WRSA Student Bursaries, 2016-17
This year, WRSA awarded bursaries totalling £1450 to three students: Kieran Hall (Third Year Computer Science), Dominic Nah (MA World Literature) and Anjali Sambhwani (Second Year BSc Management Studies).

Kieren Hall’s bursary relates to Warwick Technology Volunteers – a dedicated group of more than 60 students and staff who aim to encourage children to become creators, rather than consumers, of technology. They create and deliver interactive, technology-based workshops in schools throughout Coventry and Warwickshire.

One of the most popular workshops involves teaching the Scratch programming language, encouraging children to engage with programming in an innovative and exciting way. Warwick Technology Volunteers is recognised throughout the global Scratch community, particularly for the group’s development of resources such as the new sensor board, ExperiSense. The bursary supports the attendance of four members at a festival in Bordeaux in July celebrating the tenth anniversary of Scratch, where they will run a workshop and poster session and give a presentation.

Dominic Nah’s bursary supports a nation-wide breakdance competition, ‘Step and Style (Vol 1)’ due to be held at Warwick in February 2017, organised by the University’s Breakdance Society in a knockout tournament style.

Dominic aims to involve all the Warwick society’s members in organising this event, to promote a deeper appreciation and understanding of the UK breakdance scene for all the society’s members and to create more connections and opportunities for the society beyond its regular classes and training sessions. In particular, Dominic is keen to encourage his fellow members to step outside their comfort zone and to understand more about the wider breakdancing scene in the UK.

Anjali Sambhwani leads a community project, ‘Gateway’, which offers an employability programme to refugees and asylum seekers in Coventry.

This is a three month programme, developing beneficiaries’ skills through tailored IT and soft skills workshops; it provides beneficiaries with a mentorship scheme that offers guidance on how to fulfil job aspirations; it also holds networking events for its beneficiaries to secure work/volunteering placements with its community partners such as the Positive Youth Foundation. The Gateway project is in its initial stages, and the WRSA bursary will help it to become effective and scalable; Anjali hopes that a minimum of ten beneficiaries will be enabled to join the programme this year.