

# INSPIRE

THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH SUPPORTER MAGAZINE

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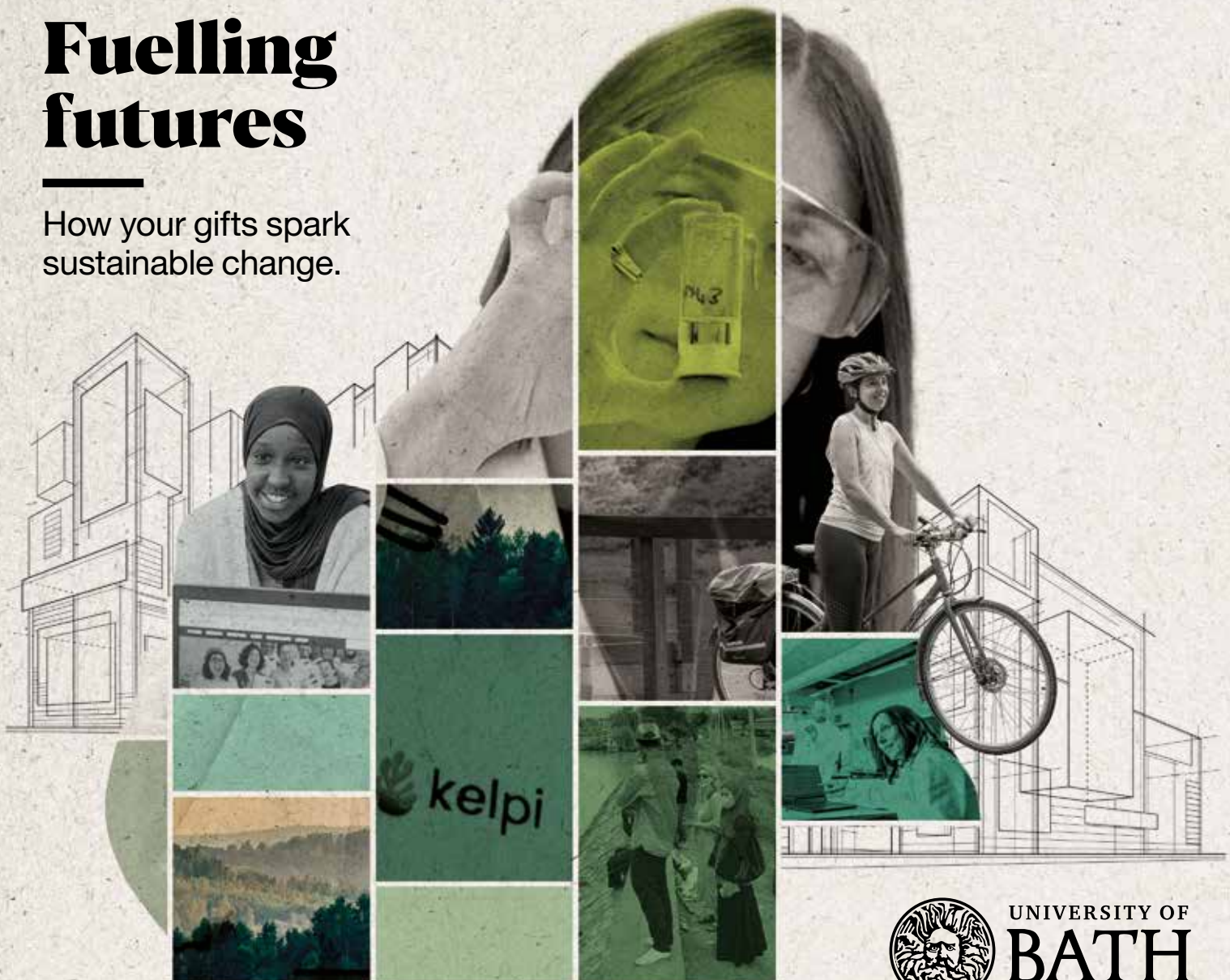
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UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**



# TESTIMONIALS

**“The scholarship has enabled me to attend university. Without it, I wouldn’t be able to fund myself”**

**Will, MEng Aerospace Engineering**  
Gold Scholar



**“It means a lot to study at Bath with access to facilities that aren’t available back home in Malawi. I have a lovely community here that supports international students like myself”**

**Jennifer, PhD in Mechanical Engineering**  
Commonwealth PhD Scholar



**“I’ve gained a lot of confidence, being at Bath. The scholarship has given me that boost that I can achieve everything that I set out to do and to make the most of every opportunity”**

**Christabel, BA Modern Languages (German & Spanish), Mercer Scholar**



**“The scholarship has not only provided financial support, but also encouragement to continue my creative arts journey alongside academia”**

