

PHILANTHROPY IMPACT REPORT

2024/2025



Thank you for supporting our students.



“ This scholarship has lifted a huge burden, allowed me to thrive in my studies and brought a once distant dream within reach. Thank you. ”

Kameel Jaiyesimi, Ros and Andrew Holden Scholar



“ Thank you – this scholarship inspires me to succeed and I’m loving every moment of university life at Kent, from the engaging lectures to the supportive community. ”

Annabel Gale, First 500 Scholar



“ Thank you for giving me the chance to follow my passion, believe in myself and break down barriers – not just for me but for my family too. ”

Lara-Mae Brown, Edmund Boyo Scholar



“ I was so grateful to receive the Bill Jenkins Award. The donor’s generosity allowed me to pursue my academic goals and made my time at Kent an unforgettable experience. ”

Lauren Delatorre, Bill Jenkins Award



“ Receiving this scholarship helped me pursue AI and inspired me to use technology to support healthcare and education in Pakistan, especially for girls. I’m deeply grateful. ”

Zainab Rafique, Bestway Scholar



“ Because of your support, I’m not only pursuing my studies, I’m bringing a meaningful project to life. This scholarship has transformed a dream into reality. Thank you. ”

Alp Arslan, Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholar

TOGETHER WE ARE CHANGING LIVES

From us all at the University of Kent, thank you for supporting young people of all backgrounds as they access higher education, excel during their studies and progress into life beyond university.

Welcome from our Acting Vice-Chancellor and President

At Kent, we believe in the power of education to transform lives – your generosity helps make that belief a reality every day. Through your support, our students are not only overcoming financial and personal challenges but also seizing new opportunities to learn, grow and contribute to the world around them.

This past year, your philanthropic gifts have enabled us to fund scholarships, enhance wellbeing provision and equip our students with the tools they need to succeed. From easing the pressures of the cost of living to opening doors to research, leadership and community engagement, the impact of your philanthropy can be felt across every part of our University.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and feel proud of the change you're creating, not only in people's lives but in the shared culture and bright future of our Kent community.

With sincere appreciation,

Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura



Our scholarship programme offers opportunities to talented students from all backgrounds from across the globe to study and achieve their goals. Thanks to your generosity we are able to offer a wide range of scholarships supporting students at every stage of their academic journey, from undergraduate study to master's degrees and PhDs. These philanthropically funded scholarships not only ease financial pressures but also open doors to opportunity, transform futures and help nurture the next generation of leaders, academics and innovators.

Ros and Andrew Holden Scholarship

Ros and Andrew Holden established a scholarship to support talented local students from widening participation backgrounds to pursue degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM). Thanks to their generosity, this scholarship covers full tuition fees for the duration of a three-year undergraduate degree. In September 2024, Kameel Jaiyesimi began his BSc in Computer Science. He said:

"I have recently completed my first year at Kent successfully with a 2:1 and am so appreciative of the support which has been given to me through the Ros and Andrew Holden Scholarship. My route to university wasn't easy.

The extra financial security provided by the Scholarship brought immense relief, it has transformed my education and I am so grateful to my benefactors for giving me this opportunity.

This incredible support has lifted a huge burden. As well as covering my tuition fees, the Scholarship also offers a small maintenance grant to help me with day to day living expenses. It has allowed me to focus on my studies and build the foundations of a future in academia which once felt like a distant dream.

At the end of this academic year, I feel deeply grateful to Ros and Andrew for their generosity and for believing in me. I will continue to work hard, embrace all opportunities which come my way and will act as an ambassador for the importance of STEM subjects."



Kameel Jaiyesimi

First 500 Scholarship

Whilst some scholarships are funded by a single donor, others are made possible through the combined support of many people giving smaller contributions. The First 500 Scholarship is an example of this collective approach. Established by the University's founding undergraduate class, this scholarship offers £2,000 a year to an undergraduate student with strong academic potential who may not otherwise have the opportunity to thrive.

The 2024/25 Scholarship was awarded to Annabel Gale who has completed the first year of her Classical Studies degree. Annabel has long nurtured a deep interest in ancient history, literature and art, interests which continue to shape her broader educational journey.

For Annabel, the Scholarship has been transformational. Although attending university had always been her dream, the financial burden was a serious concern. Her strong academic performance earned her a place at Kent and the opportunity to apply for the First 500 Scholarship, an opportunity which, in her words, has been "absolutely amazing."

Annabel has been able to purchase essential course materials, travel to museums and exhibitions which enrich her studies and even explore new interests like fencing by joining the University's Fencing Club. These experiences are shaping a well-rounded and fulfilling university life, something she says would not have been possible without this support.

To those who made her scholarship possible, she shares her gratitude:

"Having completed the first year of my Classics degree at Kent, I can appreciate how much the First 500 Scholarship helped me to spend time focussing on my course and make the most of every opportunity. The Scholarship has relieved some of the financial burden of studying, meaning that I haven't needed to get a part-time job to support myself. I'm pleased to say that I passed my first year with Distinction."

At the end of the academic year, I was fortunate to take an educational trip to Paris where I visited the Crypte Archéologique, the Louvre and the Palace of Versailles, enriching my academic understanding. I'm excited to continue my studies this year and am so thankful for the support of the First 500."



