



**THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING
STUDENTS**

Student Support Impact Report

2023/24



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Thank you for helping young people from all backgrounds to access, succeed in and make progress beyond their university experience through your giving. As the incoming Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education at the University of Warwick, I really enjoyed reading this report and discovering how your support is making such a significant impact on young people's lives.

I am proud of what Warwick has achieved to date in enabling social mobility. Our Warwick Scholars Programme was named University Progression Initiative of the Year at the 2023 Student Social Mobility Awards, and we have been nominated for University of the Year by the UK Social Mobility Awards, 2023. This national recognition would not have been possible without your generous support for our students.

Whilst it is wonderful to receive awards, Warwick's vision and ambitions are focused on continuous improvement and affecting long-term change. We are determined to push ahead with broader strategic measures to improve access and student success, including policy reform and embedding an institution-wide approach. Your continued support is precisely what allows us to be ambitious and far-reaching in our aims, and I am looking forward to writing in future years about the many more lives changed through access to an outstanding education at Warwick.

Each year, you, and alumni and friends like you, support scholarships for more than 160 students at all levels of study. Hannah, a Warwick Scholar, is currently mobilising the skills and confidence she learned while studying here to make a difference to the lives of underprivileged children, while Malika used her scholarship to undertake voluntary work with a menstrual inequality group. Hannah and Malika's stories exemplify the ripple effect of student support philanthropy. Not only has your generosity enabled both students to reach graduation and beyond, you have also created the conditions for Hannah and Malika to start making a positive impact upon regional and international communities. I hope you enjoy learning more about the difference you are making over the following pages.

Thank you again and very best wishes,



Professor Lorenzo Frigerio
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

P.S

Would you like to feature in a donor profile describing why you support students at Warwick?

Please email benefactors@warwick.ac.uk for more information



Inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs

Through the programmes they curate, Warwick Enterprise and Creative Futures provide a pathway of opportunities which identify, nurture, and enable future entrepreneurs at Warwick from early stages through to graduation and beyond. Under the themes of Inspiration, Education, and Incubation, and supported by the Warwick Innovation District eco-system, our students have the freedom to experiment and develop critical thinking and the tools to succeed in some of the world's most progressive industries.

"One of my friends recommended Warwick Enterprise to me as a platform where they provide mentorship to all students on their ventures. It's been a major part of my business because they have helped me identify what is my unique selling point.

I think that is one of the biggest things we need to understand as students - there are so many students at Warwick who have their own startups, but they don't know how to differentiate themselves from other competitors. Warwick Enterprise helped me identify my unique selling point and how I need to leverage that to market the service I provide.

"I think one of the biggest things that Warwick Enterprise has helped me with is 'just do it.' They told me that I had a great idea and that I needed to work on it. So, start somewhere - even if you fail, you're going to learn a lot!"

Purvi Agarwal

(BSc Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 2023)
Founding Director at LinkNGrow



Patrick Chamberlain

(BA Economics and Politics, 1999)
Managing Director, Legal at Goldman Sachs

What giving means to me: I'm grateful for the way my Warwick experience - the studying, the people, and the broader opportunities - transformed my outlook on life and set me up for the future. I feel very strongly that my experience should be available to people from all backgrounds.

Why I chose to support education and Warwick's student support work: Now more than ever, it is crucial that as broad a range of people as possible have the same chance I did and that we work to enable participation from across society. I'm delighted to have supported Warwick's initiatives in this area over the years and I would encourage others to consider supporting Warwick's important social mobility and student support work.



**Twenty years of thinking about our ambitions,
We could be doctors, authors or even mathematicians!**

IntoUniversity

The University of Warwick is proud to call Coventry our home. That's why Warwick and **IntoUniversity** Coventry formed a partnership based upon shared values and ambitions to level the playing field, raise aspirations, and help give young people the best possible opportunity to flourish and succeed.

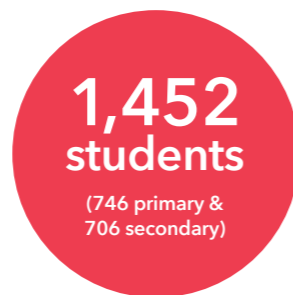
Earlier this year we were delighted to welcome past and present students, staff and volunteers, representatives from our partner organisations, and friends and supporters of the **IntoUniversity** charity to celebrate 20 years of achievements by our wonderful young people.

Children from across the **IntoUniversity** centres recited a birthday poem which you can watch below by scanning the QR code.



Your support has made it possible to fund this centre, helping more and more local children to access additional educational support and think ambitiously about their futures.