**Kevin, BEng Integrated Design, Engineering Arts Scholar**

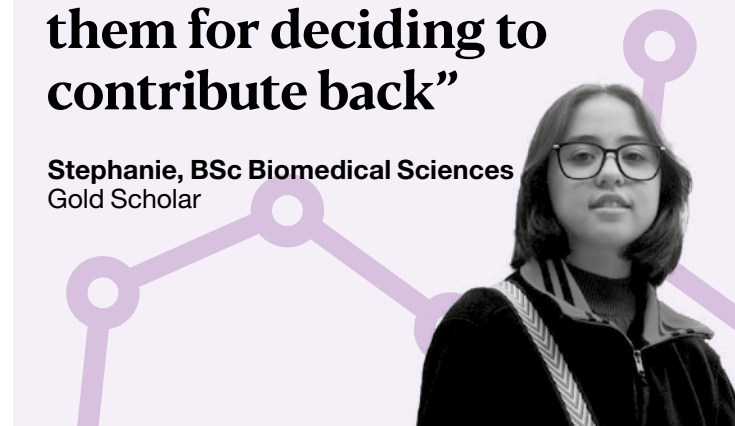


**“I’m incredibly grateful. It means people from backgrounds such as mine can access more opportunities”**

**Manali, BSc Psychology, Claverton Scholar**

**“My scholarship was funded by the Alumni Fund, so I’d like to thank them for deciding to contribute back”**

**Stephanie, BSc Biomedical Sciences**  
Gold Scholar



**“The support means an incredible amount. It enables me to train and get good grades. My biggest sporting achievement is competing at the Paris Olympic Games”**

**Charlie, BSc Sports Management**  
Sports Scholar



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or scan the QR code.



# WELCOME



As Director of Advancement, I’ve seen first-hand how our alumni and supporters drive change across the globe. Your generosity and engagement help the University of Bath tackle pressing challenges, expand its global influence and empower the next generation of leaders.

Since joining in January, I’ve been inspired by the ambition and energy that define this university. Every conversation with students, academics, and alumni reinforces what makes Bath exceptional: a bold spirit of innovation, a commitment to excellence and a belief in the power of education to transform lives.

This is a challenging time for higher education. Funding pressures are intensifying, and it’s been a tough year for philanthropy. Yet, thanks to your generosity, we raised £3.2 million in 2024/25. Your support enables Bath to pursue transformative initiatives that would not be possible alone. Philanthropy drives excellence and global impact, helping us recruit top talent, deliver world-class research and extend Bath’s reach and reputation.

This year, we launched the Claverton Scholarship Programme, building on the success of our Gold Scholarships to enhance personal and professional development. Alumni also played a vital role in shaping the University’s Global Voice and Reputation project – an ambitious initiative to strengthen our international brand. Nearly 1,000 alumni contributed insights, helping us elevate our profile and deepen pride across our community.

As we prepare to mark our 60th anniversary, we’re celebrating not just milestones, but the people who make them possible. I was especially moved at our recent legacy event, where I met members of our 1966 Society and heard their reflections on leaving a gift in their Will. These commitments ensure future generations continue to benefit from the opportunities Bath provides.

With over 150,000 alumni in 170 countries, our global network is powered by individuals like you – mentoring students, sharing expertise and championing the value of a Bath education. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

**Lydia Lee**  
Director of Advancement



# UNIVERSITY UPDATES



## Bath rises in the QS rankings

The University has climbed to 132nd place in the QS World University Rankings 2026, our highest position yet. Rising 18 places from last year, the result places us firmly in the top 10% of universities ranked globally.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Phil Taylor says: “I extend my sincere thanks to our University community and our valued partners – your contributions have been vital to this shared success.” The rankings assess universities on research, employability, learning experience, sustainability and international outlook.

## Turning waste into water

Bath researchers are part of a £2 million project to recycle wastewater into ultra-pure water. Funded by Ofwat’s Water Breakthrough Challenge, the two-year initiative will explore using waste heat and a technique called forward osmosis. In partnership with Northumbrian Water, Bath’s team will assess the technology’s potential to support greener, scalable solutions across the UK.



## New leadership at Bath

Alumna and donor Sharon Flood has been appointed Chair of Council, the University’s governing body responsible for setting strategic direction. Sharon brings extensive experience across the commercial, public and not-for-profit sectors, and will assume the role in November.

“As an alumna, I feel a strong sense of connection to the University of Bath and want to see it thrive,” she says.

In other senior leadership updates, we welcomed Professor Manuel Barcia as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), Professor Marcus Munafò as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, and Dr Rachel Arnold as Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research).



## Legacy in motion

Thanks to the generosity of Arthur Clements CBE (1926–2016), another group of talented Mechanical Engineering students received funding for ambitious projects – from developing a robotic arm to a research trip to a refugee camp in Bangladesh.

Since 2020, the Arthur Clements Fund has supported talented students with grants of up to £2,000. Speaking of her father’s impact, Arthur’s daughter and trustee of his Will, Caroline Egleston, says: “This is exactly what my father would have wanted and what we have all worked towards. We’re so pleased to see how the money is helping to launch interesting careers.”



## Tackling sustainability on the pitch

We were proud to open the UK’s first fully recyclable 3G pitch in May. Designed to reduce environmental impact, the pitch is made from an engineered wood-particle infill instead of traditional rubber, meaning the pitch can be fully reprocessed at the end of its life rather than going to landfill. The pitch meets elite sporting standards, supports year-round use and aligns with our commitment to sustainability.



## Shaping Bath’s future

The University of Bath and B&NES Council are partnering to redevelop Bath Quays North into a vibrant hub for enterprise, research, and wellbeing. The 2.2-hectare site will create high-value jobs and invite collaboration with partners and residents. In 2023/24, the University contributed over £500 million to the local economy and nearly £1 billion nationally, reinforcing its role in driving economic growth.