Annabel Gale

Donor spotlight: Edmund Boyo

The Edmund Boyo Scholarship is supporting Law student, Lara-Mae Brown. Edmund shares his reasons for giving back, the values behind his philanthropy and his hopes for the future of his scholar.

When Edmund arrived at Kent in 1991 to study Law and German, he couldn't have imagined the global career which lay ahead. After graduating in 1994, he completed an LLM in Banking and Finance at the University of London. Edmund joined Clifford Chance in 1998, training in the London office before moving to Frankfurt in 2000 and then to Dubai in 2017. By 2007 he had become a Partner of Clifford Chance and in 2019 he was elected to Clifford Chance's Partnership Council.

Now, through the Edmund Boyo Scholarship, he is giving back to the place where it all began. The award supports undergraduate law students from under-represented and non-traditional backgrounds, helping them access opportunities which might otherwise be out of reach. Edmund said: "The legal profession is still very inclined towards students coming from privileged backgrounds. I want to help level the playing field so that bright and determined students from diverse communities have a fair chance to succeed."

For Edmund, supporting students is about more than financial assistance. He is eager to play an active role – from mentoring aspiring solicitors to building bridges between Kent and his professional network. He is already exploring ways to connect Kent students with leading law firms and sees mentorship as central to his giving. "It's not just about money, it's about opening doors, giving students guidance and connections so they have the opportunity to get a foot in the door."

When asked what he hopes the scholarship will achieve, Edmund is clear: "I want my scholars to focus on their studies without the constant burden of financial worry. However, I also want them to take responsibility, to put in the effort and to make the most of the opportunities available to them. The aim is to support students who not only have talent but also the determination to succeed."

As he reflects on his gift, Edmund hopes others will consider similar support. He encourages those thinking about giving to listen to William Green's 'Richer, Wiser, Happier' podcast and, in particular, the episode with Michael Berg on Abundance.

What advice would he give to Lara-Mae beginning her studies with his support? "Believe in yourself. Work harder than your peers. Make the most of every opportunity. You alone are responsible for your success."



Edmund Boyo

Scholar spotlight: Lara-Mae Brown

Lara-Mae Brown is the first in her family to attend university. Balancing her education with caring responsibilities at home, she has developed a deep sense of resilience and maturity. Her personal journey has inspired a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, which she championed at school as a diversity prefect and student panel member. She played a leading role in initiatives like Pride and Heritage Week, whilst also contributing to charity events and school-wide activities – experiences which deepened her understanding of representation and belonging.

Lara-Mae's passion for helping others extended beyond her school, notably in her role as a teaching assistant working with refugee children from Ukraine and Rwanda. At Kent, she aspires to become a solicitor with a focus on criminal and corporate law. Receiving the Edmund Boyo Scholarship will be life-changing, lifting the financial pressure and allowing her to focus fully on her studies.

"This scholarship will allow me to believe in myself and in my ability to succeed. It has given me the opportunity to follow my passion and break down barriers for myself and my family. I am so grateful for the support and hope to one day give back by supporting others on similar paths."



Sanctuary Scholarships and Support Fund

In June 2025, Kent was officially recognised as a University of Sanctuary, joining the national movement to champion safety, dignity and belonging for individuals seeking refuge and asylum. This prestigious award acknowledges our University's longstanding commitment to supporting and offering an education to individuals whatever their background and circumstances.

Central to this recognition are our Sanctuary Scholarships which are offered annually to up to five undergraduate students from forced migration backgrounds. Each basic scholarship includes a full tuition fee waiver and a maintenance bursary of £2,000 from the University. However, this amount is often not enough to fully support a student's living costs. Through philanthropic donations, we have established a dedicated Sanctuary Support Fund which helps cover accommodation, essential living expenses and other urgent needs. This additional support has significantly enhanced the wellbeing and academic success of our Sanctuary Scholars, enabling them to thrive within a safe and welcoming university environment.

One recipient, Aws Khalid, reflecting on his experience said, "My Sanctuary Scholarship has given me hope and reconnected me with ambitions I thought I'd lost. The additional support, made possible through the generosity of the University's donors, has truly made a difference. Without it, covering basic needs like accommodation would have been a daily struggle. To everybody who supports this fund, you are not just giving money, you are giving us a future. I will be forever grateful."

Steve Walker from the Walker Construction Trust who has supported this Fund, said "These young people have already experienced more challenges than most of us could ever imagine. Supporting them to pursue their ambitions and talents is a privilege and we are pleased to be able to help make a difference."



Sanctuary Scholar Spotlight: Ismaël's Story

As a University of Sanctuary, we are proud to stand alongside those seeking refuge and a fresh start through education. Our Sanctuary Scholarships continue to provide life-changing opportunities for undergraduate students from forced migration backgrounds.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have been able to 'go beyond' tuition fee support, helping to meet essential living costs. The impact of this support is significant, as shown in the following poem written by Ismaël Nsangou, one of our Sanctuary Scholars. In it, he reflects on the deep emotional toll of displacement, the enduring strength of family bonds and the courage it takes to build a new life far from home.



Ismaël Nchoutnsu Nsangou

Home by Ismaël Nchoutnsu Nsangou

Her voice, my most beautiful melody
My comfort is in her smile
I miss her
Love in all her meals
Her rice with smoked fish
Yes, I miss my Mom.

