



# SUPPORTING WESTMINSTER

Helping students fulfil their potential



UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTMINSTER



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER TODAY

Our University has a long and distinctive history. Since our founding as the UK's first Polytechnic in 1938, we have opened our doors to provide educational opportunities to a hugely diverse and international community of students. Today, we continue to build on this reputation, helping students to realise their full potential, regardless of their personal, social or financial background.

Our students go on to make important changes – in their own lives, within the community and across the wider sector at large – and we are incredibly proud of what they go on to achieve after graduation. The support of our donors has, and continues to play, a hugely important role in enabling our students to realise their dreams and ambitions.

In a dramatically changing world and ever competitive careers landscape, it is increasingly important that we are able to offer our students distinctive experiences which will transform their employment prospects and confidence beyond graduation. This is why we have created a breadth of projects to support this vision, which we hope you will choose to invest in and be involved with.

Through these pages, you will see our commitment to providing opportunities for our students to engage with industry as part of their studies, whether in London or through traveling farther afield, in order to help them become work ready, globally aware citizens. You will discover how we are fostering enterprise and innovation in our students, through providing investment to make their bright ideas and business plans a reality. Above all, we hope you will share our dedication to creating a supportive and caring environment for each and every one of our students, including those who have left the care system or those who might encounter sudden financial difficulty during their studies.

Continuing to make the very best of our location is also an integral part of our vision.



The University of Westminster is situated within one of the world's most loved and richly connected cities and we are committed to ensuring that our environment is highly accessible to our wider community partners, as well as our students. As a responsible, caring institution, we continue to invest in partnerships which not only share valuable knowledge, but ones which also combat isolation and social mobility within our beautiful city.

Without the generosity of our supporters, the University would not be the progressive and hugely diverse institution that it is today, nor would we be able to provide so many invaluable opportunities to our talented students.

Our ambitions remain high and I hope you will join me in investing in greater things to come for our students, our University and our wider community.

**DR PETER BONFIELD**  
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT



## A history of philanthropy

The University of Westminster would not exist today if it weren't for philanthropy. Our story began in 1838, when Sir George Cayley opened the Polytechnic Institution at 309 Regent Street in London, a building that is at the very heart of our University today.

In 1881, philanthropist Quintin Hogg bought the Royal Polytechnic Institution building and moved his Young Men's Christian Institute into 309 Regent Street, which soon became the publicly funded Regent Street Polytechnic.



## Donate online at: [westminster.ac.uk/support-us](https://westminster.ac.uk/support-us)

Thank you on behalf of our students for helping them to reach their full potential regardless of their background





# BECAUSE WE CARE

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# BECAUSE WE CARE



Leaving the security of the family home or the familiarity of school can be a daunting time for any student. The financial commitments of a university education are also well documented, but for those who have been through local authority care or have become estranged from their families, the financial and emotional pressures are often greater. Currently, just 6% of students who have left the care system go on to higher education.

The University of Westminster has long held a commitment to widening access to those from under-represented groups. We are working with a number of partners to provide bespoke support for care leavers or estranged students, including alleviating financial and personal barriers which may prevent their journey into or through higher education, and providing ongoing pastoral care through their studies.

"I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT ACCOMMODATION. I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS GOING TO LIVE. HAVING MY ACCOMMODATION PAID FOR HAS GIVEN ME TIME TO FOCUS ON MY STUDIES. WITHOUT IT I WOULD HAVE HAD TO WORK REALLY HARD TO PAY THE RENT AS LIVING IN LONDON IS SO EXPENSIVE."

**ANDRE ZOLANA**, BSC (HONS)  
COMPUTER NETWORK SECURITY

## How you can help

Your support will help release the overwhelming financial pressure that students like Andre face and ensure they stand the best possible chance of reaching their true potential in life. A donation of:



**£20,000** will provide two students with accommodation for a year and support towards living expenses



**£10,000** will provide five students with a completion bursary to support their transition from university to the working world



**£2,500** will provide one completion bursary and support toward the cost of their graduation



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE STUDENTS

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CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE STUDENTS



So many talented potential students miss out on a University education, simply because they do not have the funds to support the costs associated with tuition and living. For international students, or for those balancing family or work commitments alongside their studies, the pressures can be even greater.

In the spirit of the University's long history of providing education for all, we offer

a range of scholarships to support students from a variety of backgrounds and circumstances: from full fee waivers through to maintenance scholarships which are open to all students, regardless of their nationality or whether they are studying for an undergraduate or postgraduate degree. The University of Westminster is also one of the few universities in the UK to offer full scholarships to postgraduate students.

"I FOUND THE SCHOLARSHIP EXTREMELY HELPFUL THIS PAST YEAR AS IT MEANT I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORK AND COULD, THEREFORE, FOCUS MORE ENERGY ON MY COURSE AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. IT ALSO TOOK AWAY A LARGE PART OF THE FINANCIAL PRESSURES OF BEING A STUDENT WITHIN LONDON, ALLOWING ME TO PURCHASE ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE MY WORK."