## A new Chapter for China and India

This year marked the launch of our China and India Alumni Chapters – volunteer-led communities driven by passionate Bath graduates.

These chapters are designed to keep the Bath spirit thriving across borders, offering alumni meaningful ways to stay connected. Members can take part in events, pursue mentorship opportunities and build connections with fellow alumni in their regions. The growth of these chapters reflects our ongoing commitment to connecting our global alumni network.

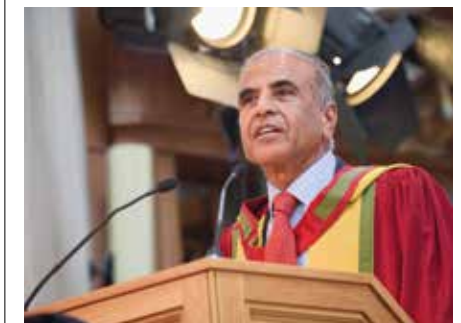
## New boathouse boosts Bath rowing

Thanks to over £100,000 raised by the alumni community and matched by the University, a new boathouse is set to transform Bath University Boat Club. The expanded facility will create space for new equipment and enable better care for the current fleet. Chair James Robinson says: “This will be transformational for our club, giving crews the facilities they need to thrive in the sport they love and supporting generations of rowers to come!”



## Honorary degree for Sunil Bharti Mittal KBE

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, has been awarded an honorary degree by the University for his lifelong dedication to improving lives through enterprise. As both his son and daughter are Bath alumni, the moment was especially meaningful. He says: “I’m honoured to receive this recognition from a university renowned for its intellectual rigour and spirit of enterprise.”





# Fuelling futures

Thanks to your support, Bath researchers are tackling global sustainability, from changing behaviours to reinventing materials.



**Professor Marcus Munafò, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost**

"At Bath, sustainability is more than research – it's a shared commitment to action. Across our faculties, researchers are tackling the climate crisis head-on: decarbonising industry, transforming food systems, shaping policy and shifting behaviours.

"This past year we've launched major initiatives, including partnering with vulnerable communities to create climate-resistant homes, launching the UK's first water monitoring centre for public health, and revitalising our Institute of Sustainability and Climate Change – a dynamic hub for bold, interdisciplinary thinking.

"This progress doesn't happen in isolation. It's fuelled by the passion of our researchers and the vision of those who invest in their potential, like you."



**This September, two students began their PhDs at Bath, tackling global sustainability challenges with the support of donor-funded scholarships.**

## From awe to action

Emily MacDonald is exploring how psychological interventions can inspire climate-conscious behaviour. "We need to make big changes, individually and collectively, if we want a sustainable future," she says.

Her research taps into the emotion of awe, showing how it can arise not only in dramatic natural settings but also in parks, gardens and urban spaces. Using immersive techniques and virtual reality, she hopes to promote sustainability close to home. "If my work proves effective," she explains, "it could shift habits, like driving less or eating less meat, and build public support for climate policies."

For Emily, the scholarship has been transformative: "It's enabled me to cover tuition, focus fully, and support myself for three years. It's fantastic that alumni-funded scholarships like this exist. It's nice knowing the support comes from someone who's been in my shoes."

That someone is alumnus and long-time University supporter, Craig Scordellis. "Bath gave me the foundation to build a successful career," he shares. "Now I want to give others the chance to do the same, while supporting research that matters."

## IT'S FANTASTIC THAT ALUMNI-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS EXIST.



► Our researchers are designing climate-adaptive, resilient and sustainable spaces

▼ Bath-based biotech start-up Kelpi partnered with the University to develop their sustainable seaweed packaging



## Scraps to solutions

PhD scholar Mohammad Al Mikati is developing green biomaterials from regional waste, funded by the CMA CGM Excellence Fund for Education: a €1 million gift from the French global shipping and logistics company.

The fund supports international postgraduate students from Lebanon and diverse global backgrounds. Over three years, it will support one PhD and at least 12 master's students, equipping them with the skills to become future leaders and innovators in their respective countries.

"This scholarship is more than financial support. It is a launchpad for impact," says Mohammad. "It validates my commitment to turning regional waste into green construction materials that can shift how we build, sustainably and inclusively. I see this as a mission to empower communities in Lebanon and globally through science and innovation."

## Crossing boundaries, creating change

These scholarships aren't just transforming students' lives – they're powering breakthroughs for society. Take former scholar Vlad Jarkov, whose research is unlocking hope for brain and spinal cord injury recovery, with potential to treat Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Vlad's work – using a plant-based biomaterial to guide brain cell growth – was supported by alumnus Jon Hughes and his wife Catherine. "Their philanthropy helped me turn my passion for science and sustainability into skills that make me a versatile and effective researcher," he says.

