

PM call with President Putin of Russia: 13 December 2021

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin.



The Prime Minister spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin today.

He expressed the United Kingdom's deep concern over the build-up of Russian forces on Ukraine's border, and reiterated the importance of working through diplomatic channels to de-escalate tensions and identify durable solutions.

The Prime Minister emphasised the UK's commitment to Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and warned that any destabilising action would be a strategic mistake that would have significant consequences.

He also recognised the importance of dialogue on international and regional security, and they agreed it is imperative that all sides respect the terms of the Minsk Protocol.

The leaders also welcomed progress on addressing climate change and protecting forests at COP26, noting that UK-Russia collaboration is critical to deliver on the pledges made in Glasgow.

Published 13 December 2021

British Government announces 41

winners of 2022 Marshall Scholarships

Washington, DC (13 December 2021) –The British Government announced today the 41 winners of the 2022 Marshall Scholarships. The winners, considered among the top undergraduate university students and recent graduates in the United States, were chosen following a rigorous, months-long selection process. They will begin graduate studies at top academic institutions across the United Kingdom beginning in September next year.

The latest class of the UK's 68-year-old Marshall Scholarship programme reflects a wide range of cultural, academic and geographic backgrounds. Among the cohort are nationally-recognized LGBT rights advocates, artists, award-winning documentary filmmakers and scientists conducting cutting-edge research on Artificial Intelligence and space travel. This year's class also features the largest number of Service Academy graduates in the scholarship's history, with seven Marshall Scholars hailing from the US Military Academy (three), US Naval Academy (two) and the US Air Force Academy (two).

"Marshall Scholars continue to represent the very best of American society, from their ingenuity and creativity to their commitment to public service," said Dame Karen Pierce, British Ambassador to the United States. "For decades, the scholarship has played an important role in supporting young future leaders such as these and I am excited for them to continue their development at some of the UK's top universities." The program received nearly 1,000 applications from top undergraduate students representing institutions across the United States. Of the 33 US universities represented, nearly a third are from state or public universities. The University of New Hampshire won its first ever scholarship and the University of Maryland – Baltimore County (1993) and Montana State University (2013) won for only the second time in their respective histories.

"We are delighted to host them in the UK and welcome them into the long and proud tradition of Marshall Scholars who have contributed so much to the US, UK and the world," said John Raine, Chair of the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission. "I am pleased in particular to welcome Scholars from Universities who have not sent Marshall Scholars before and hope even more US Universities will encourage candidates next year"

The program is principally funded by the British Government, but also benefits from generous support through partnership arrangements with world-leading British academic institutions, allowing winners to pursue graduate degrees in almost any academic subject at any university in the UK. The 2022 class will take up their studies at 21 different institutions across the UK starting next September, ranging from London institutions such as King's College London to the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland.

The scholarship program also continues to receive generous support from the Association of Marshall Scholars (AMS), the official alumni organisation of the Marshall Scholarship. The British Schools & Universities Foundation (BUSF) also provides generous support and funds for a scholarship.

The full list of 2022 winners are:

Student	US University	UK University
Yasa Baig	Duke University	University of Cambridge
Samuel Brody	United States Air Force Academy	University of Oxford
Allyson Burba	United States Air Force Academy	London School of Economics
Julia Chaffers	Princeton University	University College London
Herman Chavez	University of California – Los Angeles	King’s College London
Maggie Chen	Harvard University	Imperial College London
Kennedy Crowder	University of Pennsylvania	University of Bristol
Aissa Dearing-Benton	Howard University	University of Oxford
Jackson Foster	University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa	Durham University
Isabelle Galko	Southern Methodist University	University of Oxford
Matthew Gannon	Dartmouth College	University of Manchester
Rohit Goyal	Yale University	London School of Economics
Nicolas Graber-Mitchell	Amherst College	University of Oxford
Tommy Hall	United States Military Academy	University of Cambridge
Kade Heckel	United States Naval Academy	University of Sussex
Myya Helm	West Virginia University	Cardiff University
Callie Holley	New York University	Birmingham City University
Jonathan Kuo	University of California – Berkeley	University of Manchester
Abrita Kuthumi	University of New Hampshire	University of Sussex
Abdullah Kuziez	Washington University in St. Louis	University of Oxford
Annie Li	Emory University	University of Oxford
David Li	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Cambridge
Maja Lynn	University of Pittsburgh	Queen’s University Belfast
James Marek	Duke University	University of Edinburgh
Greta Markey	Carnegie Mellon University	University of East Anglia
Andrew McDonald	Michigan State University	University of Cambridge
Kennedy Miller	University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill	Royal Academy of Music
Lydia Nyacheio	University of Wisconsin – Madison	University of Manchester

