



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

IMPACT REPORT 2016

Scholarships at Warwick



Scholarship Impact Report

It has been a fantastic year for scholarship at Warwick. Social mobility and access to educational opportunity are growing challenges to society, yet you have helped more people than ever before embark upon their journey here.

This October, 68 first-year students will receive a scholarship funded by donors to Warwick, providing them with a cash bursary of £2,000 per year of their degree. This is the highest number of scholarships we've ever awarded. They will join more than 150 scholars across 18 academic departments. Thanks to your kindness, we have been able to treble the total number of scholars that we are able to support in under three years.

We have worked particularly hard in the School of Engineering. We introduced the Multicultural Scholars Programme, which seeks to help the least represented ethnic groups in higher education. There is also a Women in Engineering programme, attempting to address the under-representation of women in the engineering industry.

As the number of scholars grows, so too does the number of events and activities that we deliver. This year we introduced "Seize the Day"; a two-day careers workshop to support scholars' personal development, including: assertiveness training, insights into organisational structures and politics, and assistance with networking, CV writing and interview techniques. This year we will also introduce an internship scheme that will provide bursaries of £750 to help 25 scholars undertake opportunities during the summer vacation.

The student finance team delivered money management sessions to help scholars get the most out of their bursaries

and prepare for costs during (and after) university.

We also held an inaugural scholarship celebration event in the Shard, the London base of Warwick Business School. This was a wonderful opportunity to introduce scholars to the donor community and allowed them to practice their networking skills. This event, coupled with an end of year dinner held on campus, were extremely well received by the scholars and donors alike.

Beyond the scholarship programme, we were named as a lead partner in a research study seeking to understand the efficacy of educational outreach. In partnership with the Sutton Trust, Warwick's Dr Claire Crawford and others will investigate how best to evaluate outreach programmes and their impact on individuals and communities. Dr Crawford said, "Our hope is that by bringing together academics and practitioners from a range of institutions, the guidance we produce will be pragmatic and practical, but still underpinned by rigorous methods, giving institutions the tools to produce robust evaluations of their own outreach schemes in future."

The best way to show you the impact of your support is by introducing you to the beneficiaries directly. This report features testimonials from scholars in their own words. I'm sure you will be pleased to learn how your kindness has contributed to their time at Warwick.

From all of us at Warwick, thank you for your generosity. We hope you'll be inspired to help our students long into the future.

Luke Taylor
Associate Director of Development

Warwick Scholars' Programme (WSP) (formerly Benefactors)

Supporting gifted and talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds

Daniela Sordillo
First year, BSc Biochemistry

To my anonymous donor: hello and thank you for your generous gift! I have been waiting all year for the chance to speak to you; and what an amazing year it's been.

I've had great opportunities this year, and whilst they've scared me, I'm not one to pass them up. I was a speaker at Warwick's WIDE event, something offered to me in the first week of term! I'm going to be part of a national campaign for Advancing Access, bringing higher education closer to 13-17 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds, and a Brightside mentor to help reach young people and make higher education a reality for them too.



Not knowing who you are has been interesting. I find myself thinking more deeply about how I treat others, since I could potentially encounter you at any time, and in my part-time job, I strive with strengthened vigour to treat every customer as I would treat you. How incredible it is that your selfless gift has affected me so profoundly.

The scholarship has been like having a gentle hand behind me to spur me on when I felt overwhelmed; a quiet reminder that someone believed in me, more than I believed in myself. Thank you.

I become quite overwhelmed at times knowing that someone out there, who does not know me, has placed faith in me like this.

At first my confidence in my academic ability was low. Coming from a school ranked in the bottom 40% of the country, I seriously doubted whether I belonged in such a prestigious institution, and whether a student from a working class background could truly go on to be a real success. But after seeing the faith and opportunity that you have placed in me and others I realised there are opportunities out there for me; I just need to take and embrace them. So in a way, my mentality has completely changed over the course of this year and your support as a donor was undoubtedly a key factor in this development.