**Last academic year
the learning centre supported**



Nurturing the next generation of doctors



At Warwick, we train the doctors of the future, and aim to create a workforce that better represents our population. However, the cost of living crisis has made an already challenging experience even harder for our doctors in training, who are more likely than others to face financial hardship during their studies.

This is due to unique financial pressures which are often exacerbated by long shifts at unsociable hours and the need to purchase expensive specialty items such as stethoscopes, surgical clothing, and textbooks.

By supporting the Warwick Medical School Hardship Fund, alumni like you are making a difference in the lives of medical students, today and tomorrow. Your support is alleviating the pressures they face, freeing them up to deliver lifesaving care and develop countless initiatives that serve and support local communities, without the threat of financial difficulty during their studies.

Scan the QR code below to find out more, including how you can help.



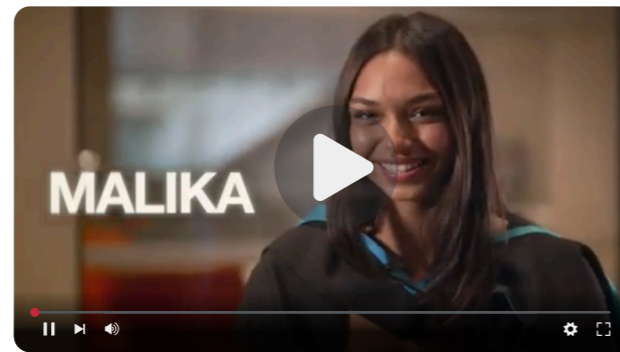
"Receiving support from the Warwick Medical School Hardship Fund has been instrumental in allowing me to continue my studies. It has helped alleviate some of the financial commitments that have made my journey more challenging, especially when facing health issues that required immediate attention and additional expenses."

Georgie Webster, WMS student

Your lasting impact - Malika

Malika Mathur (BSc Economics, 2023) discovered her passion for empowering others while studying at Warwick. She became a student leader at Girls in Charge, a not-for-profit social enterprise, that nurtures women's entrepreneurial skills. Volunteering with Project Baala, a social enterprise run by alumna Soumya Dabriwal (BSc Economics, 2016), she was able to participate in work to address menstrual inequality in underprivileged regions.

Malika is about to embark on a career in finance after securing a role with BlackRock as a Graduate Analyst. Her scholarship from the Albukhary Foundation allowed her to embrace academic pursuits, explore societies, and seize career prospects with unwavering focus.



Scan the QR code to watch the film



The Innovation Fund - Powered by Alumni

The Innovation Fund is designed to invest in exciting student-led projects and ideas, while maintaining a focus on supporting students to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing society and the wider community.

This year, alumni like you have had a huge impact, supporting the student body, allowing students to deliver diverse projects such as:

- **Blackness, Imagination, Liberation**
- **Stand Up to Islamophobia**
- **Sexual Health and Guidance Festival**
- **Women in Sport Conference**
- **Koan Records**

"The event was really inspirational, and so necessary - I had a lot of reflections to take away from the speakers, who all spoke so passionately about inclusion within sports and how we can do more to make sports more inclusive for women. I really enjoyed the event and learned a lot from it about the importance of inclusion and being seen."

Women In Sport Conference attendee

Powered by alumni support

**WARWICK
INNOVATION
FUND**

Scholar Spotlight Reflecting on my time as an MA Student



Hafsa Zadran (MA Islamic Education, 2020) reflects on her time at Warwick and how her scholarship from the COSARAF Charitable Foundation allowed her to dedicate her time to her studies.

During the programme I delved into diverse dimensions of Islamic education, exploring its history, philosophy, pedagogy, and contemporary challenges. This comprehensive approach enabled me to have a deeper understanding of the subject matter. I had the privilege of studying alongside individuals from various cultural backgrounds and worldviews, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives.

My scholarship:

My study was made possible through the generous scholarship from the COSARAF Charitable Foundation. The scholarship alleviated financial burdens, enabling me to focus wholeheartedly on my studies. It not only eased the stress of tuition fees but also allowed me to access valuable resources like the many leadership training programmes that I might have otherwise missed.

Future plans:

I now teach traditional Islamic sciences by incorporating a variety of resources, interactive discussions, and experiential learning activities to engage my students actively and make their learning relatable to their daily lives. More importantly, I ensure that I collaborate with other educators to inspire them into adopting more interactive and student-centred approaches in their classrooms.