Student	US University	UK University
Ifeyinwa Ojukwu	Syracuse University	University College London
Chinaza Okonkwo	University of Pennsylvania	University of Oxford
Nina Potischman	Ponoma College	University of Exeter
Akhil Rajan	Yale University	University of Oxford
Evan Robertson	United States Naval Academy	University of Strathclyde
Emma San Martin	United States Military Academy	University of Glasgow
Joshua Slaughter	University of Maryland – Baltimore County	University of Edinburgh
RB Smith	Williams College	University of Edinburgh
Osimiri Sprowal	Temple University	University of Warwick
Berenice Sylverain	Columbia University	University of Oxford
Henry Thompson	United States Naval Academy	King’s College London
Nathaniel Trost	University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa	Goldsmiths, University of London
Max Yates	Montana State University	University of Cambridge

About the Marshall Scholarship

Named for Secretary of State George C. Marshall, the Marshall Scholarship Program began in 1953 as a gesture of gratitude to the people of the United States for the assistance that the UK received after World War II under the Marshall Plan. Since that time, it has remained uniquely positioned among national scholarships for its prestige and scope: offering talented young Americans the chance to study any academic subject at UK universities of their choice for up to 3 years. This has given rise to an unprecedented breadth of expertise in almost every academic field, producing numerous university presidents, six Pulitzer Prize winners, one Nobel Laureate, fourteen MacArthur Fellows, two-academy-Award nominees, two US Supreme Court Justices and a NASA Astronaut.

With over 2,200 scholarships awarded to date, Marshall Scholars are leading the conversation and direction of some of the most critical issues of our time. Notable winners of the scholarship include:

- Supreme Court Associate Justices Stephen Breyer and Neil Gorsuch
- William Burns, Director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency
- Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Anne Applebaum, Tom Friedman, Jeffrey Gettleman and Dan Yergin
- Ray Dolby, Founder of Dolby Laboratories and 1997 winner of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation
- Dr. Dan Barouch, Leading COVID-19 vaccine researcher and William Bosworth Castle Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School
- Reid Hoffman, Philanthropist and founder of social networking platform LinkedIn
- Anne McClain, NASA Astronaut who served aboard the International Space Station in 2018

- Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State for the State of Michigan
- Patrick Hovakimian, Associate Deputy Attorney General, US Department of Justice
- Joshua Oppenheimer, Academy Award-nominated documentary film director of The Act of Killing
- Nancy Gibbs, Former Managing Editor of TIME Magazine
- Roger Tsien, 2008 Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry
- R.F. Kuang, Author of the Poppy War book series and 2020 winner of the Astounding Award for Best New Writer

For media inquiries about the Marshall Scholarship and the recipients, please contact Josh Stanton at Joshua.Stanton@fcdo.gov.uk.

Civil news: help to balance off 100% POA contingency cost claims

News story

We want to help providers balance off outstanding cases claimed under the now closed 100% payment on account (POA) contingency process with final bills.



We are looking to help providers who claimed a 100% contingency POA payment to balance off outstanding cases claimed under the scheme.

What was this contingency?

The 100% POA contingency process ran from April 2020 until June 2021. It allowed providers to claim for a temporary payment on older claims using a POAC1 form to claim 100% of the costs under a POA payment.

How are you helping?

We are now looking to help providers balance off any outstanding claims by submitting their final claims for assessment.

Outstanding claims should be sent by the end of January 2022. Otherwise, there is a risk we will seek repayment of POAs.

This would apply if the final bill is ready to be submitted to the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) but has not been sent.

Submitting paper claims

Paper claims can be sent to the LAA electronically for assessment using the guidance below.

Further information

[Electronic submissions of paper bills: Quick Guide](#) – training and support website

[Schedule of processes restarting after COVID-19 contingency](#)

ContactCivil@justice.gov.uk – for any queries on the process

Published 13 December 2021

Chancellor praises global cooperation as UK G7 presidency comes to a close

- G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meet for the final time under UK's Presidency
- Chairing the virtual session, Chancellor Rishi Sunak praised and thanked counterparts for their efforts over the past year
- Under UK leadership, G7 backed landmark global tax changes so big firms will pay tax where they do business

At the virtual Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, Rishi Sunak highlighted the string of major agreements that have been struck under the UK's leadership over the past 12 months to help build a stronger and more resilient global economy.

This includes agreeing to back an historic international tax agreement to tackle the challenges that arise from an increasingly globalised and digital economy.