After completing my exams this year I left with

a 2:1, ready to start my second year, which I am delighted with, and if anything, this has inspired me further to carry on working hard. Thanks to your support I have found new confidence in myself to strive towards becoming a top solicitor, and will soon be applying for vacation schemes with law firms.

You have also lightened my financial burden, down to the simple things like getting involved in sports (football is a great passion of mine) and not having to stress about money or feel embarrassed. It's completely changed the dynamic of my first year at Warwick. For this reason words will never truly be enough to thank you for your generosity but I can certainly tell you that your support has made a real difference; a difference that has inspired me and one that I will not take for granted. I can only offer my eternal gratitude to you for all the aid you have offered - thank you!

Harry Klein
First year, BA History

Warwick Scholars' Programme (continued)

This year at Warwick has been great and I could not have done it without your support. Even the most simple things that I almost take for granted are only possible thanks to this scholarship programme. Due to the financial aid I receive, I haven't had to take a part-time job during term; I am able to focus wholly on my studies, and can get all my reading done every week and all of my assignments handed in on time. My grades are good and I was lucky enough to finish my second year with a First.

I am so thankful to not have to spend a lot of time worrying about my finances, which is a big concern for a lot of students – even more so now that grants are being abolished and replaced with even more loans (and thus debt). Knowing that someone is generously helping to fund my studies feels even more astonishing with this in mind. The financial aid means I can be certain that I can pay my rent and my bills without too much issue, and that in itself is a gift. But the money also helps me in day-to-day ways! I have been lucky enough to see various theatre performances, to visit a publishing house to get an insight into their work, to spend my spare time writing articles for the local paper and editing a student journal.

I think this year has helped me mature a lot as a person – living alone with three other students has been both challenging and really fun, and a big change from halls. At the end of our first term in our little house, we had a big Christmas dinner together. We wore festive jumpers, had a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, exchanged Secret Santa presents and decorated our space with a tree and paper



chains and snowflakes. It was great and really helped us come together like a family.

My main aim for the upcoming year is to keep achieving as highly as I can academically. I'm also taking a programme for female undergraduates to help with confidence, networking, motivation and leadership to improve my personal development. Knowing that someone else believes in me and my education is the best feeling – thank you.

Beccy Willmetts
Second year, BA English Literature

Marlie Cummings
Third year, BSc Biomedical Science

University has been the best time of my life, and I couldn't have done it without the support from the scholarship programme and especially my donor. Coming from a single-parent household, and as the first person in my family to go to university, the support offered by my grant has been invaluable in reducing the financial stress of studying. What's more, as a scholar I have felt a responsibility to uphold a high standard of achievement, both academic and extra-curricular, and as such I have been inspired to really make the most of my university experience. I was so proud to graduate in July with a First Class Biomedical

Science degree, as it was something I never thought I'd be able to achieve. I'm honoured to be one of the first graduates of the scholarship programme, and one day I hope I will be able to help another student as much as you have helped me.



Thank you for funding my degree at Warwick. You gave me financial security, allowing me to concentrate more on my studies, and because of this I passed the third year of my course and will now be going into my Masters in Organic Chemistry. Thank you for your support which made my time at university not only easier, but also more enjoyable.

Sam Martin
Fourth year, MChem Chemistry

Thank you for your kindness in providing me with the chance and supporting my student life. I'll never forget it. I am now a team leader in the Department for Work and Pensions and I hope that one day when I reach my dreams I can be as generous as you have been in providing me with this scholarship. It truly is life changing. I can't thank you enough.

Nicole Hyare
Graduate, BSc Psychology



Multicultural Scholars' Programme (MSP)

Supporting the most underrepresented ethnic groups entering higher education

Nadim Somani
First year, LLB Law

The MSP shaped my first year at university in a number of amazing ways. I began university thinking that I was going to be a 'misfit' and that I was chasing an unrealistic dream that could only be achieved by a privileged few. You only have to look at statistics which have been published on the number of ethnic minority lawyers to realise that the profession is still dominated by a certain race and class. However, the MSP has given me an identity at University and created greater opportunities for me and provided me with useful information which has given me greater confidence in my dream to become a city lawyer.



