

# YOUR IMPACT

**Brunel University London Donor Report 2019 - 2021**

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# THE YEAR OF LIVING DISTANTLY

The impact of Covid-19 has been felt deeply on our campus as it has in the rest of the country, but Brunel is a special place and staff have gone the extra mile to ensure that the teaching and learning experience could continue virtually. We have seen extraordinary support from the Brunel community and we thank you for being part of this journey with us.

For the Development and Alumni Relations team, the shift to virtual work came as a sudden change last March as we left campus for the first UK-wide lockdown and set up from home. We have found new ways to connect with colleagues and alumni near and far that we hope will continue even after life returns to some normality.

Have you joined us in one of our virtual events for alumni, friends and students this year?

Our **Lockdown Learning** virtual speaker series events ran over the course of last year covering remote working skills, networking and

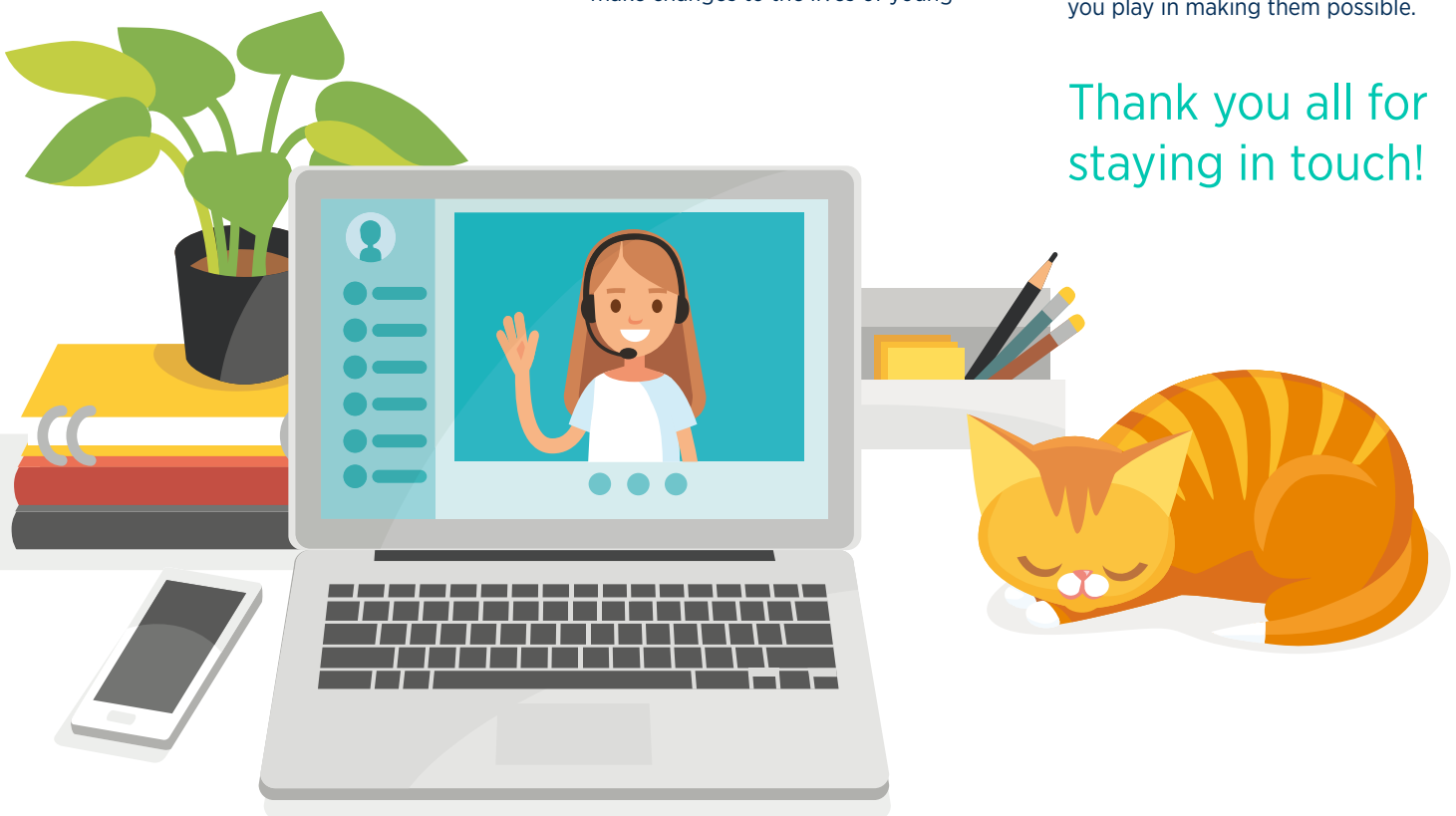


relationship building, mental health in crisis, career promotion, and more. Since then, we've also held speed-networking events, entrepreneurship sessions and class reunions! Our International Alumni Associations have been growing and the world suddenly seems a lot smaller when we are all meeting online.

Brunel continues with our aim to make changes to the lives of young

people and one of our most recent developments is the launch of The Bernardine Evaristo Scholarship. The scholarship for the MA Creative Writing will be open to Black and Asian writers, with both groups being historically under-represented in the publishing industry. We hope that we will be able to set up more transformative initiatives in the year ahead and thank you for the part you play in making them possible.

Thank you all for staying in touch!



# BRUNEL PROVIDES MORE THAN £1M IN HARDSHIP FUNDING FOR STUDENTS



This year has been exceptionally difficult for students who have faced unprecedented uncertainty in their academic plans and who may have also been facing financial hardship due to the Covid-19 crisis. Hardship funding has always been available to assist Brunel students in times of unexpected need, funded by donors to our annual giving campaigns and support from partner organisations.

