Study Proposal

The short outline for non-specialists, the detailed plan of study for your single chosen course, and your keywords.

425	1	1	Free
WORDS ACROSS 2 ANSWERS	COURSE, ALREADY CHOSEN	WORKED EXAMPLE	TO READ & DOWNLOAD

ABOUT THE EXAMPLES.

All names, universities, courses, modules, academics and statistics below are anonymised and reinvented versions of successful Commonwealth applications, changed to show technique. In your application every course, module and academic must be real, current and checked against the university's own handbook.

01 SECTION 1

Part one: one course, two answers

Word plan.

ANSWER	LIMIT	SPLIT
Study outline	125	The problem 40, what you will study 50, the outcome 35
Detailed plan	300	Why this course and the UK 110, what you want from it 100, the dissertation 90
Keywords	3	Field-level terms, not slogans

Why there is no "contact with universities" question here

If you have read the Commonwealth Master's guides, or compared notes with a Master's applicant, you may expect a separate 100-word answer about your applications and correspondence with universities. The Shared Scholarship form does not have one. You chose one UK institution and one course on the Details tab, from the list that university has already had

approved by the CSC, so there is nothing to compare and no ranking to justify. Your only two essay answers here are the short outline and the detailed plan of study, both about that single course.

Two answers, two jobs

ANSWER	THE JOB	THE READER
Short outline	Make the whole plan understood in 125 words	An intelligent person outside your field
Detailed plan	Prove this specific course closes your gap	A well-informed reader who is not a specialist

The university swap test

Because you only argue for one course, it is easy to drift into praise that could describe any good university. Replace the university's name with another one in your field. Does most of your detailed plan still work? If yes, it is generic. A convincing plan could only be written about this course, because it names modules, methods and people that exist nowhere else.

Still apply for admission in parallel

You must apply to the university for admission alongside your CSC Central application. The two processes run separately, and a university cannot nominate you if you have not also been admitted to the course. Keep evidence of your application (a reference number, a confirmation email) in case you need it, even though the form does not ask you to report on it directly.

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02 SECTION 2

Part two: the short outline, beat by beat (125 words)

This is the one place where the panel explicitly asks for an outline written for a reader who knows nothing of your subject. It is also the answer most often written for specialists.

The structure

1. **The problem (about 40 words).** What is wrong, in plain language, with one figure.

2. **What you will study (about 50 words).** What the course covers, in your own words and in terms of what you will learn to do. Define any technical term in a few words.
3. **The outcome (about 35 words).** What you will aim to find or build, and for whom.

The non-specialist rule

Define every abbreviation and every specialist term the first time. "Circular systems engineering, which means designing products and industries so that materials are repaired, reused and recycled rather than thrown away." Say what the thing is before you say what it is called.

The test. Give your outline to someone outside your field. Ask them to say, in one sentence, what you are going to do. If they cannot, rewrite it.

Short outline versus detailed plan

The short outline is the plan in miniature. It must not repeat the detailed plan sentence by sentence. The outline says what and why. The detailed plan says which modules, which people and which dissertation.

03 SECTION 3

Part three: the detailed plan of study, beat by beat (300 words)

This answer has three beats: why this course and the UK, what you want from the course, and the dissertation.

Why this course and the UK, around 110 words

The CSC's feedback is explicit that it is insufficient to say a university is excellent, or to give a ranking. It is also explicit that listing a course's options is not enough, and that text copied from a website or brochure may be treated as plagiarism. The case is built from specifics.

What to research and name.

- **Two or three modules**, exactly as in the current handbook, and what each teaches you.
- **A research centre or group** attached to the course, and what it studies.
- **An academic**, with one specific piece of their recent work that is relevant to your problem. Do not name anyone whose work you have not read.

- **How the course is taught and assessed**: client projects, fieldwork, a dissertation route, industry links.

Why the UK. "The UK has a good education system" is not an answer. A convincing answer names something the UK has that you cannot get at home, and says what you will do with it.

> ***Weak:*** *"The UK is renowned for its higher education, and Westmoor is a world-class university."*
> ***Strong:*** *"The UK runs producer-responsibility rules and battery-tracking trials I can study directly, and I will compare them with my country's 2023 Rules."*

You are not ranking alternatives here. Unlike a scheme that asks for three course choices, you do not need a sentence about why you rejected other options. Spend the saved words making the case for this course more specific instead: a named module, a named academic, a named method.

What you want from the course, around 100 words

Link the course to your capability gap and to your objectives, using the module-to-objective map from the career plans guide. Say what you will be able to do at the end of the year that you cannot do now.

The three lenses. Many strong plans cover three: technical (what you will measure or build), policy (which rule or institution you will analyse) and social (which people or community you will work with). Use the lenses that fit your plan, and do not force all three.

The dissertation, around 90 words

The CSC lists specific dissertation topics among its indicators, so give a title and a plan. A strong dissertation entry has four elements:

1. **A working title.** Specific and promissory. "Registering the Informal: Policy Pathways for Battery Circularity."
2. **The question it answers.** What will it find out or design?
3. **The method.** Modelling, comparison, fieldwork, data. One line.
4. **The link to your plan.** It is the first deliverable of the pilot you will lead on return.

