

2021/22

Scholarships Impact Report

Thank you for supporting
scholarships at Leeds

Thank you so much for your support towards scholarships which continue to make a transformative difference to the lives of so many students here at the University of Leeds.

In this report you will see the impact of your generosity and how you are ensuring that students from less advantaged backgrounds can thrive in their studies and through their extra-curricular activities. Much of this is told through the testimony of the students themselves, such as Farah Mahmoud, second year Criminal Justice and Criminology:

“My scholarship means that I can live comfortably, in a safe area and eat plenty of nutritious food. It allows me to pay the training fees for the Trampoline Society which helps me to keep fit. My scholarship helps me to get the full university experience in the sense that I rarely have to say no to plans or socials for financial reasons.”

Students from less advantaged backgrounds stand to gain the most from higher education, and with your help we are able to sustain our support to deserving and talented people. This year 207 students started at Leeds with the financial security offered by a scholarship. One of the great challenges for education is to be more accessible, and your support is allowing us to take a lead role in recruiting students from less advantaged backgrounds. These students may be the first in their family to come to university, may come from communities where participation in higher education is low, or may have been in care or have caring responsibilities.

Since joining the University I have been impressed by the Leeds community – through the ambition shown by the students I meet and the generosity of our alumni. I can see how much the University means to our community by the fact that so many supporters, like yourself, wish to ensure that future generations can enjoy this special Leeds experience.

Whilst this academic year saw face-to-face teaching return and campus felt much more lively and vibrant, our students were still facing an education environment that was affected by Covid-19. But having their scholarship has allowed many to navigate through these difficult times. And we were delighted that in March we were able to welcome back graduates from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 for a celebration of their graduation – you can read more about this on page 15.

Thank you for your generous support for scholarships. These scholarship recipients provide richness, cultural diversity and intellectual gifts to our University community which would be far less rounded without them, and in turn they will join our growing alumni community too. Thank you so much for all you do as a donor and supporter of the University of Leeds.

I feel that these words, from final year Biochemistry student Richa George, sum up the difference you are making:

“These scholarships are truly life changing; I would have been a very different person today if I hadn’t received my scholarship as I might not have even come to university. I’ve been blessed with so many incredible opportunities that I wouldn’t have had if I was anywhere else, and it wouldn’t have been possible without your support. Throughout these past few years, I have accomplished more than I ever could have imagined or thought I was capable of. None of this would have been possible without your generosity and for that I cannot thank you enough.”

Thank you

Professor Jeff Grabill

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education

Since 2010



2,036

students have received a scholarship

In 2021/22



207

new scholarships were successfully awarded

Undergraduate scholarships

Number of undergraduate applications received:

1153



Ratio of

9 applications for every scholarship available



Number of undergraduate scholarships successfully awarded:

120



In July 2021

81%

of those receiving a scholarship achieved a First or Upper Second degree



Breakdown of scholarships awarded by Faculty

17 Arts, Humanities and Cultures

11 Business School

3 Environment

29 Social Sciences

5 Biological Sciences

21 Engineering and Physical Sciences

28 Medicine and Health

6 Lifelong Learning Centre

Postgraduate scholarships

Number of postgraduate applications received:

511



Breakdown of scholarships awarded by Faculty

25 Arts, Humanities and Cultures

7 Environment

3 Biological Sciences

7 Medicine and Health

13 Business School

29 Social Sciences

3 Engineering and Physical Sciences

Number of postgraduate scholarships successfully awarded:

87



Ratio of

6 applications for every scholarship available



Sinead Hinton

Second year Philosophy, Ethics, and Religion

I grew up in foster care from the age of eight. I am the first in my family to go to university, as well as one of only a handful of students from my secondary school to attend a Russell Group university.

Researching universities, I was very concerned about how I could afford it – my rent would cost more than half of the maintenance loan and without family help I didn't believe I would be able to afford a lot of the equipment needed for my studies.

My scholarship means I don't have to tell people, "no, I can't afford it," it means I can get involved in lots of activities and has helped me to make lots of new friends.

Abigail Wood
First year Economics

It was a big weight off my shoulders to find out I'd been awarded the scholarship and it definitely made me more excited about the move to university. My scholarship means I have been able to buy books for my course, it aids my travel expenses to and from the campus and it also helps me to afford academic subscription services.