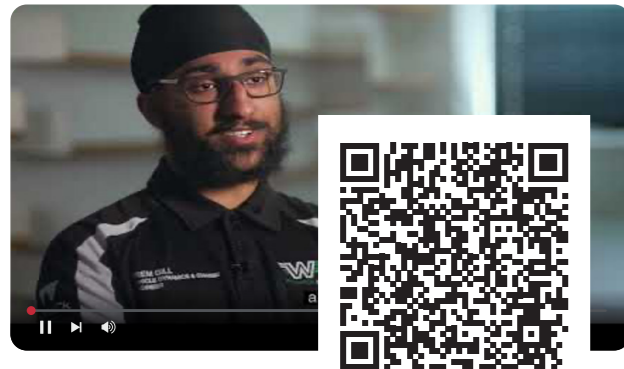
"Studying the MA in Islamic Education at Warwick has been a transformative journey, one that has significantly enhanced my career as a teacher of traditional Islamic sciences. This financial support was a pivotal factor in my ability to pursue higher education to enhance my personal and professional growth."

About me:

My most cherished part of the degree was the dissertation project. It was an intellectual journey that allowed me to delve deep into a topic I was truly passionate about. The process of researching, planning, conducting literature reviews and interviews was both challenging and incredibly rewarding. It has broadened my knowledge and has equipped me with various skills to use in my classroom to engage students effectively.

Racing ahead - Prem's story

Second year BSc Mechanical Engineering student Prem Gill grew up with a passion for all things cars and motorsport. Support from the Warwick Scholars Programme has allowed him to gain vital industry level experience through extra-curricular projects such as Warwick Racing.

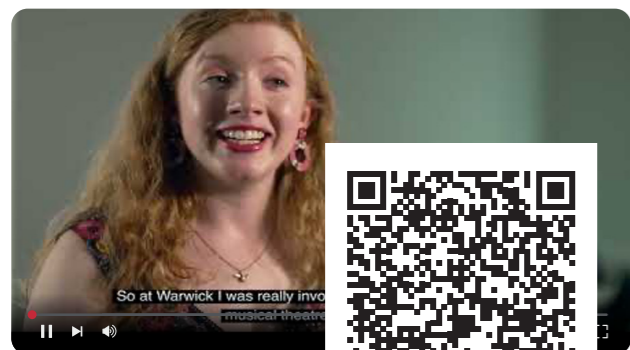


Scan the QR code to watch the film

Investing in the next generation - Warwick Scholars

Hannah Filer (BA English and Theatre Studies, 2022) is pursuing her dream of working in the arts sector thanks to support from the Warwick Scholars Programme. Now working for a drama charity that supports underprivileged children, she shares her journey and how she hopes to make a difference to the lives of others.

"I'd really like to say thank you to the donors for investing in my future and investing in the future of everyone whose lives I'll be able to support and reach out to through my future work in education and in the charity sector."



Scan the QR code to watch the film



Undergraduate Warwick Scholars who are acting as mentors to students in access programmes



Undergraduates are currently in receipt of support through the Warwick Scholars Programme

Warwick Scholars is made possible through a combination of philanthropic support and investment from the University.

Support from alumni and donors like you helps to fund more scholarship bursaries, providing opportunities for more young people to thrive.



Scan the QR code to find out more

Natasha's Story



Natasha Agarwal (BSc Mathematics, 2017)
After being supported by a Warwick Music Scholarship, Natasha is now a professional soprano.

"I was very fortunate to be a choral scholar at the University of Warwick, where I studied with Gaynor Keeble. I spent most of my university life singing in the various choirs and performing in operas, concerts, and dance shows. We were extremely lucky to have such a thriving music centre at Warwick (despite there being no music degree), and to have access to the Warwick Arts Centre. I had the opportunity to perform four big opera roles during my time at Warwick, which is more operatic experience than I would have gained had I done my undergraduate degree at a music conservatoire.

"Performing in the Warwick Fused concert was an annual highlight for me. This celebration of multiculturalism made me realise just how powerful music is in breaking down boundaries and bringing people together. It became clear to me that I wanted music (and specifically opera) to be more than just a hobby.

"After graduating from Warwick, I decided to train full-time, and I moved to London to do a Masters in Vocal Performance at the Royal Academy of Music. I have since done further training at the National Opera Studio and British Youth Opera and I have sung principal roles with Welsh National Opera, Opera North, Opera Holland Park, and Waterperry Opera Festival, as well as performing in Ravi Shankar's fusion opera 'Sukanya' at the Royal Festival Hall with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

"I am incredibly grateful to the Music Centre at Warwick for all the opportunities I had and for the important part it played in my journey to becoming a professional singer."

