



UNIVERSITY of  
BRADFORD



# *Giving to Bradford*

DONOR NEWSLETTER

2023



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## Message from the Vice-Chancellor

As we look back on 2023, and at the incredible achievements made possible by your generosity, I would like to thank you for supporting the University of Bradford, our ground-breaking research, and our students.

This year marked a new chapter for the University, with the appointment of Anita Rani as our Chancellor. As a proud Bradfordian, Anita is a passionate advocate of both the city and our values. She recognises our uniqueness as a strength and she sees the opportunities we create as an institution, and the potential to harness these even more as we approach City of Culture 2025. Anita is an incredible role model for young people across the University and

City of Bradford, so it is with great pleasure I am able to announce the new Rani Scholarship, which will support women facing significant challenges to accessing and succeeding in academia.

We are honoured that we have once again been shortlisted for this year's Times Higher Education Awards for our outstanding contribution to equality, diversity and inclusion. Time and again the University of Bradford is recognised for its exceptional work in this area and our shortlisting in this year's Times Higher Education Awards shows our commitment to those principles are making a real difference to people's lives.

In this newsletter, you will have the opportunity to read about the impact your generosity is having on our students, our city, and our research, from purchasing vital cancer research equipment, to how we are making knowledge work with The Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem.

It is also my pleasure to introduce you to Samea Mahboob, a Bradford Futures Fund recipient, who shares her story on how the generosity of donors is helping students like her, and her recent meeting with the donor who enabled her specific scholarship award, Anne Maclean.

The impact of the generosity captured in this newsletter underpins the spirit of ambition, excellence, and equality of opportunity that embodies the Team Bradford ethos. Your contribution, either through your generous donations or volunteering your time, has undoubtedly enhanced our research capabilities and our students' experiences while studying here at Bradford.

I once again thank you for your support, and I hope that you are inspired by the stories you have made possible.

**PROFESSOR SHIRLEY CONGDON**  
VICE-CHANCELLOR



# 39

students supported through scholarships in 2022/23\*



# £1,011,175

total income received in 2022/23

# £656,224

received through one-off gifts in 2022/23

# 221

donors in 2022/23

# £302,308

received from Trusts and Foundations in 2022/23

# £80,940

raised for the Bradford Futures Fund in 2022/23

# £19,661

received from regular donors in 2022/23

# £57,606

raised for cancer research in 2022/23

\* Donor-funded scholarships include: Bradford Futures Scholarships, Bestway Foundation Scholarships for Students from Pakistan, Sanctuary Support Scholarships, The Baroness Lockwood Memorial Scholarships, Bradford-Renduchintala Scholarships for MSc in Satellite Systems Engineering, PhD studentship within the Institute of Cancer Therapeutics.

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# Your New Chancellor

This year, we were delighted to welcome Anita Rani as our new Chancellor. Anita, a Bradford-born television and radio presenter, was installed as Chancellor in Spring 2023 as part of a colourful ceremony marking the start of her Chancellorship. During the ceremony, Anita vowed to use her new position to inspire future generations from her home city and discussed her plans to launch a Chancellor's scholarship.

The Rani Scholarship is built from Anita's passion and personal experience of how higher education can change the trajectory of women's lives. Launching in December 2023, the scholarship will support four female students each year, who are facing disadvantage, to study and succeed at university in subjects and industries where they are most underrepresented. The scholarships will provide a living cost bursary for two home students, and a fee waiver for two international students, the first of which will be awarded in the 2024/25 academic year.

*"Going to university completely changes your life, it opens your world up not only through education but the culture and people you get to meet – this is about instilling the next generation with confidence to step into the world."*

*"One of the things I wanted to do was to support women to gain access to a higher education. This has been a passion of mine forever, so the fact that we will be able to fulfil it is incredible."*

Anita Rani, Chancellor of the University of Bradford

Anita understands that university isn't just about acquiring knowledge; it's about finding your own voice, cultivating your passions, and gaining the confidence to forge a new path. The Rani Scholarship will give women

who have faced or live with significant challenges a chance to pursue their dreams.

Not every student arrives at university with the support they need to thrive. Many women, like Anita, are the first in their families to go to university - at Bradford today more than two-thirds of our entrants are first-generation students. Giving females facing disadvantage or significant challenges access to education not only changes their lives but can fundamentally change the lives of every generation after them.

With your help, we want to support as many women as possible by giving them the gift of education. Please contact the Development Team if you would like to find out more about how you can join Anita in supporting The Rani Scholarship.

