



WARWICK  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

# IMPACT REPORT 2016

Multicultural Scholars' Programme (MSP)



## The Multicultural Scholars Programme Annual report

The Multicultural Scholars Programme (MSP) has had a tremendous year. It has now expanded into three academic departments, with ten engineering students joining the programme last autumn, and a further nine to follow in 2016/17. Warwick Business School had its first graduates from the programme, and the Law School celebrated its tenth year anniversary. In total, there will be 70 scholars in receipt of an MSP scholarship this year.

In addition, MSP continues to be the formative methodology for scholarship programmes at Warwick. It has informed the establishment of the Warwick Scholars Programme (WSP) and is the foundation for the new Women in Engineering programme.

However, the true impact of the MSP is on the individual scholars. In this report you will hear directly from the beneficiaries and hear how it has impacted on the various facets of university life. Whether it is financial support, mentoring and career guidance, transitioning to university life or preparing for life after graduation, the MSP demonstrates how vital donor support is to a vibrant and diverse campus community.

Alumni of the MSP are also giving back more and more,

with over £1,300 received in donations so far. There is a growing network of support from MSP alumni. Zeenat Islam and Mitchell Ikoghode have been helping us to understand how best to establish an alumni network and have assisted us in our next scholarship fundraising appeal that will go out this autumn.

Many of us have been moved by the incredible achievements of our scholars over the past year, particularly those of Farhana Hamid Butt. Farhana was registered blind at the age of 7 and came to Warwick lacking in confidence. In fact, if it wasn't for the MSP, she would not have come to Warwick at all. This year she graduated with a first class degree, took part in a volunteering project in India and is on her way to achieving her goal of becoming a barrister.

I hope you enjoy reading more about Farhana and our other fantastic scholars in this report. Thank you for your kindness, generosity and continued support.

With best wishes

**Luke Taylor**  
Associate Director of Development

## Thank you for your donations, which change lives

**Nahim Miah**  
Second year, Law and Business Studies

First and foremost, THANK YOU! Your generosity has improved my well-being, social, cultural, and academic experience during my first year at Warwick. I grew up in the second most deprived borough in the UK. I faced challenges in my academic development, and I am the first in my immediate family to attend university. Your kindness has 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. For the year ahead I am ready. I am energized. Academically I have gone from strength to strength, securing a First Class mark in my first year. This performance has allowed me to secure numerous internships and pay for travel expenses. It also helped me take up volunteer roles, and start two businesses of my own. These have now gained traction to raise several thousand pounds, allowing me to continue its on-going development, marketing, and lifespan.

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 do not come from an ambitious or prosperous family, and with genuine honesty the funding has allowed me to improve my family relationships as the funding contributes to my success, for which my family are immensely proud. I one day hope to be in a situation that you are – to 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.

Thank you for your continued support. Being from a low-income, inner-city household, funding my studies had always been an issue for me. The scholarship has paid for books, stationery and laptop repairs, and I value every penny. It's also allowed me to meet people in similar situations and backgrounds as myself. I am glad to say that I have made many friends for life through the programme. It has taught me 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 the MSP team for being committed to helping students from minority backgrounds, who often face similar difficulties.

The scholarship has helped me in ways which I will never forget. It's made a real difference, a difference which really matters. It has 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 293

## You're helping students overcome financial hurdles



**Ali Amin**  
First year, Mechanical Engineering

I would like to take this opportunity to show you how thankful I am for the MSP Scholarship. I honestly didn't expect university life to be this fun and lively. I love going to every lecture and find it exhilarating learning new things every day. Whether it's about learning the aerodynamics of a dragster, or the necessary steps for starting a successful business, I've never had a moment where I wanted to leave a lecture early.

I received a First this year, and the scholarship played an important role as it eradicated my financial problems and helped me to concentrate on my academic studies. I hope one day I am in a position to make such an influential contribution to students' lives.

**Hanif Ali**  
First year, MEng Mechanical Engineering

I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" and show my immense gratitude for being awarded this scholarship. I initially found the jump from A levels to university quite challenging, but the MSP really helped me. I have just finished my first year at Warwick studying Engineering and have achieved a first class overall, averaging 76% throughout my modules. The scholarship aided me in this result as it allowed me to spend more of my time focusing on my academic studies instead of working part-time.

**Oba Adelaja (pictured above)**  
First year, Mechanical Engineering

The MSP enabled me to get involved in activities that I would otherwise not have had the opportunity to partake in, like go-karting, which has always been a dream of mine, and a summer internship at Masthaven Bank, London. Thank you for your support. It has changed my life, motivated me, and I now feel more capable than ever to pursue my dreams.

