



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

# COL CHAIRS PROGRAMME

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2024

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) appoints distinguished experts as COL Chairs to advance research, innovation and thought leadership in COL's fields of competence. The programme was started in 2010 to (i) facilitate the development of effective open and distance learning (ODL) and technology-enhanced education and training through advocacy, research and capacity-building across the Commonwealth; (ii) strengthen regional cooperation; and (iii) provide visibility for COL in the field. COL Chairs are honorary positions hosted by universities within the Commonwealth.

### Minimum criteria for applicants

To be eligible for the COL Chairs Programme, applicants should:

- be a citizen of a Commonwealth country;
- hold a PhD, EdD or equivalent qualification;
- have a strong international reputation and network in any of COL's areas of competence;
- have a proven track record in conducting research and other innovative activities in open and distance learning (ODL), open educational resources (OER), technology-enabled learning (TEL); employability; authentic assessment; quality assurance; lifelong learning for farmers; and/or gender.
- be affiliated with an academic institution, civil society organisation, or other institution in the Commonwealth; and
- be endorsed by the head of the host organisation or institution.

### Submission

Applicants should direct submissions and any queries on the COL Chairs Programme application to the following email address: [colhighered@colfinder.org](mailto:colhighered@colfinder.org)

**Submission deadline: 31 March 2024**

### Required documents

- Cover letter
- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Endorsement letter from head of hosting institution or organisation

The cover letter should include the following details:

- The applicant's current position and institution/organisation, as well as a contact phone number and email.
- Outline of the applicant's suitability to apply to the COL Chairs Programme. Consider professional experience, role in advancing ODL, OER, employability, authentic assessment, quality assurance, lifelong learning for farmers, and/or gender, as well as the professional networks that will facilitate completing the duties of the COL Chair appointment (500 words maximum).
- Proposed activities to be pursued as a COL Chair as they relate to research, innovation and thought leadership in ODL, OER, employability, authentic assessment, quality assurance, lifelong learning for farmers, and/or gender (500 words maximum).
- Intended outcomes and impact of the proposed activities in terms of COL's Strategic Plan 2021-2027. Also indicate which individuals, organisations or institutions will benefit in short, medium and long-term periods of the proposed activities (500 words maximum).

All applications received will be reviewed and assessed internally at COL. All decisions made by COL shall be final. No further queries related to non-acceptance in the mentorship programme will be entertained.