He is my landmark, my base
I think of him when everything goes wrong
With him I've learned to cry with class
Smile to the world even when I bleed
Yes, I miss my Dad

When Mom cooks
We argue to have the biggest part
I think of it and I smile stupidly
I talk about football with all my brothers
My sisters advise me about women
Yes, I miss my family

Today now everything is memory
Our photos are my most precious possessions
And I'm afraid and it terrifies me
That we may never see each other again

I know nothing will fill this void
And I'm learning to live without a guide
In this sometimes uncertain path
I've discovered what 'home' means

It's a place of comfort, love, security
A place where the soul rests in complete freedom
And I think I've found that place

A haven of peace true to my choices
A place which celebrates equality, tolerance
Where every voice matters

I'm talking about the University of Kent
A university of hope
My new home, my new beginning.



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO WATCH
ISMAËL PERFORM
HIS POEM

Bestway Foundation Scholarships

Funded by the Bestway Foundation, this scholarship supports six students from Pakistan each year to pursue one-year taught master's degrees in STEM subjects. Covering both tuition and living costs, it enables students facing financial hardship due to the country's political crisis to access high-quality education in the UK.

The impact of the Bestway Scholarship is far-reaching. It not only helps individual students achieve their academic and professional goals but also strengthens global collaboration and knowledge exchange across borders. For many recipients, the Scholarship provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study abroad and gain international experience. Since 2018 we have enabled 34 exceptional postgraduate students to achieve their academic goals. Together we are creating a community of scholars who are poised to make significant contributions to society.



“The Bestway Scholarship gave me the chance to build on my AI degree from Pakistan and fully focus on my studies at Kent without the burden of financial pressure. Exploring areas like language processing and reinforcement learning, alongside independent research and live projects, confirmed my passion for AI and its real-world impact. Beyond my academic life, moments shared with friends from diverse backgrounds gave me a strong sense of belonging at the University. I now hope to use AI to support marginalised communities in Pakistan through vocational and healthcare initiatives and to build lasting research links between the UK and Pakistan. I’m deeply grateful for the support that made all this possible.”

Hamza Ali

MSc Artificial Intelligence – School of Computing



“Receiving the Bestway Foundation Scholarship was a turning point for me, especially after facing several rejections for scholarships and visas before being accepted by the University of Kent. I kept going, trusting that persistence would eventually open the right doors. With a background in bioinformatics and genomics, I came to Kent eager to gain hands-on experience in experimental biomedical research. I developed wet lab skills, explored genome editing and analytical biotechnology and completed a dissertation in the Bioinformatics Lab which strengthened both my technical and scientific communication abilities. Beyond my studies, exploring Kent’s coastline gave me space to reflect and recharge. I now hope to pursue a PhD focused on the molecular basis of disease, contributing to therapeutic advances in areas like cancer. I am deeply thankful to the Bestway Foundation for believing in students like me. Your support is not just financial, it is transformational. It empowers students from underrepresented communities to turn aspirations into action and dreams into achievements. Thank you.”

Hifsa Shadeed

MSc Biomedicine – School of Natural Sciences



“Coming from a family where women weren’t traditionally allowed to attend university, it was my parents’ dream for my sister and me to study abroad. When my sister received a scholarship, it gave me the courage to apply for the Bestway Foundation Scholarship and pursue my own path in Artificial Intelligence. While others in my family chose medicine, I was drawn to technology and its potential to solve real-life challenges, especially in healthcare. My time at Kent has deepened my technical knowledge and shaped my understanding of ethical, human-centred AI. It’s been a life-changing experience, made richer by working with people from around the world. I hope to use AI to improve access to healthcare and education in Pakistan, launch mentorship programmes for young students – especially girls – and help build a more ethical and inclusive future through technology. None of this would have been possible without the support of the Bestway Foundation and I am truly grateful.”

Zainab Rafique

MSc Artificial Intelligence – School of Computing



“The Bestway Foundation Scholarship marked the beginning of a journey which has changed my life. As a Biomedicine MSc student from Pakistan, it enabled me to pursue my studies at Kent and dedicate myself fully to outreach, inclusion and academic growth. Becoming a Student Ambassador and later a Postgraduate Outreach Tutor gave me purpose and helped me inspire hundreds of school students across Kent, particularly girls, to see a future in STEM. Alongside my academic success (which included working on a cutting-edge thesis project in cancer research) I contributed to student wellbeing and widening participation panels, proudly representing my background and advocating for equity in higher education. This year has shaped me in ways I never imagined and being invited to teach at Oxford University’s Summer School is proof of how far I’ve come. Thank you for giving me not only the chance to succeed but the tools to help others find their own path.”

Nahal Jehangir

MSc Biomedicine – School of Natural Sciences

Bill Jenkins Award

This award was established in memory of Professor Bill Jenkins, who was Professor of Public Policy and Management at the University from 1971 to 2006. Bill was a respected academic whose work and teaching left a lasting impression on the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (now School of Social Sciences). After his passing, his widow, Linda, wanted to find a way to honour his contribution to the University and his lifelong belief in education. Linda said:

“Bill cared deeply about public service and the importance of good policy making. He also believed in widening access to education and supporting students who showed promise but might be held back by financial pressures. This award felt like a fitting way to reflect the values he lived by and to give future students the kind of opportunities he championed throughout his career.”