Bath's PhD scholarships fuel global solutions, from climate action to biomedical innovation. Thanks to visionary donors, students like Emily, Mohammad and Vlad aren't just advancing knowledge – they're shaping a healthier, more sustainable world. 🌱



# BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

## From Paraguay to Bath: how one scholar is using his PhD to boost young people's access to education back home.

**M**y main goal is to return to Paraguay and help shape policy," says Guillermo Zaracho-Mármol, a first-generation graduate undertaking doctoral research at Bath. With experience in consulting and teaching, he's already contributing to educational reform at home. Thanks to the support of the David Parkin PhD Scholarship, funded by the Esther Parkin Trust, Guillermo is now expanding his work to address the digital divide.

His research focuses on 'digital orphans' – young people in Paraguay surrounded by digital technology but lacking the resources and guidance to use it effectively for learning or civic engagement. As part of his PhD, Guillermo will assess the digital literacy of 150 rural and suburban schools, exploring how language, infrastructure and policy shape students' access to education.



**Professor Manuel Barcia, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement)**

"As someone who came to the UK from Cuba as a Chevening Scholar, I know how transformational education and research can be.

"Today, as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement, I'm proud to champion the University of Bath's digital innovation. From climate modelling to harnessing AI to improve decision-making and reshaping our supply chains to improve medical treatment, our research is making a global difference and transforming people's lives in the real world.

"We're also leading in climate modelling and digital mental health. With your continued support, we can push boundaries further and create a safer, smarter, more connected future for our communities."



◀ Guillermo hopes his research will help shape education policy in Paraguay

◀ Guillermo delivering a talk at an education conference

## BATH FEELS LIKE A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN FLOURISH.

The David Parkin PhD Scholarship honours a much-loved academic who joined the University in 1966 and later founded the Esther Parkin Trust in memory of his mother. His legacy lives on through support for international students and visiting academics. "International collaboration was very important to David," says Trustee Emeritus Professor David Bird, recalling his friend's global outlook shaped by his time in the Merchant Navy and his career in astrophysics.

The scholarship supports outstanding students from the Americas and was made possible by a £200,000 gift from the Esther Parkin Trust. Combined with previous donations of more than £748,000, it has created an endowed fund for doctoral education.

"Bath feels like a place where you can flourish – not just academically, but personally and culturally," says Guillermo. "I hope to grow holistically while I'm here: pursue a PhD, develop my research and expand my worldview."

The scholarship is helping Guillermo, and others like him, turn opportunity into impact. "I want my donors to know I'll do my best to make the most of their investment," he adds. "Hopefully, they'll be able to see it reflected in something tangible." 🌟

Through his work with Paraguay's Ministry of Education and the European Union, Guillermo has seen first-hand the stark disparities between private and public schools. "Teachers not only lack the knowledge to use digital tools – they often don't even have access to them," he reflects. "Some schools don't even have chairs. Classes are held under mango trees. We're talking about AI now, but many schools don't even have internet."

Despite these challenges, Guillermo remains optimistic. "My research will be the first of its kind in my country, and I want it to inform how we act and move forward," he says. "I'm incredibly grateful for the support. Without it, I wouldn't have the resources, so it helps me, my family and, hopefully, my country."



# Breaking the cold chain

**Scientists are developing vaccine technology that could transform global health, and it all began with donor support.**



**Professor Chris Whitty,  
Chief Medical Officer for England**

"The depth and breadth of the research I saw in Bath was remarkable, and much of it is directly relevant to preventing and treating disease and disability. The University of Bath brings together many areas of science, such as engineering and sports science, together with health sciences, to address major health issues."



▲ Asel with Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Dame Angela McLean

▼ Ensilication will help vaccines be transported safely to remote countries

**W**hen Dr Asel Sartbaeva took her newborn daughter for a routine vaccination, she noticed the vial being pulled from a fridge moments before the injection. That sparked a question that would shape the next decade of her research: why do vaccines need to be kept cold? And could that ever change?

Today, the answer is yes. Asel's award-winning, patented technology, named Ensilication™, wraps vaccines in a protective shell made from silica – essentially ordinary sand. The result is vaccines that remain stable at high temperatures with no refrigeration needed.

"Up to half of all vaccines end up being thrown away, and this is largely because of the length and intricacy of many journeys – it's a terrible waste," Asel explains. "Ensilication technology will help manufacturers to produce temperature-stable vaccines and antibodies. Not only is it indifferent to heat and humidity, but it also has a long shelf life, making vaccination campaigns and treatments easier."

The stakes are high. According to the World Health Organization, immunisation prevents 4–5 million deaths annually. But an additional 1.5 million lives – mostly infants under five in low-income countries – could be saved if vaccines reached remote areas without relying on refrigeration. "Using Ensilication to reduce child mortality and improve global health and wellbeing would be a dream come true for the entire team," says Asel. "Immunisation is a basic human right, and finding ways to deliver vaccines to all corners of the world should be a global priority."

The research began here in Bath, made possible by early support from The Annett Trust and alumni Tim Ford, Roger Whorrod OBE and his wife, Sue. Their generosity funded PhD and postdoctoral positions that helped drive Asel's work forward.

"I was immediately struck by the innovation and potential impact of Asel's Ensilication process and was delighted to become a donor for the early stage of the journey for this life-enhancing technology," says Tim. "I am so pleased and impressed with the progress."

In 2024/25 alone, EnsiliTech – the spinout company founded to commercialise this work – secured £1.4 million from Innovate UK to adapt the technology for life-saving antibody treatments, and a £1.7 million government contract to develop the world's first thermally stable mRNA vaccine.