Above all I must thank you (the donors) for believing in me and my fellow scholars. Beyond academics, the MSP has given me more self-belief and a greater drive to achieve my dreams. The community spirit amongst the scholars makes you feel as if you are a part of a family, where all members are striving to achieve similar goals. It is a great feeling to know that someone believes in you enough to invest their time and money in your development.

I value every penny that has been put in to the programme; your efforts have laid the foundations for the career path for students like myself. Being from a low-income, inner-city household, funding has always been an issue for me, and the scholarship has helped tremendously, paying for books, stationery and laptop repairs. I've met people from similar backgrounds and made friends for life, and learnt the importance of leaving an impression whilst at the same time being as genuine as possible. My friends back in London have also noticed a difference in me; saying I have become more confident, especially around unfamiliar people.

I can only thank you for being committed to helping students from minority backgrounds. You make a real difference. You have sparked a philanthropic flame within me, and I have decided that in the future I will dedicate my life to helping others, just as you have helped me. For aiding me through difficult times, giving me friends who I will never forget and being dedicated to supporting me. I would like to say thank you, your efforts will forever be remembered.

Minhaz Waris
Second year, LLB Law

I grew up in the second most deprived borough in the UK, faced challenges in my academic development, and am the first in my immediate family to attend university. You've offered me opportunities to break those social barriers and achieve exceedingly well. I have had a thrilling, stimulating, and adventurous time so far at Warwick, and academically I have gone from strength to strength. I secured a First Class mark in my first year and gained internships with 20 groups including Lloyds Bank. Your funding helped cover travel and accommodation costs for these, and also helped me to create two start-up businesses which are beginning to expand.

Without you none of this would have been possible. If I ever go on to have a film made about me as the next Mark Zuckerberg, I have you to thank and would hope your anonymity is no more so you can star with me!

I one day hope to be in a situation that you are and give back. To be humble. To disseminate wealth to promote knowledge - "knowledge is power". I hope as a donor you see the magnitude of the effect you have on students such as myself. The small things add up, and the snowball effect of the funding means I will never truly be able to express my gratitude to you. Thank you for everything.

Nahim Miah
First year, BA Law and Business Studies

Women in Engineering Scholars' (WIE) Programme

Addressing the gender imbalance in the engineering industry

Sarah Kemp
First year, MEng Mechanical Engineering

The scholarship funding relieves me of the need to work during term time, thereby giving me more time to study and pursue extra-curricular activities.

The most exciting aspect of my first year at Warwick has to be the most challenging too: the degree work and all the new things to learn about Engineering. The challenges I found were often in absorbing all the basics for later application, but the excitement of the projects - especially the longer Design for Function team project - really made up for those hours of hard work.

Being surrounded by others who are just as invested in learning as I am is amazing.

We can help each other with weaker topics, cheer each other up when something goes wrong, and celebrate

together when we've done well. Having that network of support also allows for each of us to investigate any topics of particular interest without falling behind in any other area, since the support is available and the people understanding.

I would like to offer my thanks to the individuals sponsoring me (and the others with the WiE Scholarship). Your kindness is greatly appreciated!



I have just finished my first year of my Engineering degree and I can honestly say it's been wonderful. The best thing about my subject this year is that I enjoy it! I am also strengthening my career prospects through mentoring and industry support as well as helping to inspire young women into engineering as a career. I am very passionate about engineering and feel there are lots of women who can bring a lot to the industry. The monetary aspect of the scholarship is of course very helpful. It has meant I haven't had to work to fund my studies and has enabled me to concentrate on studying which has really helped my grades. Thank you for the opportunity you have given me, I really want to make you proud.

Carys Evans
First year, BEng Engineering



I was blown away with the non-financial support WSP gave me throughout the year. Whether this was a friendly face during the first meet, the reassurance that if we ever needed any advice, help or support they'd be there, or the activities and workshops that were put on to inform us further. These workshops included careers and finance advice that I wouldn't have received if it weren't for the scholarship. Thank you so much for making that possible.

Emily Hurdley
First year, BA Sociology



Please note, all scholars' reports have been shortened and edited for ease of reading in this report. If you would like to see an original report, or if you have any other questions about the programme, please contact us:

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