JOSHUA BULMAN,  
BA (HONS) ARCHITECTURE

How you can help

Your support could be the difference between us being able to offer one extra student like Joshua a scholarship to study at the University of Westminster. A donation of:



£30,000

will provide a three-year undergraduate full tuition fee scholarship



£15,000 will provide a three-year undergraduate maintenance scholarship or an undergraduate half tuition fee scholarship



£10,000

will provide a Masters full tuition fee scholarship



SUPPORTING RESEARCH  
AT WESTMINSTER

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THE PROFESSOR GEOFFREY PETTS RESEARCH FUND



"HAVING THE FUNDS TO ORGANISE A RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM, REALLY RAISED MY PROFILE IN THE SECTOR. I HAVE BEEN IN EMAIL CONTACT WITH PROMINENT SCHOLARS AND HAVE HAD LOTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT. HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESOURCES TO BUILD A WEBSITE, MARKET THE EVENT, AND MANAGE THE BUDGET, HAVE ALSO IMPROVED SKILLS THAT WILL SERVE ME WELL IN ANY CAREER ONCE I GRADUATE. IT'S BEEN A REAL CONFIDENCE BOOST AND I FELT VERY PROUD TO TELL PEOPLE THAT MY UNIVERSITY VALUES RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT IN THIS WAY"

ROSIE REYNOLDS,  
PHD HUMANITIES

Doing a PhD demands extraordinary commitment - emotional, psychological, intellectual, time and financial. Due to such scant external sources of funding available many researchers struggle to find the funding they need to enrich their research, deepen their understanding and ultimately reach their true potential.

The additional costs incurred to complete their research can often

be overwhelming, stretching them too far financially and having a detrimental impact on their focus and wellbeing. The University is committed to developing a unified, interdisciplinary community of researchers with a vibrant body of PhD students at its heart.

We typically have in the region of 450 doctoral researchers who are contributing their expertise across subject boundaries and, through innovative ways of working, are

ensuring that their knowledge, expertise, passion and energy contributes to global debates and new solutions. In memory of the late Professor Geoffrey Petts, former Vice-Chancellor and President of the University, we've established this fund to recognise the distinguished contributions Geoffrey made to interdisciplinary river science research and his belief that all students, regardless of their financial situation, should have the opportunity to succeed.

How you can help

Any financial support given to a PhD student has a significant positive impact on their ability to maintain their commitment to their research. Helping to fund research activities such as equipment and fieldwork, enriches and deepens the eventual research, ensuring that University of Westminster PhD students have the best possible chance of producing innovative, original and world-changing work.



£20,000 could support 20 researchers with fieldtrip expenses



£10,000 could support five researchers with the equipment required for their research



£2,000 will support one researcher with fieldtrip and equipment costs



INSPIRING INNOVATION AND IDEAS

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INSPIRING INNOVATION AND IDEAS



In a dramatically changing world and ever competitive careers landscape, students face increasing uncertainty about their employment prospects post-graduation. More than ever, it's important for graduates to stand out from the crowd and demonstrate more than just their academic attainments.

The University is committed to ensuring that all students have the chance to thrive in their lives after graduation, and we are especially

focussed on fostering their innovation and ideas. This is why we have created The 125 Fund in collaboration with the Quintin Hogg Trust, in order to award grants to students wishing to develop their own enterprises, or their professional development through other endeavours. From funding costs associated with establishing a start-up, through to supporting extra-curricular conferences and courses, The 125 Fund awards grants to unique projects led by our students.

"I RECEIVED FUNDING TO START MY ENTERPRISE IDEA TO DEVELOP A NEW FORM OF CONCRETE INCORPORATING WASTE WHICH IMPROVES ITS SUSTAINABILITY AND PERFORMANCE, BOTH IN TERMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT. YOUR SUPPORT HAS MEANT SO MUCH FOR MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, ENABLING ME TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE SUPPLY CHAIN OF BUILDING MATERIALS."

SUSAN LI, POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA ARCHITECTURE

How you can help

With your support, we could provide even more grants to students like Luisa to make their amazing ideas a reality. Every donation you make will be matched pound for pound by the Quintin Hogg Trust. A donation of:



**£30,000** would provide up to 30 students with grants of £1,000 to support their new business idea, project or extracurricular activity



**£10,000** would provide up to ten students with grants



**£1,500** would provide a student with a grant to launch their business idea



## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

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## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

London is one of the world's most loved and connected cities. It can also be a very lonely place, especially for vulnerable groups who may not have the social capital or connections to enjoy all the city has to offer. Across the UK, the loneliness epidemic is gathering speed and severity and a number of government-led initiatives have been established to combat the issue.