"It comes after about 11 years of research," says Asel. "As transport and storage of Covid-19 mRNA vaccines have been shown to cost more than the cost of many actual vaccines, removing the fridge and freezer dependence will be game-changing for global distribution, and can help save millions of people."

As EnsiliTech prepares for clinical trials and wider rollouts, it's a powerful reminder of what can happen when curiosity meets commitment, and when donors choose to back bold ideas. Reflecting on the journey, Asel says: "I can honestly say that Ensilication would have remained a curious 'what if?' had it not been for the incredible atmosphere of collaborations at Bath, along with the money to fund the research, and the excellent PhD students who helped make it real." ✨

## UP TO HALF OF ALL VACCINES END UP BEING THROWN AWAY.







**Professor Cassie Wilson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience)**

“A scholarship is so much more than financial support – it’s a powerful vote of confidence. It’s our belief in the potential of our scholars, their belief in themselves, and your belief in what they can achieve. Your generosity makes these opportunities possible. Because of you, talented students at the University of Bath are growing, thriving and shaping their futures with ambition. Thank you for being part of their journey.”

# OPENING DOORS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

**From challenge to change: scholars’ journeys of grit, growth and ambition.**

## Celebrating 10 years of AB InBev Scholarships

This academic year marks a milestone for the AB InBev Scholarship Programme at the University of Bath – ten years of unlocking potential and opening doors for talented students. Since its inception, 29 scholarships have been awarded, with several scholars going on to secure graduate roles at AB InBev.

The programme was founded by alumna and donor Jess Markowski, who was working at AB InBev at the time. “The opportunities we had as a result of studying at the University of Bath have just been unbelievable,” she reflects. “It gave me confidence to know that I could do whatever I wanted to do. There are so many ways that you can give back to Bath – introducing the University to your place of work, mentoring, or creating employment pathways.”

One of the first beneficiaries of the scholarship, Jamie Mickelwright, now leads the scheme at AB InBev. “The financial support was a huge help during my time at Bath,” Jamie says. “The internships and placement opportunities gave me great insight into the corporate world and a solid foundation to build my career.”

Jamie’s journey has come full circle. “Since re-joining AB InBev full-time, I’ve greatly enjoyed continuing my involvement in the scholarship scheme. It’s incredibly rewarding to see former scholars go on to start successful careers of their own.”

Jess, now at Deliveroo, continues to champion Bath students, hosting events at HQ and supporting the Alumni Fund. Her legacy, and Jamie’s stewardship, exemplify the power of alumni connections to transform lives.



## Making waves:

Cameron Brooker’s story

**Ivor Powell Sports Scholar (MEng Mechanical Engineering 2026)**

As an elite swimmer for Britain and a dedicated student at Bath, Cameron lives a double life. From nation-leading times in the 100m and 200m backstroke to a spot on the GB U/23 team, his scholarship has helped him stay afloat – financially and mentally.

“It’s been a huge boost to both my athletic and personal journey,” he says. With support for altitude training camps and accommodation, the scholarship has empowered Cameron to reach peak performance.

“Balancing academics and elite sport isn’t easy,” he admits, “but the scholarship has helped me manage both.” With that foundation, he’s grown in confidence and leadership. “I carry myself with pride because I know I’m supported. It’s made me believe that my goals are not only possible, but within reach.”

**THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS THAT YOU CAN GIVE BACK TO BATH.**



375

**scholarships supported in 2024/25**

## Building a future:

Charlotte Motterhead’s story

**Claverton Scholar (BSc Architecture 2028)**  
Launched with a generous £70,000 gift from an alumnus and support from the Alumni Fund, the Claverton Scholarship Programme is a new initiative designed to boost employability and belonging.

“I applied because I wanted encouragement to do more outside my course,” says architecture student Charlotte. “The Claverton Employability Passport was a big motivation.” From volunteering and skills workshops to summer schools and internships, the Passport is designed to help students grow professionally and personally.

“Studying architecture is intense and expensive, especially with the cost of materials,” she explains. “The scholarship has eased financial pressure and given me a real sense of belonging.”

Charlotte has exceeded the required volunteering hours, restoring the Victoria Art Gallery floors and discovering new strengths. “The scholarship has inspired me to aim higher. Thank you so much for your support.”



## From despair to hope:

Victor Adesope’s story

**Sanctuary Scholar (MSc Data Science 2025)**

Victor’s journey from uncertainty to achievement is a powerful testament to the life-changing impact of the Sanctuary Scholarship. “The scholarship was a beacon of hope when I felt stuck,” he shares.

Unable to work while seeking asylum, Victor found purpose through study, supported by the University of Bath UCU and the Alumni Fund.

The scholarship covered tuition and living costs, enabling him to pursue an MSc in Data Science and ultimately win his asylum appeal. “In many ways, my studies directly influenced the appeal process,” he says, crediting the analytical skills he gained. Now a graduate and refugee, Victor has founded Stratise AI Labs, an AI-focused research and innovation hub.