This year’s recipient is Lauren Delatorre, a MA International Social Policy student. She has a strong academic background and a deep interest in how policy can drive positive social change. Lauren was especially focused on issues of inequity and inclusive policymaking – values which closely align with the spirit of the award. This funding has enabled her to pursue her studies without the burden of financial challenges, allowing her to fully engage with her course and future career ambitions.

“I have had an incredible experience at the University of Kent and I am sad that it has come to a close!”

Lauren’s qualification has secured her a role in a non-profit organisation which protects political democracy and prevents political violence. She will be working as a project associate on policy research – a role she is very excited to embark on.



Lauren Delatorre (left) with Linda Jenkins

Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship

Funded entirely through the collective generosity of alumni and friends, the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship has been supporting outstanding Kent graduates since 1995. Awarded annually to one exceptional student, this prestigious scholarship enables a Kent alumnus to continue their academic journey through doctoral study. Covering full tuition fees at the home rate and providing a maintenance grant in line with UK Research Council levels, the Scholarship allows recipients to pursue research which has the potential to make a lasting impact both within their field and beyond.

Alp's journey one year on

Many readers may remember Alp Arslan who was featured in last year's report as the recipient of the 2024 Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship. The award enabled him to begin a PhD in Biomedical Engineering, focused on developing a wearable monitoring system that could transform treatment for male infertility.

One year later, Alp's journey is well underway and his gratitude to donors is as strong as ever. He said: "Receiving the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship means I can achieve my dreams. I've always wanted to create biomedical devices that can serve humanity and this scholarship has given me the chance to do just that."

Alp's connection with Kent began in 2019 when he travelled from Turkey to study his undergraduate degree. He quickly found a home within the supportive and close-knit Engineering community. After graduating in 2022, he worked as a technician in the department while applying for scholarships to continue his research. The moment he learned his application was successful is still vivid: "I literally screamed when the email came through, I was just so full of joy!"

That joy has since been channelled into hard work. Over the past year, Alp has achieved several research milestones, including designing a drainage vein body phantom, a model that replicates human veins to support testing and development of his monitoring system. He has also built international collaborations, drawing on clinical expertise from Istanbul Okan University Hospital and partnered with Kent's Applied Optics Research Group to test his models with advanced imaging technologies.

Looking ahead, Alp is excited for the next stage of his project: "Next year will be focused on electronics development and testing and I can't wait to get started."

Alp's Kent experience isn't, however, confined to the lab. Alongside his PhD, he now teaches as an Assistant Lecturer in the School of Computing, sharing the skills and passion nurtured during his own time as a student. "Each day I spend at Kent, I love it even more. I hope I can inspire others, just as my lecturers and colleagues inspired me."

Outside of research, he makes time for calisthenics workouts, swimming and tinkering with fellow innovators in the Tinker Society. When asked about the future, he sees himself leading clinical trials of his wearable vein monitoring system, reinvesting in the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship and establishing centres to support the next generation of STEM researchers.

Above all, Alp wants donors to know how deeply their support matters. "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to live my dream and develop devices that can change lives. I'll make sure to update you every step of the way, because you are part of my journey and you make it all possible."



“ Thanks to your support, I’m not just studying, I’m building something that could change lives. This scholarship turned my dream into a real, working project. Thank you. ”

Alp Arslan
Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholar 2024

Introducing our 2025 Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholar

For Kylie Dunleavy, the question of what it means to be human lies at the very heart of her research. As the 2025 recipient of the Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholarship, she is beginning a PhD in critical posthumanism, exploring how ideas of humanity shift when viewed through the lens of trauma and ecology.

Kylie's fascination with posthumanism first began during her undergraduate studies at Kent. In just her third week, a class on Other Worlds: Dystopias and Futures left an impression. She said: "This was life changing for me. I had very little formal education before coming to Kent and discovering my love for this subject area helped me become a person."

Building on her undergraduate and MA studies, Kylie now seeks to understand how posthumanist theory (especially as articulated by ecological thinkers like Timothy Morton) intersects with the lived experience of trauma. Her work highlights how human identity is inseparable from our entanglement with the environment and with one another.

Kylie's research resonates far beyond the academic world. It speaks directly to global challenges such as climate change, ecological crisis and the social consequences of the Anthropocene. "My research highlights that the tools we need to lessen our negative impact on the world are already embedded in our everyday lives".

Her journey is also personal. Discovering the idea of Solidarity With Non-Human People was particularly powerful. "As someone who grew up in an environment where I was dehumanised for much of my life, to learn that the category of 'person' can be extended to non-humans was really exciting for me. It informs a lot of my current research and my understanding of humanity."

Alongside her doctoral research, Kylie is passionate about supporting others. She continues her involvement with targeted outreach projects at Kent, which help students who are care-experienced or estranged from their families. Drawing on her own background, she offers encouragement to others facing barriers to education.

Looking to the future, Kylie hopes her work will reshape how we think about humanity in ways that are inclusive, compassionate and sustainable. "I hope my research will help us to consider future-oriented posthuman modes of being, where we acknowledge how closely we are tied to the ecological world and to one another."