The Development and Alumni Office set up an emergency crowdfunding campaign last year that enabled more than 100 staff, alumni, and friends to provide immediate support to our most needy students at the start of the Covid-19 crisis. The fundraiser had a huge impact on supporting our students and there have been too many 'thank you's' to count!

As the pandemic continued and we saw the urgency of support funds rise, Brunel attained additional Covid-related funding for the Student Hardship Fund, and including government support, more than



£1m has been made available in total. This has included fast-track funding for smaller, immediate needs such as food packs, to significant longer-term support to meet off-campus accommodation costs due to the pandemic.

Please read on to hear the impact your generous donations have had on providing direct financial relief for our students in crisis.

*“I would like to personally thank each and every person who has contributed to the Brunel Union Hardship fund. This grant has been very helpful especially for me for buying groceries and other basic daily needs. I understand that it is a very difficult situation for everyone due to this pandemic, in spite of which you have been very kind and generous to donate to this fund and help us students.”*

*“I was struggling with my finances due to the coronavirus pandemic as my income was decreased and didn't have enough money to pay for my rent and daily expenses. I was not able to get help from anywhere else; It was very straight forward and a quick process to receive funding.”*

# SPOTLIGHT ON: URBAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM



**What is The Urban Scholars Programme?** A unique three-year programme, which provides enriched learning experiences for pupils aged 12-18 from economically challenged backgrounds.

**Who does it serve?** Launched in 2003, the programme now selects scholars from 31 inner London schools, many of whom come from socially deprived areas.

**Where does learning take place?** Programmes run one Saturday each month for three years, and are currently delivered virtually because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Plans are underway for the return of the scholars to the Uxbridge campus as soon as they are able.

**What are the outcomes?** These sessions are aimed at enhancing the skills, aspirations, and career preparedness of participants. The Urban Scholars programme impacts greatly on the lives of young people for many years after their participation, and alumni achievements include a nomination for the Royal Society of Arts, attendance at American Universities on a Fulbright and Sutton Trust Scholarship, entry to Russell Group Universities, Oxford and Cambridge colleges, and many other notable achievements.

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Zim studied his undergraduate Civil Engineering degree at City, University of London and a masters in Transport Planning at Newcastle University. He said attending the Urban Scholars Programme was

*“... a safe, enjoyable space for young people to fine tune their skills which will eventually lead to successfully levelling the playing field for the working-class kid”.*

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Evie obtained her Economics degree at Brunel, and she is currently the owner of a thriving business. She explained how the Urban Scholars programme influenced her in a positive way, saying,

*“Throughout my time on the programme, I was constantly encouraged to think about the future but also to consider the steps I would need to take to get there.”*

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**How is it funded?** To date, the University and our funding partners have funded a core team of three part-time staff and paid Student Ambassadors, enabling more than 1,500 students to gain places on the 3-year programme. The innovative funding model between the University and corporate sponsors covers not only the delivery costs of the programme, but allows for strategic collaboration.

The Brunel Urban Scholars Programme Partnership has been shortlisted for the NEON Widening Access Partnership Award at the 2021 National Education Opportunities Network (NEON) Awards, celebrating success in widening access to higher education. The winners will be announced on Thursday 10th June.

A special thanks to the Moody's Foundation in New York, the Niftylift Company in Milton Keynes, and law firm Brown Rudnick LLP for their generous support!

# TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

The generosity of our alumni makes a world of difference! From October to November, 2020, our Brunel student calling team connected with over 800 alumni as part of our Autumn calling campaign. We were able to hear about your experience studying at Brunel, what you've been up to since you've left, and put you in contact with the services and support from the University that are available to our alumni community. You pledged over £100,000 to support the Student Hardship Fund and the Brunel Scholarship fund in single gifts and pledges over the next 5 years. Your generous donations will help us to ensure that more young people from diverse backgrounds have access to higher education and opportunities to succeed. Thank you for your continued support!

**Calls**



34 callers  
823 calls made

**Gifts**



285 including  
from over 150  
new donors and  
over 100 young  
alumni donors

**Funds pledged**



£100,000  
including  
£60,000 to  
the Brunel  
Scholarships  
Fund, £30,000  
to the Student  
Hardship Fund



# Donor Roll names

Thank you to all our generous donors in 2019–2021!

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Petra Luspayova	Timothy Nottidge	Ajay Rai	Simon Swizinski	John Williams
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Rizwaan Maan	Neil O'Connell	Shivanthan Rajendran	David Tagoe	Joy Winyard
Leonard Macsadjio	Helen O'Kelly	Girish Rambaran	Adrian Taylor	James Wood
Balla Marah	Brian O'Neill	Marlon Ranghel	Lesley Taylor	Ian Wood
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James Marwick	Paul Oliver	Jasdeep Riarh	Kirsta Thumm	
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		Marilyn Smith	Sylvia Weir	

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Niftylift  
 The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators  
 Heathrow Community Fund  
 The Inman Charity  
 Santander Universities

# Stay connected

Join the official Brunel Alumni Network platform  
**brunelalumni.com**



## Re-connect

Re-discover old friendships, reminisce with classmates and find out about our reunion events.



## Get ahead

Seek a mentor, access free resources, grow your professional network and enhance your career opportunities with access to over 7,500 Brunel alumni.



## Pay it forward

Give back and enhance your professional volunteering experience through mentoring, offering advice or providing employment opportunities.



## Getting started

Registration only takes a few minutes using your email address, LinkedIn or Facebook profile. For use on the move, you can also download the free mobile app.



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