These scholarships are vital. They remove financial barriers for asylum seekers, who are often excluded from student loans, and offer a pathway to education and a future. 🌟



# ALUMNI IMPACT

Your giving is transforming student life, from engineering innovation to wellbeing initiatives and support for scholarships, research and hardship. Find out how every gift helps students thrive, discover new passions and reach their full potential.



## Engineering dreams

The Engineering Excellence Fund has raised nearly £110,000 – boosted by alumni, friends and a charitable trust – to supercharge student innovation at Bath. Along with the University's £500,000 commitment, ten dynamic project teams now have the resources to design, build and compete globally. From Team Bath Racing Electric's international wins to new ventures in drone tech and biodevices, these hands-on experiences are shaping future engineers. As Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Design, Professor Tim Ibell, says: "This programme is a springboard for students to reach for their dreams." The fund is still seeking further support, and with every gift, Bath's brightest minds are learning to think big, collaborate and engineer a better tomorrow.



## A lifeline for students in crisis

When a financial crisis hits, even a modest grant can make the difference between dropping out and making it to the end of term. Donors to the Financial Support Fund Appeal have raised over £12,000 – enough to award six emergency grants to students in urgent need. These £2,000 lifelines ease the burden of impossible choices: heating or studying, childcare or lectures, health or graduation. Katie, a master's student, said: "I had to skip lectures because I couldn't afford childcare." Mohammad, battling a serious illness, shared: "This grant means I can hopefully finish my degree." With four new regular gifts already pledged, the fund will continue to support students when they need it most.

## Calling for change

Every year, the Telethon brings students and alumni together – sharing stories, forging connections and raising vital funds for the University. This year's campaign raised an incredible £193,815, with every pound directed to where it's needed most: scholarships, impactful research and projects that make a real difference to students. Thanks to alumni generosity, a new Community Garden has taken root on campus – offering students a peaceful space to unwind and grow fresh produce. Support also helped launch Cook, Connect and Thrive, a student-led initiative teaching healthy, budget-friendly cooking using surplus food. "Without the Alumni Fund, these sessions wouldn't have been possible," said Campus Services.

## YOUR ALUMNI FUND IN 2024/25

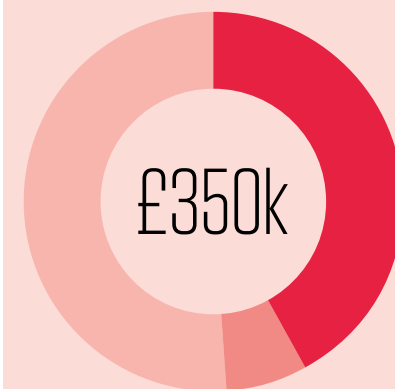
£339,000

donated and

1,646

donors

## What your Alumni Fund supported in 2024/25



42% | £147,000

Scholarships and Bursaries

7% | £25,000

SU activity

51% | £178,000

Grants for student support, placements, student led projects, research, and campus activities

# A legacy of opportunity

Having shaped institutions and championed equality, alumna Dot Griffiths is now leaving a legacy to empower future generations at Bath.



When Dot Griffiths arrived in the late 1960s, campus looked very different. Just a few buildings dotted the rural landscape and only a handful of people had enrolled. As the only person on the MSc Sociology of Science and Technology course, her solitary beginning soon blossomed into a lifelong bond with Bath.

"The work I did here at the University laid the foundation for my career as the specialism enabled me to get my first academic post," she reflects. Dot went on to become Dean of the Business School at Imperial College London and Provost's Envoy for Gender Equality. Her leadership extended beyond higher education as Chair of Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust and, later, she returned to Bath as a member of University Council, reconnecting with the institution that helped shape her future.

▲ Alumna Dot studied here in the late 1960s, and returned as a member of University Council in 2022

▼ Then and now: the Parade in the 1970s versus today

Now, Dot is planning a legacy that will change the future of others, too. Through a gift in her Will, she wishes to support students facing financial hardship and those from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds. Inspired by the Gold Scholarship Programme, her legacy will go beyond funding to provide skills development, mentoring and placements to help students succeed.

Speaking at our legacy afternoon tea event, Dot shared her motivation: "I want to enable others to have the same opportunity that I had," she added. "I hope studying at Bath will have as much impact on their careers as it has had on mine." ✨

## YOUR IMPACT

Thank you to the 14 individuals who chose to remember the University of Bath in their Will over the past year. This generosity brings our 1966 Society, which recognises those leaving a legacy to Bath, to 96 members.

In 2024/25, three legacy gifts were realised, totalling over £31,000. These gifts are funding important research into skin cancer, providing scholarships and supporting postgraduate students in physical sciences and engineering.