A lifetime legacy

The Music Ensemble Room at Warwick Arts Centre is named in celebration of legacy donor and local community member Margaret Summers. Margaret left a generous gift in her will to Warwick Arts Centre. Margaret and her husband regularly attended our free lunchtime concerts there.





Warwick in Africa

Since the Warwick in Africa (WiA) programme was created in 2006, your support has continued to give student volunteers the opportunity to travel and collaborate with teachers to co-deliver fun and effective Maths and English lessons in partnership with schools across Africa.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, only 1 in 4 children of secondary school age attends school. For those that do attend school, getting a good education is still a huge challenge, let alone making it into higher education or getting a decent job. During their summer placement, by participating in school life and the sharing of ideas and cultures, Warwick Volunteers play an important role in the ongoing network of support provided to partner schools, teachers, and students.

Warwick in Africa provides a unique student opportunity and one that promotes inclusion and the promotion of social mobility through education and experience. As well as the impact our volunteers have on the schools which they visit, the programme also assists in their core skill development. From pre and post placement evaluations forms, we can see that all volunteers have self-assessed an improvement in every area, most notably in the areas of teamwork and communication.

This year, 23 student volunteers travelled to eight schools across Ghana and South Africa, making a lasting impact on learners across the region by supporting teachers with access to training and providing them with new and creative approaches to teaching.

The programme's renewed focus is on what it means to be a "Warwick in Africa School" all year round and not just when our volunteers are in-country. This includes reshaping the programme to ensure the impact is both sustainable and measurable with a particular focus on the leadership development of African lead teachers.

By supporting projects like Warwick in Africa, you are helping to strengthen long term relationships and an ongoing triangle of support between Warwick, partner schools, and local universities in communities where our volunteer teachers return each year.

"My relationship and interactions with the teachers were nothing short of amazing. I formed strong bonds, which had a ripple effect on the learners we taught. The teachers appreciated my assistance in creating well-structured lessons on poetry, short stories, and language/vocabulary. This allowed them to focus more on teaching and engaging with their students effectively. Our relationships also facilitated professional development. Sharing my knowledge and expertise in English language teaching could have inspired them to explore new teaching methods and approaches in their classrooms."

Warwick in Africa Student Volunteer

Did you know?

2023 marks the first anniversary of the Warwick Africa Hub, which focuses on advancing new research ideas that are unconstrained by disciplinary boundaries. Its ambition is to create collaborations that extend beyond universities to include non-governmental organisations, international institutions, private research institutes, and private sector bodies.



Donations in support of students help cover the costs of the Undergraduate Research Summer Scheme, ensuring our students can build the skills and experience they need to succeed in their professional careers.

Alumni and donors like you are vital in shaping the future of students like Reanna.

From URSS scholar to a PhD in pandemic planning

The Undergraduate Research Summer Scheme (URSS) enables students to undertake a paid research project (typically 6-8 weeks) with an academic at the university. The programme provided Reanna Gregory with the key research experience she needed to successfully apply for her PhD.

"I completed a virology-based project in Warwick Medical School last summer and genuinely loved the experience. As a student at the Institute for Global Pandemic Planning (IGPP), I'll now be completing a PhD in the field of Public Health and Mathematical Epidemiology over the next four years. URSS provided me with key research experience that formed a critical component of my PhD application. Undergraduate in-module labs don't give you a real idea of what it's like to plan and conduct independent research every day, so undertaking a summer research project is the best way to figure out whether research is a career prospect you are interested in long term. For me, my URSS project confirmed that this was something I really wanted to do going forward.

"I am so excited to have received an IGPP scholarship, which is an incredible opportunity for me! I'm very grateful that I'm able to study for a PhD, which has been a long-term goal of mine, whilst being able to finance my tuition fees and living expenses. Without the scholarship this would not be possible for me.

"As I'm interested in both Public Health and Mathematical Epidemiology, the IGPP programme is ideal for me as it allows me to tailor my PhD project into the intersection between these two fields. It actively encourages interdisciplinary supervision, with the intention of improving future responses to pandemics - a career path I would like to pursue. Furthermore, Warwick is a fantastic place to study in this field, and I'm very grateful that I'm able to stay on as a postgraduate here and gain the qualifications I need for this career path."

Did you know?

Students can access a Work Experience Bursary (WEB), supporting them in undertaking unpaid work experience. The Work Experience Bursary is made possible by philanthropic gifts from alumni and donors.

WEB Stats

- Between August 2022 and July 2023, a total of 402 bursaries were awarded to students, at an average value of £404 of an available £500 per student
- So far, since August 2023 we have awarded 183 bursaries with an average value of £455 each

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