Through being a scholarship recipient, I've engaged with the Plus Programme which has given me many opportunities outside of university. For example, I worked with a charity to give talks to groups of foster carers on how they can encourage their foster children to pursue university, and I have also been working with researchers to improve the support that is provided for children in foster care.

Thank you very much for supporting scholarships at Leeds. Scholarships allow young people from less advantaged backgrounds to feel more confident in pursuing university, by helping to provide resources that we cannot get from others.

Only 6% of care-leavers pursue university, and often this is due to a lack of funding support. As a care leaver, my scholarship gives me confidence that I can afford everything I need to succeed here at Leeds. Thank you.



Emilie Barron

First year Social Work

When I got the email to say that I had been awarded my scholarship it was such an enormous relief, especially with prices increasing and being a sole provider trying to run a home, a car and provide for my son. This scholarship has made a huge difference in mine and my son's life. Money was extremely tight and I struggled to afford food for the month after I had paid my bills, but now that I don't sit up worrying about what my son is going to eat for the next two weeks, I can focus on my education.

My scholarship helps me pay for childcare so that I can attend events run by the Social Work Society, and also meet with my peers for study sessions. I have made some lifelong friends on this course and we are now comfortable enough to chat and meet up outside of university which is important for my wellbeing too.

I wanted to study Social Work as I have seen for myself the support and encouragement that Social Services have provided to a relative of mine who struggled with their family. In a few years' time, when I graduate, I'm excited about diving into a sector that I am passionate about – I want to work with young offenders as I want to make a difference to young peoples' lives.

I am extremely grateful I was awarded this scholarship and I hope one day when I am qualified, I can help someone else like me too.

My scholarship has meant that I don't feel like such a misfit, that I'm not missing out on lots of things, and that I can enjoy university and not always stress about money. I feel very lucky – thank you.

Indiana Green
Final year Psychology



I want those who support my scholarship to know I am absolutely loving every single aspect of my time at Leeds! I have secured a job with Linklaters (a global law firm) for when I leave next year and I have already had so many amazing opportunities. I want you to know that without my scholarship none of this would have been possible and for that I am eternally grateful – thank you.

Marie Poole
Second year History

Thanks to my scholarship I have been able to participate in so many opportunities that I otherwise would not have been able to. I have joined the Tennis Society which has been extremely rewarding, and I have been able to participate in activities with the Geography Society. With my scholarship I am less stressed about money, improving my overall happiness in life. Thank you!

Claudia Fletcher
Second year Geography

The scholarship is what begins my day as I use it for travelling to university. It has helped me in more ways than you can imagine, from allowing me to travel across the country for work experience to motivating me to focus on my studies without being as worried about the expenses. I am truly grateful for the support and inspiration you have given me and will remember this in all my future endeavours. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Tasnim Ali
First year Law



Dane Nugent

Second year Physics

Having grown up on a council estate and being the first person in my immediate family just to finish high school, as a teenager there was never any expectation I would go on to university. However, I always thought I would like to study further and now I've taken the long way round to get here at the age of 29! Upon reflection I think the life experience and skills I've gathered from the world of work have allowed me to benefit from university much more than I would have done if I had come at 18.

I had been working and living in the Netherlands prior to applying for university. My initial reason for returning home here to Leeds was to look after my gran who raised me. It also presented the perfect opportunity for a career change and that is why I contacted the University to see what options were available to me. When I was awarded the scholarship I felt gratitude that people existed with the means and the will to provide financial help, to allow people like myself to attend university. I was excited to test myself at university and to grow as a person – and not having to worry about money is great. Thank you.

Being granted this scholarship and this opportunity to study at Leeds has made me realise that I can set my own bar for achievement – and every day that bar becomes higher. I never thought university was for people like me, but perhaps people from less advantaged backgrounds are exactly what the education system needs. Self-made, hardworking individuals who have had to overcome very real obstacles. All I can say is thank you.

Macy Sgarra
First year English Literature and Language



Tom Stent

First year Physics



The cost of university was concerning for me and one of the main reasons why I waited two years before applying, during which I was mostly working to save up some money. My scholarship has allowed me to meet lots of new people – I've joined the Muay Thai Society and the Physics Society, and my scholarship has allowed me to get involved with their events such as the annual ball and social nights out.