Be realistic. A one-year taught course has a short dissertation window. A plan that would take three years of fieldwork reads as unrealistic. Choose a question you can answer in months, using

methods you will learn on the course.

04 SECTION 4

Part four: keywords

Three keywords classify your study. They should be field-level terms that a reviewer would use to file your application, not slogans.

WEAK	STRONG
Change	Circular economy
Impact	Policy analysis
Development	Community-led reporting
Future	Battery recovery

Choose one term for the field, one for the method or approach, and one for the context or population.

05 SECTION 5

Part five: a full sample set

Bracketed labels show structure. Do not include them. All names are invented.

Sample, battery circularity

Sample, Short outline

> *My country is adopting electric vehicles quickly, but almost nothing is planned for what happens when their batteries wear out. Nearly nine in ten used batteries are broken open by hand in small workshops with little safety, polluting canals and losing valuable metals. At Westmoor University I will study circular systems engineering, which means designing products and industries so that materials are repaired, reused and recycled rather than thrown away. I will examine how battery design, fair business models and better rules can connect informal workshops to licensed recyclers. I will start with electric three-wheeler*

> *batteries, the most common vehicle in my city, and look for practical ways to recover metals, cut recycling costs and include the workers already doing this work.*

Sample, Detailed plan of study

> *My plan is to learn how to design a battery recycling system that is technically sound, legally workable and open to the informal workers who handle most of the waste.*
> *I am studying the MSc Circular Systems Engineering at Westmoor University because it treats a battery as a system, not a product. Its core modules in Life Cycle Assessment and Material Flow Analysis teach how to measure what a product contains and where it goes, and Professor Ines Calder's elective in the Business School covers the policy side most engineering courses leave out. The Westmoor Circular Economy Centre, where Dr Tomas Wray studies battery tracking, gives me researchers to test ideas with. The UK matters because it runs producer-responsibility rules and battery-tracking trials I can study directly and compare with my country's 2023 Battery Waste Management Rules.*
> *From the course I want three abilities I cannot build at home. First, to quantify how much metal informal dismantling loses, so that policy rests on numbers. Second, to simulate how rule changes affect workers, recyclers and producers. Third, to design battery packs that are easier to take apart, since my country has no standard for this. I also want to learn how to map informal recycling clusters and design training pilots, starting with 60 workers and aiming for 900.*
> *My dissertation, "Registering the Informal: Policy Pathways for Battery Circularity", will combine techno-economic modelling, a comparison of the UK's producer-responsibility rules with my country's, and field visits to Ashbury Yard. It is the first deliverable of the pilot I will run on return.*

Keywords. Circular economy. Inclusive policy. Battery recovery.

What this sample does. The outline defines every technical term and could be understood by a stranger. The detailed plan names modules, a research centre and an academic with a reason, explains why the UK without ranking alternatives, and gives a dissertation title and method that is the first piece of the plan.

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06 SECTION 6

Part six: dos and don'ts

Do

- Apply for university admission alongside your CSC Central application
- Write the short outline for someone outside your field
- Define every abbreviation on first use
- Name modules and academics exactly as in the current handbook
- Give a reason for the UK that names something unavailable at home
- Give a dissertation title, question and method
- Use the words saved from not comparing alternatives to add more specifics

Don't

- Say a university is "world-class" or give its ranking as a reason
- Copy text from a course page or brochure
- List every module on the course
- Name an academic whose work you have not read
- Propose a dissertation that would take three years
- Use technical terms in the short outline
- Write a sentence comparing courses you did not apply to; there is nothing here to rank

07 SECTION 7

Part seven: common mistakes, and the fix

MISTAKE	WHY IT COSTS MARKS	THE FIX
"It is a leading university."	No substance; the CSC says ranking is not a reason	Name the module, centre or academic that closes your gap
A list of modules	Merely listing options is not enough	Choose three and say what each gives you
Text from the course website	May be treated as plagiarism	Rewrite in your own words, tied to your plan
Technical short outline	Panel cannot follow it	Define terms and test it on a non-specialist

MISTAKE	WHY IT COSTS MARKS	THE FIX
No dissertation topic	The CSC lists specific dissertation topics as an indicator	Give a title, question and method
Writing as if there were three choices	Wastes words on a comparison the Shared form does not ask for	Spend those words naming more specifics about your one course
Course not on the university's approved list	The scholarship cannot be tenable on an unapproved course	Check your institution is studying its CSC-approved course, not a similar-sounding one
"The UK has the best education."	Generic	Name what the UK has that you cannot get at home

08 SECTION 8

Part eight: checklists

While drafting

- University admission application submitted alongside CSC Central
- A short outline that a non-specialist can summarise
- Every abbreviation and technical term defined on first use
- Two or three named modules, a research centre and a named academic
- A reason for the UK that names something unavailable at home
- No sentence comparing alternatives you were never asked to rank
- A dissertation title, question, method and link to your plan
- Three field-level keywords, not slogans

Before submitting

- The study plan names the same capability gap as the objectives and career plans
- Within each word limit shown in the live form

- The status of your university application is accurate today