The University of Westminster's Regent Street Cinema, situated in the heart of central London, delivers a range of community engagement initiatives to encourage social interaction and help our local residents come together. The Matinee Classics programme is one example of this. Created especially for the over 55s, local residents are invited to enjoy a classic film at the cinema every Wednesday, followed by a tea dance and refreshments. Tickets are subsidised by our donors, enabling as many guests as possible to take part in the experience, which they frequently describe as 'a life saver', 'the best medicine' and a regular outing that 'makes the world of difference'. Meanwhile on Saturday mornings, the Kids Kino Club provides discounted tickets for parents and children who often require additional support.



"ISOLATION CREEPS UP ON YOU. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT A PROFOUND EFFECT MATINEE CLASSICS WOULD HAVE ON MY LIFE. I NOW HAVE SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO EVERY WEEK AND FEEL THAT I HAVE MADE FRIENDS. THIS IS JUST WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR."

**REGULAR MATINEE CLASSICS ATTENDEE**

### How you can help

Your support will help ensure the Regent Street Cinema continues to play a key role at the centre of our community, sharing our heritage and reaching the widest possible audience. A donation of:



**£45,000** will ensure we can run the Matinee Classics programme for a year



**£20,000** will enable parents and their children to access the Kids Kino club on a Saturday for a year



**£3,750** will ensure we can run the Matinee Classics programme for a month



## A LIFELINE DURING A CRISIS

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## A LIFELINE DURING A CRISIS



Studying at University places a financial strain on most students but for some this burden can be even greater. The reality of coping with this might mean working long unsociable hours in part time jobs, reducing – or even totally prohibiting – their ability to wholeheartedly commit to their University experience.

The hardship fund provides vital assistance to students who, through no fault of their own, need some extra financial help to ensure they continue with their studies and reach their full potential. Even with the best financial planning, many students experience unexpected hardship. Unforeseen circumstances, additional costs or a change in personal situation can often leave students unable to cover essential costs such as day-to-day living expenses, rent, travel and childcare.

In an emergency situation, students can apply for grants of up to £1,200 from the hardship fund which can make all the difference to a promising student by enabling them to stay at University, focus on their studies and successfully graduate.

### How you can help

Your support will help students experiencing hardship to reduce their working hours and ease any financial worries they have so that they can commit themselves fully to their studies and reach their full potential. A donation of:



**£9,000** will cover a student's accommodation for a year, £750 for a month



**£6,000** will cover a student's essential living expenses for a year, £500 for a month



**£1,500** will cover a student's travel expenses for a year, £125 for a month



# CREATING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

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# CREATING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

We are fortunate to live in a time when overseas travel has become a relatively accessible and normal part of everyday life. More than ever, students need to prove that they are globally engaged to give them a distinctive edge in today's competitive job market. For many students however, being able to take advantage of learning opportunities abroad is an increasingly difficult prospect alongside affording other costs associated with their University education.

This is why we have established our Westminster Working Cultures programme, which gives undergraduate students the opportunity to travel to some of the world's most extraordinary cities – including Hong Kong, Washington DC and Mumbai – to gain invaluable insight into the employment landscape and culture. Students learn through a variety of work place tours and seminars in the region, provided by our alumni and partners. Students must apply to take part in this popular programme, and priority is given to students from lower socio-economic backgrounds who would not otherwise have had the means, or the confidence, to travel abroad for short-term work insight opportunities. The costs of flights and accommodation are fully funded by our generous donors, removing all obstacles for students to apply.



"I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST BUT NEVER HAD THE CAPACITY TO DO SO. IT'S BEEN AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE TO DO SOMETHING SO DIFFERENT TO MY USUAL ROUTINE AND LOOK BEYOND MY LIFE IN LONDON."

**HOLLY PATRICK, BA (HONS) JOURNALISM**

## How you can help

By participating in Westminster Working Cultures Programmes, students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a new culture and hone the skills that will give them a distinctive edge in today's competitive job market. A donation of:



**£30,000** will ensure we can send 20 students on an experience programme for 10 days



**£15,000** will ensure we can send 10 students



**£1,500** will support one student on an experience programme





# JOIN US

We are proud to offer exclusive membership opportunities to our generous donors.

FRIENDS OF  
QUINTIN AND  
ALICE HOGG 

**£50 up to £999**

ROBERT  
MITCHELL  
SOCIETY 

**£1,000 up to £9,999**

  
GEORGE  
CAYLEY  
CIRCLE

**£10,000 and more**

## Your Legacy

A legacy gift to the University of Westminster offers an opportunity to contribute to the lives of future generations in a personal and thoughtful way. Please do let the University know your bequest wishes, so that we can thank you, keep you up to date with our future plans and send you invitations to our events.

If you are thinking about leaving a bequest, we are always happy to provide more information.

## Find out more:

**W:** [westminster.ac.uk/giving-groups-membership](https://westminster.ac.uk/giving-groups-membership)

**E:** [development@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:development@westminster.ac.uk)

**T:** +44 (0)20 3506 6245

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