I am loving my course and I've found almost everything fascinating - particularly the special relativity and maths modules. Some of the concepts introduced in special relativity involving time dilation and length contractions were so counter intuitive and unlike anything I had learned in physics so far. Developing my skills in maths has been really enjoyable, and seeing how physics uses these concepts to so precisely understand and predict nature has been fascinating. Thank you for the opportunity to study here at Leeds.

Karolina Glasek

Year Abroad, History

I am on my Year Abroad at the University of Waterloo in Canada. This has been one of the best years of my life! I have had the chance to live in a completely different country where I am learning about the local culture, and I have become more confident and independent. I have made amazing friends and I have explored Canada. I am getting good grades and I feel at home here. I'm so grateful that I've had this amazing experience. Thank you for supporting my scholarship which helped make this possible.



Year Abroad



Molly Smith

Second year International History and Politics



I have really enjoyed this year – I've made great new friends and my social life has become much more enjoyable compared to how isolated I was during the Covid-19 pandemic. I secured an internship with the Outreach and Engagement Team that has given me so many different opportunities outside of my comfort zone – I've loved every minute of my internship.

Thank you for your support. Your generosity has made my university experience so much easier and more enjoyable. It's removed so much stress for me and my family regarding how I would afford to live on my student loan alone. Without my scholarship, I definitely would not have been able to succeed at university as well as I am now.

Henschel Freduah-Agyemang

Second year Medicine

My scholarship has provided me with a financial safety net which allows me to focus entirely on enjoying and succeeding in my course. It also offers me the opportunity to participate in many activities in my free time.

I have been the year representative for the Psychiatry Society, I have volunteered with an organisation that helps students from a lower socio-economic background gain access to medical school, I have attended medical school taster days for A-Level students and I co-led a workshop at a surgical conference in London. These experiences have been really inspiring and have developed my leadership and team working skills.

Your support means I can attend conferences and taster days. Your support means I can mentor other students. By supporting me you are therefore helping others think about higher education too. Thank you so much.





James Edward McHale

MA Medieval Studies

I have had an unusual educational pathway and certainly never believed that university would be for me. I am autistic and have ADHD and my school was not very supportive. At one point, my school attendance was around 25% because of my personal difficulties. Despite this, I managed to achieve academically average GCSE results and I then went to my local college to study a BTEC in Public Services.

I was more comfortable at college; I came out as LGBTQ+ and received better disability support. I began to thrive and reached my potential for the first time – I achieved high grades and was the first in my class. My academic excellence continued throughout my undergraduate degree and I won several academic awards and prizes including an international prize, the prize for the best overall performance in my undergraduate studies and the prize for the best dissertation on a medieval topic. These experiences have instilled in me a strong work ethic and appreciation for education. I utterly love my postgraduate course and the opportunities it provides.

Looking ahead to the future with optimism, I'm thrilled at the prospect of utilising the skills and expertise gained during my MA studies to pursue doctoral study at Leeds in October – and I'm delighted to say that I have a place of study confirmed!

I believe passionately in the power of education. Whilst no one can say with any real idea where they'll end up in 15 or 20 years' time, I do sincerely hope to achieve – with the strong educational foundation from my time here at Leeds – a good career in which I'm making a positive, tangible difference in society.

I hope that I myself will one day be in a position to support others like me from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Thank you so very much for helping me through all of my time at the University of Leeds. It is an honour to study at this University. You gave me this opportunity through the scholarship as an undergraduate, and to be given it again as a postgraduate student is above and beyond my wildest dreams. I will never forget these past five years that have been made possible because of you.

Kara Keal
MSc Inequalities and Social Science

Chido Chipato

MSc Molecular Medicine

I wanted to further my education by doing a Masters so that I could gain more laboratory experience. This was especially crucial for me as I missed many opportunities to gain this experience due to the Covid-19 pandemic. What drew me to study at the University of Leeds in particular was the diversity of the community. As a black woman in STEM, there can sometimes be a homogeneity among students that can be daunting. However I felt the environment that Leeds offered was welcoming to people from all backgrounds, regardless of race, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

Thank you so much for helping me overcome the greatest hurdle I faced in fulfilling my dream. Without you supporting my scholarship, I would not have been able to study Molecular Medicine. You have given me an opportunity to move one step closer to getting the career I have always dreamt of.