“ I am deeply grateful for the support which has made my PhD possible. To be able to continue my studies means more to me than I can say. My time at Kent has been highly transformative. During my time here I have not only become a student and a researcher, I have become a person for the first time in my life. The support from staff, students and now donors has been instrumental in my academic success. I truly thank you for your support and I’m looking forward to engaging with you over the next few years. ”

Kylie Dunleavy
Alumni Postgraduate Research Scholar 2025

The Jane Irons Scholarship

This was established by Dr John Stoltz in memory of his wife, Jane Irons, to support vital research in the School of Biosciences. Jane, a passionate advocate for education and science, believed in the power of research to change lives. Her legacy now lives on through this generous gift, which funds three-year PhD scholarships in areas of bioscience where funding can be particularly scarce. By supporting early-career researchers working at the cutting edge of science, the Scholarship is helping to shape the future of healthcare and bioscience innovation.

Chandni Manwani, originally from Mumbai, is one of the scholars supported by the Jane Irons Scholarship. She began her doctoral research in 2022 and is on track to complete her studies and graduate in the 2025/26 academic year. Her research focuses on Supramolecular Self-associating Amphiphiles (SSAs) – a unique class of molecules under development at Kent with the potential to improve the efficacy of chemotherapy drugs. Working under the supervision of Professor Jennifer Hiscock and Professor Michelle Garrett, Chandni's work could contribute to the development of more targeted and less toxic cancer treatments.

Reflecting on her experience, Chandni said: "Cancer is one of the biggest threats to humanity. Although we have made great progress in diagnosing and treating various subtypes, the increasing incidence and poor survival rates continue to raise important questions. My research explores how novel SSAs can be used to enhance the effectiveness of current cancer treatments, particularly in delivering drugs more precisely to tumour sites. It's a privilege to work on something that could have such a significant clinical impact."

Receiving the Jane Irons Scholarship has not only given me the financial support to focus fully on my research but it has also connected me to a legacy which values science, learning and compassion. I am deeply honoured to be a part of this. Without this scholarship, pursuing my PhD would not have been possible and I am extremely grateful for it."

As Chandni approaches the final stages of her PhD, she exemplifies the values which inspired the creation of the Scholarship – curiosity, commitment to scientific progress and a desire to make a difference. Her journey is a powerful example of how named scholarships, established in memory of loved ones, can open doors for the next generation of researchers and ensure their contributions benefit society for years to come.



Chandni Manwani



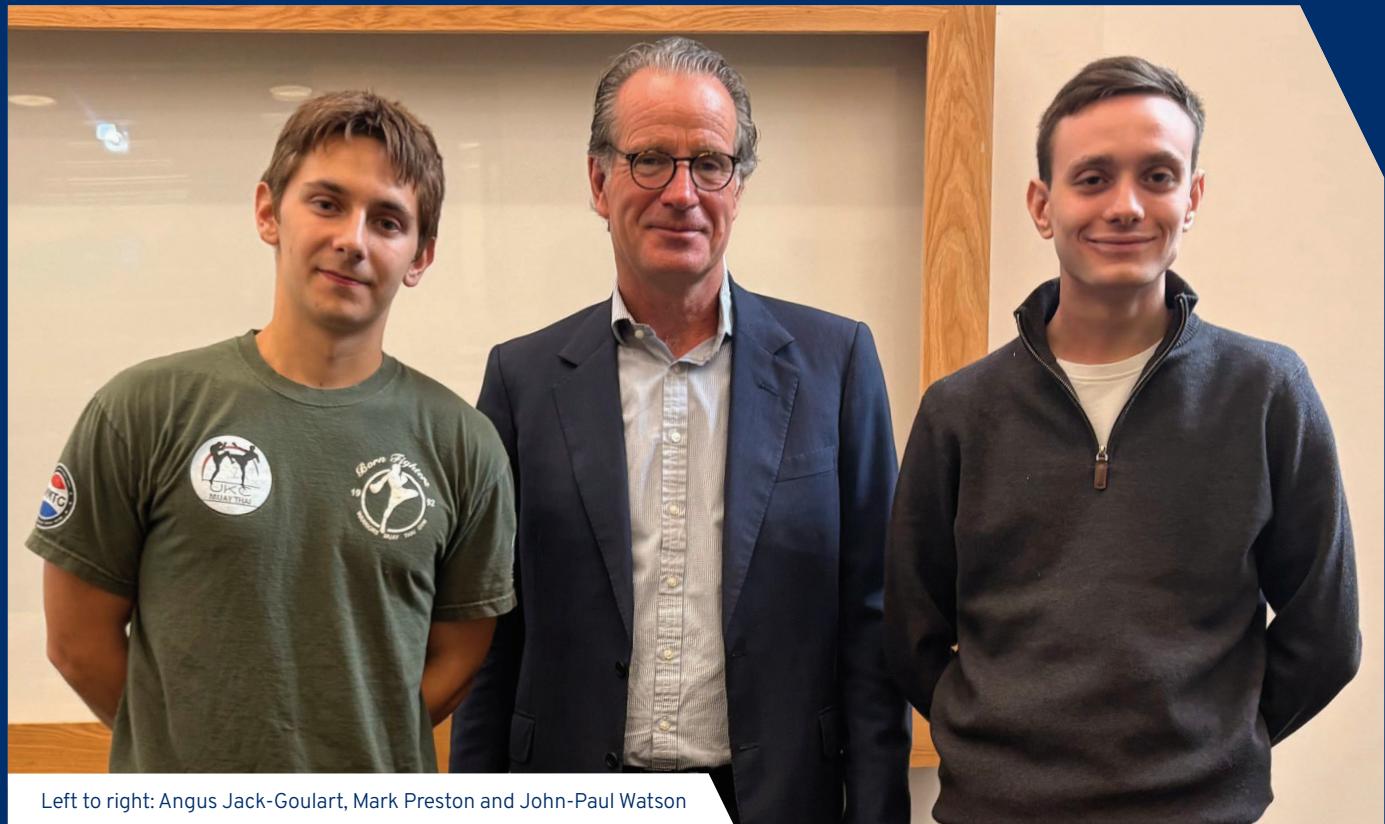
Recognising excellence: The Mark Preston Prize