The community at Warwick is amazing. Everyone is very ambitious, social and wants to make a positive impact to society. I love being around like-minded people who are able to push me further than I could have imagined before going to Warwick.

The scholarship has helped to take my mind off the financial struggles that university can bring, and let me spend more time concentrating on my studies. I completed my second year achieving firsts in a few subjects and ended on a 69% grade average. This is a significant achievement for me as I have ambitions to graduate with a first at the end of my degree.

Thank you for sponsoring me. I really appreciate your support. Without it, I would have not had the amazing experience I have had thus far studying at the University of Warwick.

**Joshua Alridge**  
Second year, BSc Management

## Giving them bespoke guidance and inspiration



**Owais Ahmed**  
Third year, Accounting and Finance

During the last academic year, the financial and personal tutor experience I have received has been exceptional. The staff at WBS and the development team have also helped me out wherever possible. Complications meant I had to sit a fourth year at university, and it would have been very difficult without those support channels and the MSP funding.



I've now graduated and am entering the working world where I'm excited to be working with a start-up focusing on greener waste reprocessing; I'm also expanding on a tutoring business I have founded.

I'd like to thank every donor who has not only provided me with financial support through the past four years, but also been a massive help with invaluable career support.

The support I have received from MSP has helped build my confidence in the last year, especially with the employment workshops which have really helped me develop a strong CV and hone my interview and people skills.

These were sessions specifically for MSP students, and we got to talk about our experiences as people of colour and how that has affected us academically and socially, which was a really interesting discussion to be had among people of the same socio-economic group as me. I have also found that being part of MSP, going on cultural visits and so on, has really made me embrace my own identity as a British Bangladeshi a lot more, which again has been very helpful in boosting my self-esteem.

**Tahmina Hadi**  
Third year, LLB Law

## And a special home at Warwick



The scholarship community at Warwick has been so welcoming which I didn't expect it to be. Having a mentor has allowed me to learn from someone in the previous year, and other people in the programme are willing to give advice and get to know each other - it's like we are the Multicultural Scholars' Family.

Michelle Nwaesei  
First Year, Law

Raqeab Rabbani  
First year, Engineering

The community at Warwick has surpassed my expectations as I didn't know how very welcoming and open to other cultures everyone at Warwick would be. The scholarship has helped me engage in exclusive events, such as the two day networking workshop with fellow scholars who were able to share their own experiences of studying at Warwick coming from a different culture themselves. The staff are supportive and it's great being able to meet with my personal tutor every week.

Owan Alenkhe  
Second year, BEng Mechanical Engineering

Before arriving at Warwick I was very anxious that I would not fit in as I felt that I had a different background to a lot of the other students. Upon arriving I was surprised to find that there were a lot of people similar to myself which made me feel like a significant part of the Warwick community. The Warwick community is generally very friendly, and when attending different events, even on my own, I never felt excluded. Thank you for choosing me to receive this scholarship, which has and will continue to open up so many doors for me.



## But most of all, you're giving them equal opportunities

Being part of the MSP helped to shape 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. This is a feeling that I am sure many of my fellow scholars felt too - we 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, 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.

Nadim Somani  
First year, Law

Farhana Butt  
LLB Law 2016

I am delighted to inform you that this year I graduated from Warwick with a first class degree. In the long term, I hope to establish a career as a barrister and given the extremely competitive nature of the profession, it was essential for me to get a first.

Academic achievements aside, I believe that I have left with more than a first class degree. Warwick enabled me to become a confident individual. Although I was registered blind aged seven, prior to attending university my sight deteriorated further. However, the support I received from staff, friends and family has instilled

confidence in me. In fact, I will be traveling to India independently to volunteer in Kerala for two weeks.

I hope to build up my work experience this year and to volunteer at the Citizens Advice bureau as well as the Personal Support Unit. I'm thinking about learning French or Arabic to help me commercially, and planning to do a Masters degree in Law too.

Thank you for your kindness. It is your generosity which allows students like me from non-traditional university backgrounds the opportunity to study at a prestigious university such as Warwick.



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Thank you for donating to scholarships here. Without your continued help and support none of this would be possible. We have all benefitted from your encouragement and belief in us and we hope to continue this.

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**Maryam Khan**  
Third year, Law and Business



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Thank you for being my donor. As you can tell, MSP has meant the world to me and I would not be the student I am, or the person I am, without being a part of it.

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**Tahmina Hadi**  
Third year, LLB Law



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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