Charlie Cumiskey

MA Political Communications

Postgraduate education has increasingly become the factor that really makes a difference in the job market, and yet it by and large remains the preserve of the more affluent due to its unequal funding structures.

Your donation has made all the difference in permitting a working-class student to pursue their education on their own grounds. For this I would just like to say thank you – you simply have no idea of the difference it makes to people like me.

Your support achieves so much

Plus Programme

Thanks to your generosity, alongside a scholarship, we are also able to offer students from underrepresented backgrounds an enhanced package of support through the Plus Programme. For every £10,000 scholarship, £1,000 goes towards the Plus Programme which acts as a 'base camp' for all students who come from backgrounds that are less represented at university.

"The Plus Programme emails have been a lifeline of useful information updating me on opportunities available. I feel informed of the things I can get involved in and that has been very empowering."

Henschel Freduah-Agyemang
Second year Medicine

The Plus Programme provides weekly emails and offers unique events to create a sense of community and belonging for students. Working with the Careers Centre, the Plus Programme also offers insight days which provides students the opportunity to gain an understanding and experience of working for a range of employers. Each event enables students the opportunity to get a feel for the organisation, ask questions and better understand what is needed to pursue a career in that field.

"I engage with the Plus Programme team who share resources and hold various talks and events. I find the events really useful for helping me develop a career path and explaining what life after university can look like. Always having them as a point of contact is extremely reassuring."

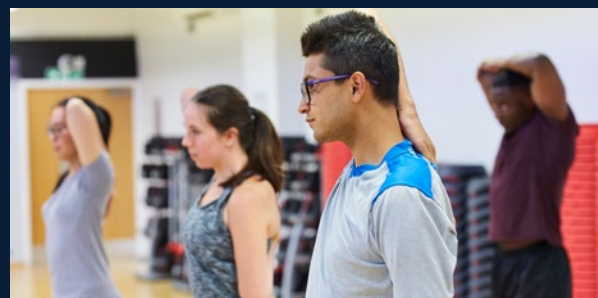
Caitlin Oliver
MA Sociology

In 2020/21 the Plus Programme engaged with more than:

5,500 Students



In 2021/22 the Plus Programme supported 171 students who were estranged or care experienced, like [Sinead Hinton](#) who is featured on page 04. A dedicated point of contact liaised with social workers to ease the transition to university and additional financial support provided kitchen and bedding packs to help these students settle in during arrival week.



The Clubs and Societies Fund minimises the financial barrier and helps Plus Programme students access Leeds University Union's full range of clubs and societies. Students can apply for the reimbursement of membership fees for as many clubs and societies as they like, giving them the opportunity to make the most of what Leeds has to offer.

In 2021/2022, 236 students were supported to join societies, funding more than £7,000 worth of membership fees.

Opportunities Fund

The Opportunities Fund helps students to access extracurricular, professional development experiences or non-compulsory activities which may enhance their employability. The Fund levels the playing field as students are not excluded from these opportunities due to financial constraints.

Thanks to your support, the Opportunities Fund helps students to afford additional course fees, or pay travel expenses and purchase smart clothing for interviews. This extra source of funding alleviates worries, allowing students to take full advantage of the opportunities that are offered, helping them strive to reach a better future.