Celebrating academic achievement is a vital part of university life and prizes play an important role in motivating, encouraging and recognising the hard work of our students. One such example is the Mark Preston Prize, awarded annually to the student with the Best Overall Performance in Year 1 within the School of Economics.

Mark Preston, an alumnus who received a similar award during his own time at Kent and who is now Chair of the University Council, has chosen to give back, closing the circle between past and present and investing in the success of future generations.

This year's prizes were awarded to Angus Jack-Goulart (First Prize) and John-Paul Watson (Runner-up), both of whom were thrilled to be recognised for their achievements. Angus said: "Winning the Mark Preston Prize has made me feel seen. It's easy to doubt yourself during your first year at university however this recognition reminded me that hard work pays off. I would like to thank the donor for his generosity. I hope to give back in the same way in the future."

Prizes like this not only provide a confidence boost but also enrich the student experience by encouraging academic excellence. They remind students that their efforts matter and that their university community is here to support them. Mark said: "Receiving an academic prize in my first year at Kent had a significant impact on me, it gave me confidence, a sense of belonging and the belief that I could achieve something meaningful. Supporting this prize is my way of giving that same encouragement to today's students. I hope it reminds them, as it did for me, that their future is full of potential."



Left to right: Angus Jack-Goulart, Mark Preston and John-Paul Watson

Final Year Upper Voice Prize

Music plays a vital role in enriching the student experience for some of our students, bringing together individuals from all disciplines to collaborate and perform. The Final Year Upper Voice Prize, generously supported by a music-loving donor, honours the dedication and development of students involved in vocal performance during their time at Kent.

The donor, who has a lifelong appreciation for music, explained their motivation for supporting the prize:

“Music is a very important part of my life. While I used to participate in music-making myself, these days I prefer to enjoy performances from the audience. Supporting this prize is my way of continuing to stay connected to something that has brought me great joy.”

The Final Year Upper Voice Prize is awarded annually to the most improved soprano, mezzo-soprano and/or alto voice in their final year of study at Kent. This year, the prize was awarded to three exceptional students:

- Rachel Fung – Final year student in Law
- Leonie Carrette – Final year student in Ancient History
- Florence Kingdon – Final year student in Law

Each of these students demonstrated remarkable progress in vocal ability and stage presence during their time at the University, showing how music can flourish alongside academic study. Their growth and success are beautifully captured in their performances. You can enjoy two of their performances online.



SCAN THE QR CODES
TO WATCH PERFORMANCES
BY LEONIE CARRETTE AND
FLORENCE KINGDON



Left to right: Leonie Carrette, Daniel Harding (Head of Music Performance) and Florence Kingdon

Hardship support

Supporting students in times of crisis

University life can be challenging at the best of times but when unexpected financial hardship strikes, it can place an unbearable strain on students, threatening not only their studies but their wellbeing. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are able to offer emergency hardship bursaries which provide immediate, life-changing support to students in crisis.

These bursaries help students facing a wide range of difficulties from sudden loss of family income or housing instability, to unexpected dental expenses or the rising cost of essentials. For many, this support is the difference between continuing their education and having to leave university altogether.

We are deeply grateful to all donors who contribute to our hardship provision, including those who have established targeted funds for students in specific disciplines. The Kent Law School Hardship Fund and the Stacey Fund, which supports students in the School of Biosciences, are just two examples of how alumni and friends of Kent are giving back.

“Receiving the hardship bursary was a turning point for me. I was at risk of falling behind in my studies due to financial pressures but this support allowed me to focus on my degree without the constant worry of how I was going to get by.”

Final-year undergraduate student

“The fund gave me breathing space at a time when everything felt overwhelming. I can’t thank the donors enough – your kindness helped me feel completely supported.”

Postgraduate Biosciences student, Stacey Fund recipient

“Thanks to the Kent Law School Hardship Fund, I could cover my rent during a tough month and continue my studies without disruption. It made me feel proud to be part of a community that looks after one another.”

Year 2 Kent Law School student



The Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS) Dean's Fund

This provides financial support to assist medical students facing economic challenges. Medicine is a demanding course physically, intellectually, emotionally and financially and students frequently need additional and often unexpected support so the Dean's Fund was established to help students in a variety of ways. Thanks to our benefactors we are able to support students with hardship bursaries, care for those whose lives are jeopardised by unexpected illness and provide support for Year 5 students on elective placements.



“I’d like to extend my deep gratitude to the benefactors of this fund. It has helped me to pay for unavoidable living costs, alleviating some of the stress I was managing at the time. Juggling the demands of medicine and the accompanying financial difficulties can be very challenging and support like this is invaluable. I can’t express my appreciation enough.”