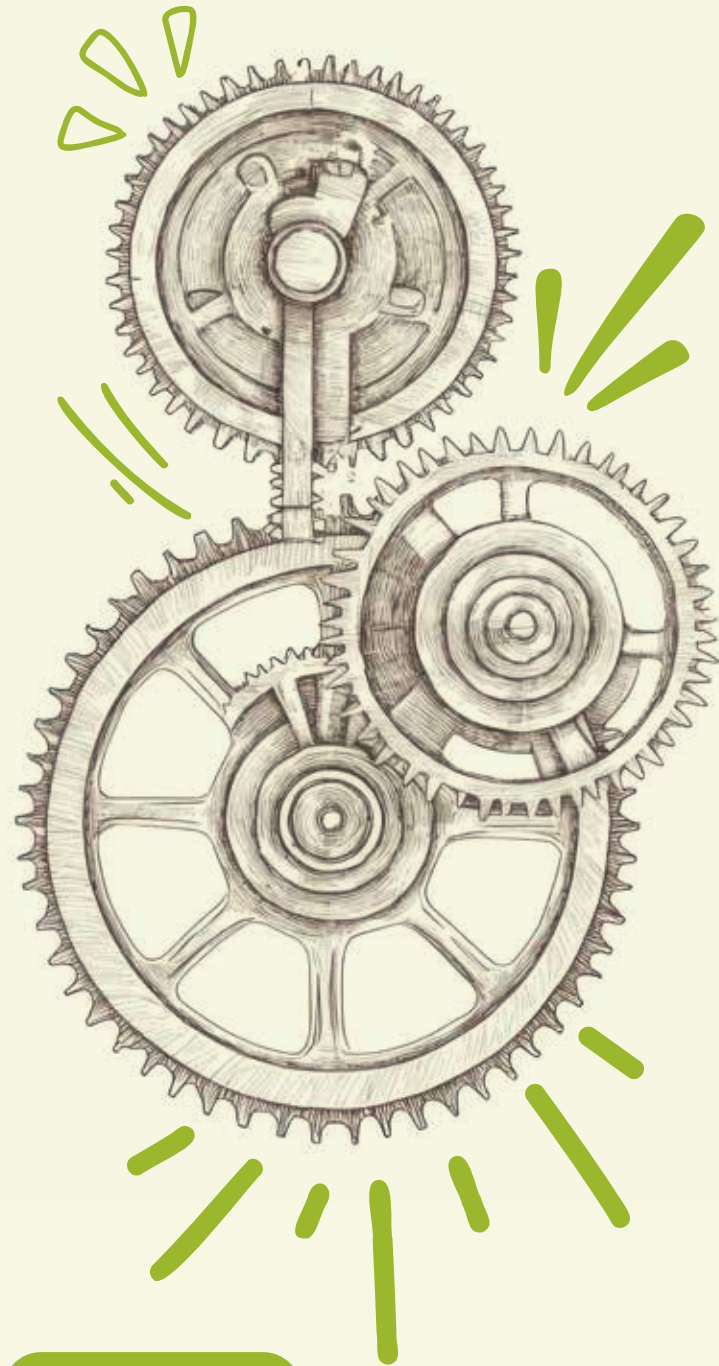
Legacy gifts leave a footprint far beyond Bath. They support breakthrough research, open doors for students and help shape the future for generations to come. No matter the size, every legacy matters. Thank you for making a difference.

"I finish this year feeling more confident, more equipped and more excited about the future thanks to the opportunities my scholarship has provided."

Ahbab Ali (BEng Aerospace Engineering 2025), Pringle Gear Gold Scholarship, funded by a legacy gift







ENTERPRISE

# Innovation in motion

**From a promise made in rural India to global humanitarian impact, Navjot Sawhney's journey shows how supporting student entrepreneurs at Bath can drive change.**



It began not with a business pitch, but with a promise. Navjot Sawhney, then a master's student in Humanitarianism, Conflict and Development at Bath, had just returned from volunteering in South India. There, he met Divya, a woman whose daily life was dominated by the exhausting task of hand-washing clothes for her family. Moved by her story, Navjot pledged to design a washing machine that could work without electricity, use minimal water, and restore time and dignity to those living in displacement or poverty.

Back on campus, that promise evolved into The Washing Machine Project – a social enterprise that has now reached over 46,000 people across 15 countries. With support from Bath's entrepreneurial ecosystem, including a £15,000 Alumni Innovation Award from His Excellency Khalil Foulathi and £2,000 from the Santander Entrepreneurship Fund, Navjot transformed his idea into a global movement. "The University not only gave me the contacts, connections and the support," he says, "but the funding was so vital. It allowed me to do the work I needed to do."

## Ideas to impact

Navjot's story is just one example of how Bath's support for student entrepreneurs can ripple outward. The Alumni Innovation Award has helped launch a wave of ventures tackling real-world problems with bold ideas.

Dr Helen Liang, co-founder of LabCycle, saw an environmental crisis in the plastic waste generated by research labs. With Bath's backing, she developed a circular solution: recycling up to 60% of lab plastics into new consumables. LabCycle's impact was recently recognised in Parliament as part of Universities UK's 'Unis start up the UK' campaign. "The University of Bath has been instrumental in my entrepreneurial journey," Helen says. "Their belief in LabCycle's vision has never wavered."

James Courtney, founder of Lux Rewards, turned a student business plan into a loyalty scheme now serving over 105 million cardholders. After receiving an Alumni Innovation Award, he built his business at Bath's award-winning SETsquared incubator and became a millionaire before 30. "This city is an incredible place to build a business," James says. "We've proven that a startup from Bath can take on the world."