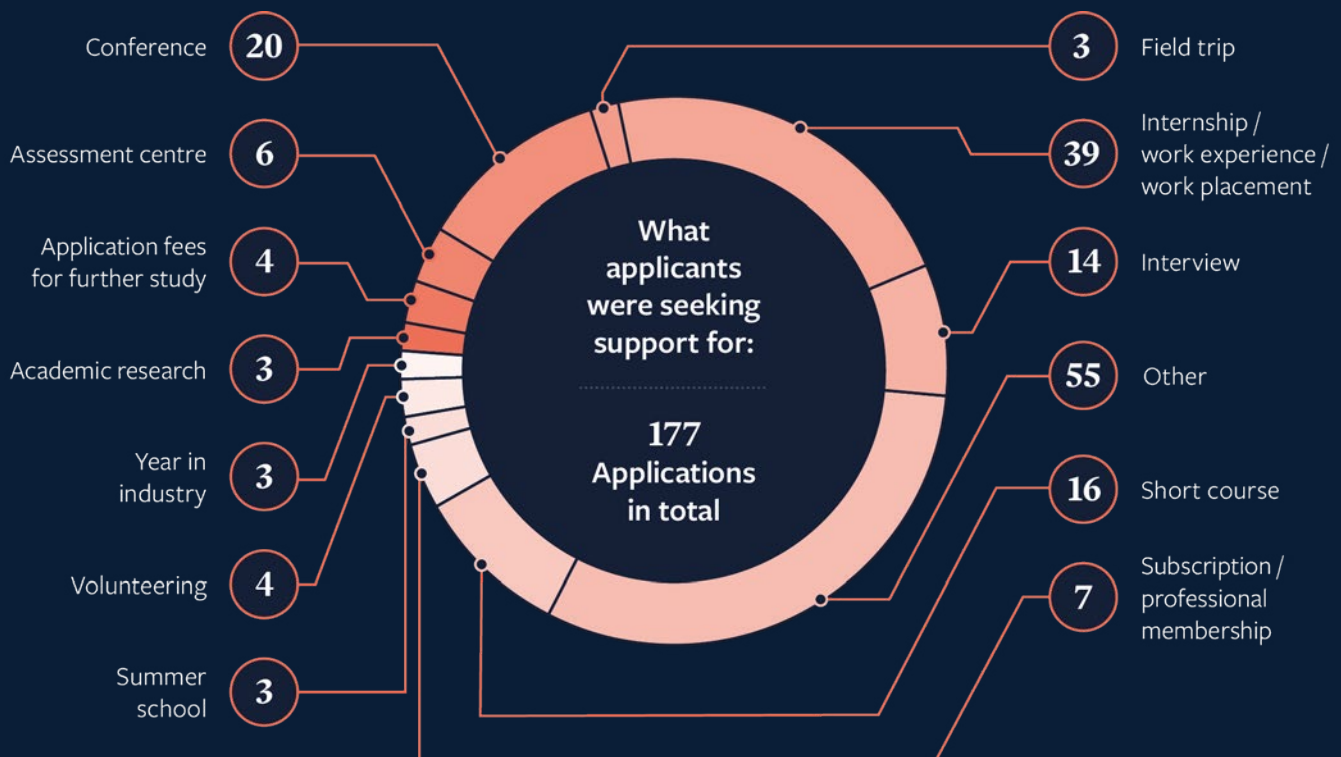


177

Number of applications for the Opportunities Fund in 2021/22:

Number of approved awards:

140



Iman Sulevani

Opportunities Fund recipient (Final year Medicine)

The Opportunities Fund allowed me to buy a stethoscope which I have been using during my placements this year.

Since I have had the stethoscope I have diagnosed a heart murmur in a six-year-old child and referred them to paediatric specialist services for further investigations. I have also picked up on an adult patient having fluid in their lungs after hearing crackled sounds through the

stethoscope. This led to a chest x-ray being done and medical intervention being started.

I anticipate my stethoscope will last me a long time and is something I will continue to use in nearly all my patient interactions – thank you so much!

Halima Kamran

Opportunities Fund recipient (Final year Law)

The Opportunities Fund supported me while I obtained valuable legal experience shadowing a barrister in Birmingham for a week.

This was an interesting experience which solidified my interest in becoming a barrister, as I was able to see their work firsthand and understand what the career entails. It allowed me to network with legal professionals who I

am still in contact with, which has been helpful as a first-generation student with no previous contacts in law.

Without the Opportunities Fund, it would have been difficult for me to go ahead with the experience due to accommodation and travel costs. I would like to thank the Opportunities Fund for allowing me to participate in an opportunity which has proved vital in understanding what I want to do in the future.



A time to celebrate!

Graduation is a special moment in any student's journey, but for the past two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic, graduation ceremonies were unable to go ahead. March and April this year saw the joyous return of these special events as we welcomed back the Classes of 2020 and 2021 to mark their extraordinary achievements.

The sun shone, the champagne fizzed, the cameras clicked and our former scholarship recipients reflected on what their scholarship meant to them.