The landmark deal reforms global tax rules so big international companies will pay tax in the countries they do business, as well as cracking down on global avoidance through a 15% minimum tax rate. The UK has been spearheading the push for an international solution to the challenge of taxing technology multi-nationals for nearly a decade, with the Chancellor making a global agreement a key priority of the UK's G7 Presidency.

Other key achievements include:

- Committing to work together for as long as needed to support the world's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and to tackle global supply issues
- Supporting the allocation of \$650bn in IMF Special Drawing Rights and securing commitments by stronger economies to channel some of these funds to countries in need
- Embedding climate change and biodiversity loss considerations into economic and financial decision making
- Gaining G7 agreement for nations to follow the UK to make climate-related financial reporting mandatory and to crack down on proceeds from environmental crimes
- Achieving G7 agreement to work together to spur market growth to tackle antimicrobial resistance
- Agreeing Public Policy Principles for Retail Central Bank Digital currencies (CBDC) to support and inform domestic policy and design

Chancellor Rishi Sunak said:

Thank you to my G7 colleagues for their tireless work this year – together we covered a huge amount in the most difficult of circumstances, including striking an historic agreement on global tax reform to create a fairer tax system fit for the 21st century.

I look forward to the German presidency and working together to address challenges we face next year.

During today's meeting G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors discussed the global economy, climate change and antimicrobial resistance.

They agreed to remain vigilant to new variants of Covid-19 whilst cooperating on global supply issues and exchanged views on how to promote greater

resilience of supply chains and ways to build a more accurate picture of possible future disruptions.

Following the commitment in the June G7 communique to a “multi-year effort” to deliver the change needed to meet our net zero climate commitments, G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors today agreed to more regular policy discussions to drive forward efforts to reduce emissions, to help advance broad-based international collaboration and coordination. This will be underpinned by joint macroeconomic analysis to help keep 1.5 degrees within reach, as agreed at COP26.

Building on a commitment from June, G7 Finance Ministers today also agreed, through the first joint statement of its kind, a commitment to strengthen actions across the G7 to support antibiotic development as part of tackling antimicrobial resistance.

Rishi Sunak praised the G7’s joint efforts, hard work and commitment, whilst highlighting the progress and successes made over the past 12 months.

The Chancellor concluded by urging ministers to continue to work together to tackle global issues before welcoming the new German Finance Minister Christian Lindner. Germany will take over as G7 Presidency on 1 January 2022.

Further information

Tax reforms

- agreement on historic global tax reforms that will mean the largest multinational tech giants will pay their fair share in the countries in which they operate, as well as a 15% global minimum rate, backed by 137 OECD Inclusive Framework members

Digital currencies

- published a joint report on the public policy implications of central banks issuing their own digital currencies and how to ensure this delivers benefits for our economies and societies

Covid / pandemic preparedness

- worked together to ensure a global recovery from Covid-19, helping lower income countries tackle the pandemic and addressing the economic impacts, including global supply issues drawing on the work of international organisations like the IMF and the OECD
- agreed to tackle antimicrobial resistance through spurring antibiotic market growth together

Support for Low-Income countries

- supported the allocation of \$650bn in IMF Special Drawing Rights – with some voluntary funds already being channelled to the IMF’s Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, and further support for a new Resilience and Sustainability Trust
- committed to publish own creditor portfolios on a loan-by-loan basis to lead by example of sovereign debt transparency

Climate and nature

- embedded climate change and biodiversity loss considerations into economic and financial decision making
- committed to a multiyear effort to work together to ensure we meet our net zero targets, including coordinating on pricing carbon and mitigating against carbon leakage
- agreed to follow the UK to make climate-related financial reporting mandatory and crack down on environmental crimes through strengthening company beneficial ownership registers

[Multi-million-pound upgrades transform Scrabster Harbour](#)

News story

The latest port development at Scrabster Harbour, close to the Dounreay site in Caithness, was officially opened on 10th December 2021.



The investment will allow Scrabster to access new opportunities

St Ola Pier has been at the heart of a major development project to increase capacity and accommodate larger vessels at the port on the north coast of Scotland. The investment will allow Scrabster to access new opportunities, including offshore energy and cruise ships.

The project has cost a total of £18.9 million, with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) providing funding support of £5 million along with its partners Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

David Peattie, NDA CEO, said:

We are incredibly proud of our involvement in the redevelopment of St Ola Pier. The opening of the pier is a huge milestone and a great example of our socio-economic strategy in action.

I believe that this project can help Scrabster Harbour develop on a diverse range of new opportunities and make a significant contribution to the long-term sustainability of the local economy.

[Find out more about how the NDA works with its communities](#)

[Find out more about Dounreay Site, Britain's former centre of fast reactor research and development](#)

Published 13 December 2021