our goal is not just to rebuild the infrastructure, but to build modern electricity generation and grids that will meet challenging needs of future society.'

Drawing on the skills, knowledge, and networks gained through Chevening, Oleksiy has built partnerships with UK energy companies and equipment manufacturers, including EDF UK and DIRECTX, securing technical support essential for restoring damaged infrastructure.

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Chevening gave me knowledge and experience that I draw on every day now in rebuilding Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

It enabled me to build national and international networks, strengthening cross-border collaboration.

I'm looking forward to deepening partnerships with the UK to enhance the reliability and security of Ukraine's energy system.

He has also developed relationships with UK organisations, including the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and the Ukraine Britain Business Council (UBBC). He is keen to expand collaboration through initiatives like Innovate Ukraine, and support partnerships that strengthen UK-Ukraine ties and enhance national and regional energy security.

# Scholar perceptions of their Chevening experience



## Shantal Artwell

**Country:** Jamaica

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This was never just about earning a degree. It was about building global alliances and redefining leadership that moves across borders with confidence.



## Diego Lobo

**Country:** Brazil

“

Having lived, studied, and worked in the UK, it made a real difference in how I spoke about the country and how I connected people to it. Chevening gave me lived experience. I wasn't promoting an idea of the UK. I was talking about a place I knew well.



## Alaa Shorafa

**Country:** Palestine, OCIS Fellow

“

I feel valued and appreciated, and this sense of belonging has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my experience. This fellowship has given me the opportunity to reflect, grow, and explore new perspectives.





# Strategic partnerships and funding

Chevening's impact is amplified through strategic partnerships with UK and international organisations. Over 25% of scholars are co-funded by 145+ partners, enabling the programme to form lasting relationships with more emerging leaders.



## Partner contributions

Partner type	Contribution
 University	£11,509,000
 Corporate	£5,018,000



### Partner perspectives

## Bank of Georgia

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One of the reputational goals underpinning Bank of Georgia's ongoing partnership with Chevening is a desire to strengthen ties with the UK, where the bank also has a corporate presence. We value the friendship between our two countries.



## iibGroup

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By supporting scholars from these countries, we are not just funding an education, we are empowering future leaders with the global perspective, knowledge, and network to solve local challenges and create lasting, positive change.

Find a full list of Chevening partners at [chevening.org/partners](https://chevening.org/partners)

## Partner internships

By facilitating placements with UK businesses, Chevening provides scholars unique opportunities to learn from UK experts, gain hands-on experience in their fields, and build professional networks.



## Natalia Makohon “

**Country:** Ukraine

This experience equipped me to tell human-centric stories with fairness, balance, and courage, helping people better understand each other across borders. It challenged and inspired me, and shaped how I approach journalism going forward.

## Partnership impact

# Dr Emma Hennessey

**Title:** Head of The Scholarships Unit at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

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The funding invested by our partners not only supports outstanding scholars; it strengthens the UK's influence and creates lasting impact around the world. By co-funding these future leaders, we build long-term international networks, support progress on shared global priorities, and deliver tangible benefits both for the UK and for the countries where our alumni go on to lead.





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