Rebekah-Louise Scanlan

Biological Sciences 2020

Thank you for your financial support throughout my undergraduate degree. Despite the difficulties of adapting to the Covid-19 pandemic during my final year I achieved a First. Your support meant I did not need to get a part-time job throughout my studies to support myself, which meant I was able to focus on achieving the best I could academically.

Since completing my BSc in Biological Sciences, I have gone on to complete an MRes in Ageing and Health at Newcastle University and am currently in the first year of my PhD also at Newcastle. Thank you for supporting my scholarship which has made all this possible.



This summer graduation returned for the Class of 2022. Campus came to life with graduates sharing their special day with their families and friends. Many of those graduating looked back on a University experience unlike any other, but they had persevered and succeeded, and those achievements were celebrated.



"Today I got to celebrate – to celebrate everything that I've achieved, all the opportunities that I've grasped and how far I've come. I started at Leeds feeling quite alone, with no parental support, but I look around me now and I know I've found a home, a place where I feel secure. Throughout my years here, Leeds has become like family to me and it's thanks to my scholarship that I've had this amazing experience. I'm delighted that this celebration isn't the end of my time here at Leeds as in September I'll be returning to study for a Masters – and I can't wait! Thank you for your support."

Meegan Worcester

Sustainability and Environmental
Management 2022

Russell Downing

Professional Studies 2021

I finally did it, I had my graduation ceremony! I can say with certainty that you played a large part in me being able to achieve this result. It's thanks to you and your generous support that I have been able to make it through the last few years. It's been nice to know that although we never met, there was someone out there rooting for me to succeed.

Saying 'thank you' feels hollow in comparison to the help you have given me but I hope you know that there is a Leeds lad out there who will be forever in your debt. Thank you very much.

A former scholar reflects on her time at Leeds

Melissa Ulrich Theatre and Performance 2019

I found out about scholarships through the Access to Leeds programme, which allowed me to show my academic ability through written work related to my subject choice, rather than grades alone. This meant that my offer was lowered from AAB to ABB and with the pressure off I excelled and got AAA!

My scholarship allowed me to secure accommodation in Henry Price which gave me greater freedom – it was very convenient and reassuring to know I could easily access the many wonderful facilities on campus, without worrying about getting home late at night. My scholarship helped me take up every opportunity – membership of LUU Opera Society allowed me to perform in three operas and enjoy learning from professionals at Opera North. And as a founding member of LUU Music Society Symphonic Choir I even went on tour to Berlin! This would not have been possible without my scholarship.

“I felt a great sense of pride on receiving my scholarship, as I knew someone wanted to reach out and support me.”

There was always something going on at Leeds and I worked ‘front of house’ for shows in the School of Performance and Cultural Industries. I also loved volunteering as a Scholarships Ambassador and featuring in University communications, which allowed me to give something back and promote Leeds. At the Annual Scholarships Reception I enjoyed networking with other scholarship recipients and was proud to tell donors about the difference my scholarship was making.

“I even met my own scholarship donor to express my gratitude in person. Donors continue to be part of the University long after their own graduation!”



After graduating I began a PGCE in Primary Education and discovered an interest in helping pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Since 2020 I have enjoyed working as a SEN Teaching Assistant in a Bradford primary school. I have completed certificates in Makaton, Autism, Behaviour and Mental Health, and begun the Higher Level Teaching Assistant course which allows me to plan and deliver lessons. My university experience helped me secure employment in a job I love which lets me make a positive difference to the lives of others – just as my scholarship donor did for me.

“Thank you for your kindness in supporting scholarships – your wonderful, selfless act is very much appreciated. I feel immensely proud to have been a scholarship recipient at the University of Leeds.”

Thank you all for your support



Thank you so much for supporting scholarships here at Leeds. You are making a life changing difference to those who receive a scholarship. Your support allows them to not only have the opportunity to study here at Leeds, but to thrive and grow as individuals.

With your support we are fully committed to ensuring that a student's background and lived experiences are not barriers to access or outcomes. Thank you for sharing in this vision with us – you are truly making a difference.



The support you give is absolutely essential. Without it, people like myself are on the back foot before even beginning, bound to the exact same fate as, in many cases, our own families. Your contributions allow us to create our own futures and be significantly more equal to our peers. Thank you so much.

Isabelle Newcombe
Second year Philosophy