Anita became the University's seventh chancellor, following in the footsteps of Lord Harold Wilson (1966-85), Sir John Harvey Jones (1986-91), Sir Trevor Holdsworth (1992-97), Baroness Lockwood (1997-2005), Imran Khan (2005-14), and Kate Swann (2015-22).



Anita Rani, Chancellor of the University of Bradford

# Anita Rani



# Transforming Lives

It is thanks to the generosity of our donors that the Bradford Futures Fund can support a growing number of students each year. For the 2023/24 academic year, we are proud to be able to award 22 Bradford Futures Fund scholarships, increasing from 14 awarded in the previous year.

Since the fund's launch in 2021/22, 43 Bradford Futures Fund scholarships have been awarded. The first of these students will graduate next summer, and when they cross the stage of the Great Hall, they will know that it has been made possible by the support of our donors.

The funding offered through these scholarships is an essential lifeline for these students. We believe that an individual's

ability to succeed should not be hindered by their financial circumstances, and awards from the Fund will enable them to complete their studies and go on to do impactful work with their degree from Bradford.

With your help, we want our students to be able to thrive in their education and not be hampered by financial pressures and worries about the cost of living. The rapid increase in energy and living costs not only creates financial worries but can deeply affect students' mental health and well-being.

The University is incredibly grateful to all those who have donated towards the Bradford Futures Fund - your generosity really is transforming the lives of our students.

*"I often have to skip meals, causing my energy levels to dip, making me unable to focus on my studies. This scholarship has helped me afford to buy food, have regular meals, and support me in achieving my goals.*

*"This fund really has changed my life, removing these worries and enabling me to focus and concentrate on my studies."*

Subhaan Nadeem,  
BSc Diagnostic Radiography

## Being there for our students

*"My name is Sarah Jones, and I am the Student Life Manager at the University. My dedicated team works to provide a variety of services for students who find themselves in need of additional support during their time here at Bradford.*

*"A survey released in November 2022 by the Office for National Statistics backed up what we are seeing week in, week out, in the needs of students accessing our services. The survey showed that:*

- 91% of student respondents were worried about the rising cost of living.
- 50% were experiencing financial difficulties, and 15% facing major difficulties.
- 62% were cutting back on food and essentials.
- 25% had taken on new debt in response to the rising cost of living.

*"At the end of 2022 to help support our students who were struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, we opened a food pantry that is available for all students to access essential*

*groceries and toiletries. In the first 10 days, we helped 262 students.*

*"It's not just about handing food out. We wanted it to be a warm, welcoming space where students can have a chat to talk about what they might be going through. We can then signpost them to other services if necessary."*



Sarah Jones was interviewed by Look North in September 2023, about the food pantry

## Reliving Your Student Days, Supporting Theirs

This year, the Alumni Team has hosted and supported a number of alumni reunions, including a reunion on campus for graduates from Civil and Structural Engineering and the School of Management. Their reunion included a tour of the Faculty of Engineering and Digital Technologies, the Great Hall, and a trip to the Student Union to utilise their life membership.

*"We really enjoyed visiting our alma mater and we were full of nostalgia and pride seeing how the University has developed."*

John Wheen, BSc Business Studies 1968

Other attendees included John Fisher, Kathy Fisher, Andrew Marsden (Sheriff of the City of London 2023), Professor Mike Jones, Peter Goudge, and John Reid. As part of the reunion, the group donated to the Bradford Futures Fund, supporting today's students whilst reliving their own student days.

If you would like support organising your own reunion - in the UK, internationally, or even virtually - please do get in touch.



Reunion attendees enjoying a tour of the campus

# Samea's Story

*"My name is Samea Mahboob, and I am a single mum of a child who is living with a chronic health condition, Crohn's and Colitis.*

*"I have worked within mental health services for a number of years, and while working with people from various walks of life has been an extremely rewarding job, I made the decision to retrain and study at the University of Bradford to become a social worker.*

*"Choosing to return to full-time education as a single mum and a mature student wasn't easy, especially as this course requires placements, which means I am not able to work part-time.*

*"Receiving the Bradford Futures Fund scholarship has helped me in so many ways, from financial support towards utility bills, putting food on the table, to travel to and from university. Believe it or not, one of the most significant impacts of the scholarship was being able to buy a birthday gift*

*for my child. Before the scholarship, I thought I wouldn't be able to afford to buy him one without worrying about what else I should spend that on.*

*"The scholarship has also helped with my mental, emotional, and psychological health, as leaving a job and entering full-time education as the sole provider for the household was the biggest life-changing risk I have ever taken in my life.*

*"I cannot express how much of a difference this*

*makes to students like me who have received these scholarships. Whatever we are studying, we are striving to enter professions that we know will be rewarding, and in a few years' time, we will be helping people and communities through our work.*

*"I would like to thank all scholarship donors – you are not just enabling us to achieve our goals, but also helping the communities that we will eventually be serving in our professional careers."*



Samea Mahboob, BA Social Work 2022/23 Bradford Futures Fund recipient

# A Meeting to Remember

In September, Samea met with Anne Maclean, the donor to the Bradford Futures Scholarship she received, to discuss how her donation is supporting her time at university.