Medway Student Support Fund: Supporting students across three Universities

At the Medway campus, students from the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich come together in a unique academic environment. Like many students across the UK, those studying at Medway continue to face increasing financial pressures, often having to choose between essentials such as heating, transport and nutritious food.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our donors, the Medway Student Support Fund is helping to ease these burdens and provide critical support when it's needed most. Over the past academic year, the Fund awarded a total of £50,400 to 38 students across the Medway institutions. This funding has been a lifeline for students struggling with the rising cost of living, enabling them to stay on course with their studies and maintain their wellbeing.



“Once again, the Medway Student Support Fund has played a vital role in supporting our students through the financial pressures of university life. Many of our students face unique challenges due to the intensive nature of their academic and professional training, leaving little time for paid work. The Fund offers more than just financial help – it provides reassurance, stability and the opportunity for students to focus on their education without the constant worry of making ends meet.”

Member of the Medway Student Support Fund Board

This fund is a powerful example of what's possible when institutions work together for a common cause. It is a shared commitment to student success and the support of our donors is at the very heart of that.

“I was struggling to afford basic essentials and the support I received meant I could continue attending university without skipping meals or worrying constantly about money. I'm incredibly grateful as it made a real difference.”

Medway Student Support Fund bursary recipient

On behalf of the Universities at Medway, we extend our thanks to all those who have contributed. Your generosity provides short-term relief as well as enabling long-term opportunity, giving students the chance to succeed regardless of their financial background.

Alumni giving

Kent Giving Week: The 2024 Telephone Campaign

Autumn 2024 saw the successful return of the University's Telephone Campaign, which ran from 23 September to 12 October as part of Kent Giving Week. After a break during the pandemic, the campaign once again gave current students the opportunity to speak directly with alumni, share experiences of life at Kent and raise vital funds for students facing financial hardship.

These conversations offered a chance to reconnect across generations and reflect on how the University has evolved over time. They also allowed student callers to speak about some of the challenges facing today's students and to ask for support for those experiencing financial hardship.

Many alumni spoke warmly about their time at Kent, sharing memories of campus life and how their experiences helped shape their lives after university. For the students taking part, it was a chance to learn more about Kent's history. Edna, a bursary recipient and student caller, said: "Speaking with alumni reminded me how special Kent is to so many people. It was inspiring to hear their stories and to know that they care about helping students. The bursaries which I have received have transformed my life and I am eager to share my story and encourage others to support students like me."



Alumni were equally enthusiastic about the opportunity to speak with current students. One supporter wrote afterwards: "It was a real pleasure to speak with a student and hear how Kent has changed since my time. University was a defining period in my life and if I can help someone else get through a tough patch and stay on track, I'm more than happy to support this cause."

The generosity shown throughout the campaign means that more students will now be able to access the Student Hardship Fund, which provides essential financial assistance at a time when the rising cost of living continues to affect many.

As Raphael, a final-year Biomedical Science student, explained: "Fundraising supports scholarships, research and student services which enrich the university experience. It also makes education accessible to students from all backgrounds, helping them reach their full potential. The generosity of alumni is key to sustaining Kent's mission of inclusivity and academic excellence."

Together with our team of dedicated student callers and the many students who benefit from this generosity, we extend our deepest gratitude to our alumni community. Your support makes a significant difference to the lives of our students and we hope many more alumni will welcome the opportunity to take part in future campaigns.



Giving Tuesday 2024: Light Up a Life

On 3 December 2024, the University joined the global Giving Tuesday movement with the launch of our 'Light Up a Life' campaign, inviting alumni to come together as a community to transform lives both on campus and beyond.

The campaign shone a spotlight on hardship bursaries, the Sanctuary Programme and the Parkinson's Centre for Integrated Therapy, each demonstrating how alumni support can light up the lives of people from different walks of life and create lasting impact.

Every donation made was marked in a special way – a candle was lit in honour of each donor during our Carols Around the Tree celebration. Staff, students and alumni gathered together holding these glowing candles – powerful symbols of love, hope and the extraordinary difference our community makes when it comes together.

For those unable to attend in person, our online Donor Wall offered the chance to share messages of encouragement and solidarity. Among the many heartfelt notes were: "Thank you for the amazing work that you do to light this world up in the best possible way."

"Remembering a penniless Christmas with two young children at Kent."

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, 'Light Up a Life' truly lived up to its name, brightening lives and strengthening the spirit of giving which lies at the heart of our university community.

We are most grateful for your support and look forward to building on this success.



Leaving a legacy

A lasting legacy in French Literature and Culture

We are pleased to acknowledge the legacy of the late Professor Philip Robinson, whose generosity is supporting the next generation of researchers in French Literature and Culture.

Professor Robinson, who was Emeritus Professor in Eighteenth-Century French Studies, had a distinguished academic career. His research interests spanned nineteenth-century French culture and the history of ideas, with a particular focus on Jean-Jacques Rousseau, comedy and music, Beaumarchais, Bernardin de Saint-Pierre and Marivaux. His legacy reflects a lifelong commitment to French studies and to nurturing future scholars in the field.

Through his planned gift to the University, the first two Professor Philip Robinson Scholarships have been awarded to PhD candidates beginning their studies in September 2025. These awards include a doctoral stipend, tuition fees and access to a research training support grant.

