STUDENT IMPACT

EMPOWERING NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
Supporting Students at Newcastle University

Alumni and supporters generously fund a range of bursaries and scholarships at Newcastle University, from those that reward ability, to those that help alleviate financial hardship whilst studying.

The thing our bursaries and scholarships have in common is that they empower recipient students in their studies. Giving students an increased opportunity for success both whilst at university and upon graduation.

The Opportunity Scholarships programme is a means-tested scheme that helps Newcastle University students from low-income households with their day-to-day expenses whilst studying, such as rent, travel, textbooks and CV-boosting, extra curricular activities.

Scholarships provide up to £2,000 depending on the personal circumstances of the recipient.

Support from alumni, and friends, helped us award means-tested scholarships to 1,517 new students from low-income households in 2018-19. Over 52% scholarships awarded were to students who were the first in their family to go to university.

Students from across the University are eligible for support and 107 different courses of study were represented.
Hannah - Dental Surgery BDS

"Having this financial support has meant I have been too able to take advantage of these opportunities afforded to me which is what University is all about. It's made a huge difference to me both through my course and through more extra-curricular opportunities that otherwise I wouldn’t have had."

Hannah is a stage one Dental Surgery BDS student who has received £2,000 through the Opportunity Scholarship programme.

Why did you choose to study Dentistry at Newcastle?
"I have always taken an interest in Science when I was at school but what solidified the idea of doing Dentistry for me was actually doing my work experience during 6th form in a practice for a while. It was such a broad range of people that you meet that was incredible. I also did some work experience at the Dental Hospital which is part of the University so met a few students so I knew what to expect before I started too."

How has the financial support you have received made a difference?
"Some of the money I’ve received so far I have saved to use for my deposit and rent for next year so I’m not out of pocket massively as that can be a lot of money. Apart from that I’ve mainly used it on any tech or stuff I’ve needed for my course. When I need an essential item it means I can worry less about long term budgeting and being able to afford it as I know I have this money I can fall back on. Without this Scholarship that would have been a big concern so it’s been perfect to have."

"I’m a bit of a worrier when it comes to money and finances so having this money I’ve been given as a back-up and a safety net has really made a difference to me. We get the money in installments too so I know it’s going to be constant throughout the year and the support will be there."

Hannah dreams of working in the NHS doing maxillofacial surgery when she graduates from Newcastle. Donations from alumni and friends are helping to make this possible. Thank you for supporting talented students like Hannah.
Rehaan - MB BS

“Getting as many people from as many backgrounds into Higher Education is an important thing and no-one should miss out because of costs. This money helps with that massively and supports people like me. If you’d asked me a few years ago I wouldn’t have considered studying Medicine a possibility but schemes like this help make that possible. Not only for me but for other people.”

Rehaan is a stage one MB BS student who has received £2,000 through the Opportunity Scholarship programme. He is the first in his family to attend university.

Why did you choose to study Medicine at Newcastle?

“Medicine is a subject where you know you’re going to be able to help people and I definitely want to do something with my life where I’d be able to help people. Being a doctor I’d be particularly interested in helping people who are suffering from say a disease and being able to manage their care so they can live to the fullest. That was a big motivating factor for me.”

Aside from your course what extra-curricular activities do you do?

“I’ve joined a few societies. The MedSoc society, the emergency medicine society, the pediatric society and the surgery society. It’s really helped me get a feel for the different specialties that I might want to go down later as well being able to meet fellow students. Within the Emergency Medical Society we do simulations of different emergency situations in the clinical skills labs which has been really interesting.”

How has the financial support you have received made a difference?

“The money I’ve been given so far I’ve used mainly to support my education. Finding resources that I’ll need like textbooks, my stethoscope which didn’t come cheap, and it’s allowed me to join the societies and take advantage of the opportunities given through those. It also means I don’t have to worry so much about food shopping and any other costs that may arise. It’s been a good safety net for me and that helps with my mental health too.”

“The money I have received has definitely made a big difference to me and I would expect those other students in receipt would say the same.”

Thanks to the generous support of Newcastle University alumni and friends we can produce the next generation of talented NHS doctors.
From Newcastle. For the future

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