**THE UNIVERSITY GAVE ME CONTACTS, CONNECTIONS AND SUPPORT.**

◀ Navjot created a manual, off-the-grid washer that saves water and time

▼ The Washing Machine Project has impacted over 46,000 lives

## A cycle of good

Navjot's journey didn't end with the Divya washing machine. He's now expanding into off-grid refrigeration and lighting, aiming to become "the Dyson of the humanitarian world." His short-term goal? To positively impact 100,000 people and save over a million litres of water.

Returning to Bath to deliver the keynote at the University's 60th Engineering Design and Project Exhibition, Navjot shared his story with current students. "It's quite emotional to come back to where this journey started," he said. "Bath was crucial in helping me to develop The Washing Machine Project and work out how we could help alleviate the burden of hand-washing clothes that 60% of people around the world face – a burden that predominantly affects women and girls."

Navjot continues to give back, mentoring students and serving on the Strategic Advisory Board of the Bath Institute for Sustainability and Climate Change, helping guide its mission to tackle global challenges through innovation and collaboration.

His message to students was to use their skills to solve real-world problems. "We hope our story inspires students and shows where your studies can take you," he said. The success of Navjot and other Bath entrepreneurs shows that with the right support, ideas can go on to change lives around the world. ✨





Donor, Professor Richard Oreffo, meets scholar Teyanna Milsome as she graduates with a first-class degree.

# FACE TO FACE



**R**ichard Oreffo is Founder and CSO of Renovos Biologics Limited and Emeritus Professor of Musculoskeletal Science at Southampton University. Following the murder of George Floyd and the global Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, Richard founded The Cowrie Scholarship Foundation. The foundation supports talented Black British students by providing fully funded scholarships, tackling inequality in higher education.

Teyanna Milsome studied criminology at Bath thanks to a Cowrie Scholarship. We met them both at graduation, where Teyanna celebrated a first-class degree surrounded by her loved ones. Through Cowrie, Teyanna gained experience in the legal sector and took part in panel events. She credits the scholarship for not only easing financial pressures, but for helping her feel empowered as a Black student at a top university.

**Richard Oreffo:** Congratulations, Tey. We are so proud of you. It's gone in the blink of an eye. What has been the best part of your time here?

**Teyanna Milsome:** Probably moving away from home. I'm such a homebody and I was worried that I wouldn't find my people, but I ended up meeting my best friends in my first-year accommodation. Making friends has been the most memorable part of Bath. I'm going to be sad to leave them.

I barely recognise the person I was in my first year; I've grown exponentially.

**RO:** That's what it's all about. How would you say Bath has changed you?

**TM:** I sometimes find new situations overwhelming. Studying at a campus university suited me as I found it easy to get to know everyone. Being surrounded by people who saw potential in me and pushed me was great.

My lecturers were brilliant. They always encouraged me to go further, especially when they noticed I was inspired by something.

**RO:** If you could go back, what's the one thing you would say to yourself?

**TM:** I'd love to go back and tell myself: it's not as scary as you think. It's all going to be okay. I was so nervous coming here, but there was nothing to worry about. It's been the best three years of my life.

**RO:** Really, this is only the beginning for you. What's next?

**TM:** I want to work in the charity sector. I've benefited from a very kind charity and I want to be able to give back. I'm not sure which area I want to focus on yet, but I'm going to try new things and see what fits.

**TALENT IS EVERYWHERE. OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT. WE WANT TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO SHINE.**

**RO:** How are you going to keep in touch with fellow scholars within the Cowrie Foundation?

**TM:** We have group chats with alumni and scholars. It's great to have that support network. We've made friends for life.

Lecturers and support staff at Bath have assured me that I can contact them whenever I need to. It's reassuring to know that the support continues, even after graduating.

**RO:** It's the most important thing – just talk to people, communicate, ask. People are often willing to share and help.

**TM:** Cowrie has helped me so much with that. Everybody is so friendly, open and welcoming. They want to help you achieve your dreams.

I'm an anxious person and I struggle to say yes to new things. Cowrie helped me work through my travel anxieties by hosting events, for example.

Without external motivation and support, I might have given up on myself. I ended up falling in love with university.

**RO:** That's wonderful to hear. Seeing yourself and nine other Cowrie Scholars graduate this year after overcoming so many challenges has been one of my proudest moments since establishing The Cowrie Scholarship Foundation.

**TM:** It's great to have a network of people – now friends – who are experiencing what it's like to be Black at top universities. It was reassuring to compare experiences and help each other through any difficulties we faced.

**RO:** Community is key. I established The Cowrie Scholarship Foundation in 2020 to enable talented, economically disadvantaged Black students to attend UK universities. I believe access to university should not be limited by race or social class, but unfortunately, this is not always the case.

We all have a collective responsibility to make a positive difference for the society we want, and, through the foundation, I wanted to make a difference in creating an inclusive future through the power of education.

The financial aspect of a Cowrie Scholarship is important, but there's so much more opportunity and support available – mentoring, events and fostering a sense of belonging.

Talent is everywhere. Opportunities are not. We want to allow people to shine.

**TM:** To future scholars, say yes to all the opportunities Cowrie has to offer. They're always there to listen and give advice. Thank you! ✨





# THANK YOU


**Your generous support and philanthropic example make such a difference here at the University of Bath.**


Every donation helps transform lives – opening doors, inspiring futures and shaping a better world. On behalf of all those whose lives have been touched by your kindness, thank you.


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