One of the recipients, Amy Bergman, shared: "I am honoured and extremely grateful to be a recipient of this scholarship as studying for a PhD has long been a goal of mine. A scholarship such as this one is a rare opportunity and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the late Professor Philip Robinson and his family. I will not take this experience for granted and very much look forward to making the most of the invaluable years ahead, made possible by his generosity."

Professor Robinson's legacy reflects the lasting impact that an individual can make by supporting areas of learning close to their heart. If you are considering supporting the University through a gift in your will, our free will writing service is available for a limited time to help make the process straightforward and accessible.



A legacy gift, no matter the size, can help support generations of Kent students as well as help ensure that important fields of study continue to thrive.



In memoriam: Professor Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL

**Former Chancellor of the University of Kent (2006–2013)
1933–2025**

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL on 5 September 2025, at the age of 91. Sir Robert was not only a distinguished public servant and a passionate advocate for civic and environmental causes but also a deeply committed supporter of the University of Kent and our students.

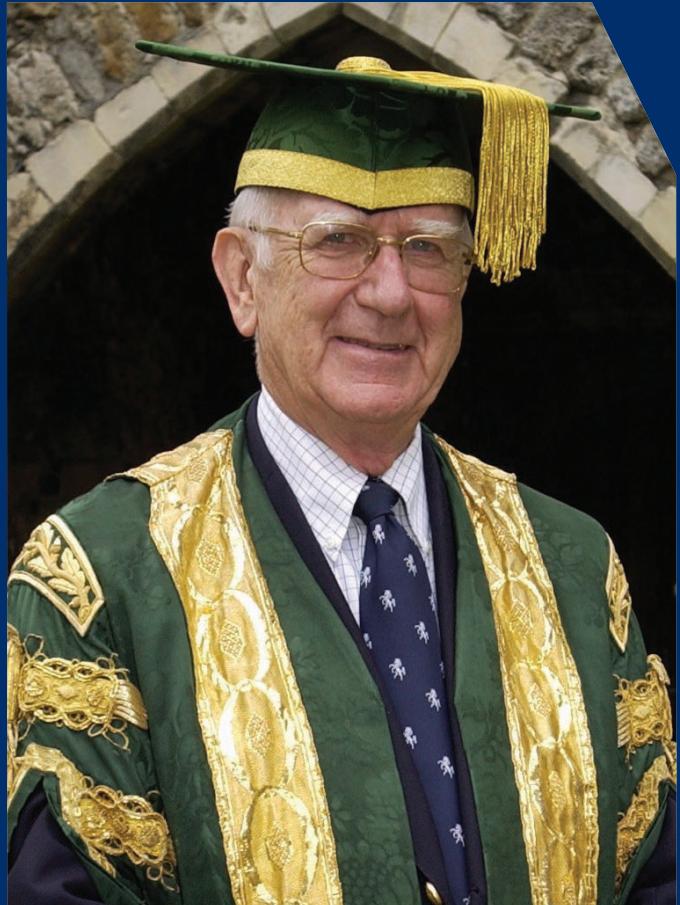
Serving as Chancellor from 2006 to 2013 and as a Member of Council from 1995 to 2013, Sir Robert played a formative role in the University's growth and direction over nearly two decades. His leadership was characterised by wisdom, generosity and a strong belief in the importance of education.

Sir Robert's legacy is visible across our campuses – in the Wigoder Law Building, which supports the next generation of legal minds; in the grand piano gifted to the Colyer-Fergusson Concert Hall, which continues to inspire musicians and audiences alike; and in the scholarship for students from Trinidad and Tobago, opening doors and futures. He also endowed a prize for our Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), reflecting his lifelong commitment to environmental conservation.

Beyond Kent, Sir Robert's national and international contributions were vast. He served in leadership and advisory roles with the Royal Society for Nature Conservation/Wildlife Trusts, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF UK) and many other organisations dedicated to sustainability, heritage and public service. He was a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Kent, a Kent Ambassador and held fellowships and honorary degrees from institutions around the world, including a Doctor of Civil Law from Kent awarded in 2006.

Sir Robert's support changed the lives of countless students, staff and members of our community. We are grateful for everything he gave to the University and his legacy will endure in the opportunities he created and the values he upheld.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and all who knew him.



A year of philanthropic impact

Thank you to all our benefactors who have made this possible.

Total philanthropic cash received:

£2.4m

Total number of donors:

795

Breakdown of the number of donors by source:

Alumni and Friends:

740

Corporates:

28

Trusts and Foundations:

24

Government bodies:

3

Total number of philanthropic gifts:

4,983

Legacy income:

£574,953

Number of first-time donors:

89

Number of countries our donors are from:

18

Number of scholars supported:

104



“ We hope this report has shown you just how much of a difference your support has made to student life here at the University of Kent. Financial hardship is one of the primary barriers to Higher Education students face. From financial relief to new opportunities, your generosity will have a lasting impact to ensure equality of opportunity for all students. On behalf of all Kent students, I want to offer our heartfelt thanks for all your support. ”

Lulu Collins
President of Kent Students' Union 2024-2025
BA Hons Liberal Arts



Should you wish to find out more about any of the projects featured or to make a gift, please contact giving@kent.ac.uk



Exempt status The University of Kent was established by Royal Charter in 1965 and is an exempt charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 1993.

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Cover image: Chandni Manwani, Jane Irons PhD Scholar – see page 14 for her story.

University of
Kent