Anne Maclean, née Honneyman, graduated from the University of Bradford in 1976 with a BSc in Social Sciences. She chose to make a significant donation toward the Bradford Futures Fund, directed towards female students preferably who have a disability, based on her own personal experience.

Anne made the trip up from her home in Wales with her husband Esdale, to meet with Samea and see first-hand the impact of her donation.

*"There are a number of reasons why I chose to donate. One of them being having such fond memories of my time at Bradford. As a student, I benefitted such a lot from all the experiences I gained here, helping me to think in different ways. I quickly realised that women weren't always getting a very good deal, which led to me wanting to do something about that, to see if I could make a difference.*

*"I wanted other people to have the same opportunities I had, and I was particularly keen that it should firstly be a woman because I became increasingly aware that women in work didn't have the same opportunities as men. Another aspect is on a personal level, as someone who has a disability, I felt they would have difficult times and could use the extra support to help them cope with dealing with a disability. I wanted to ensure others like me had the opportunity and the chance to develop their careers.*

*"It has been very rewarding to meet Samea and to know that something I can do can make such a difference in someone else's life."*



Scan the QR code to watch Anne's recent visit to the University and meeting with Samea.



Bradford Futures Fund recipient Samea Mahboob meeting with Anne and Esdale Maclean

# 1 in 2 of us will get it. All of us can help beat it.

## Unleashing our potential

The Institute of Cancer Therapeutics (ICT) is one of the few centres worldwide with the capability to take new anti-cancer treatments all the way from concept to clinic. Gifts from our supporters are crucial in supporting our breakthroughs in the fight against cancer.

The ICT develops personalised therapeutics, which are tailored to an individual's genetic makeup, life stage, and specific kind of tumour. These therapeutics will result in new and better cancer treatment pathways, leading to longer and improved quality of life for patients.

This ground-breaking research risks delays due to laboratory equipment reaching the end of its usable lifespan, and the ICT not having new equipment which is vital to conduct key aspects of research. In 2023, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have

been able to purchase six pieces of vital equipment needed for us to continue our ground-breaking research. These essential pieces of equipment will enable our researchers to develop cancer treatments and solutions in the fight against cancer.

*“New equipment funded by donors has made a massive difference to our work at the ICT, and we are very grateful to those who have made this possible. Equipment such as new rotary evaporators, which remove the solvents used in organic synthesis reactions to progress molecules to the next stage of the synthesis process or towards biological testing, are essential to our laboratories. We simply wouldn't be able to do our research without them, and they*

*have already seen extensive use by our MSc and PhD students.*

*“A new qPCR machine, which can measure the expression of genes, has enabled new studies of cell responses to cancer therapeutics. This machine can measure up to 96 samples at a time, and data obtained has already been featured in undergraduate and postgraduate research dissertations, and in posters at research conferences.”*

Professor Rob Falconer, Deputy Director of the ICT

We would like to thank those donors who have made these purchases possible. Your generosity is allowing our talented researchers to unleash their full potential in fighting this devastating disease.



Left to right: Gareth Richardson, PhD candidate, demonstrating a newly purchased rotary evaporator, Jamie Morton, PhD candidate, demonstrating the new qPCR machine

## Radiation Source

The ICT is aiming to make an even bigger difference by developing faster, more efficient, less toxic, and more personalised anticancer strategies, helping the 1,000 people still diagnosed with cancer in the UK every day.

Their next key ambition is the purchase of a new in-house radiation source, which will greatly enhance the development of innovative new treatments. Developing these treatments involves testing different methods to find the best combination for specific cancers, with radiotherapy often playing a key role - 27% of cancer patients undergo radiotherapy. Currently, the ICT is reliant on working with partners to use this important technology, wasting valuable time, increasing research costs, and delaying the production of life-saving new ways to fight cancer.

*“The ICT is developing ground-breaking new therapeutics which can effectively destroy cancerous cells with minimal side effects, thereby helping to transform long-term patient prognoses. However, these are often tested in combination with radiation to maximise therapeutic outcomes. A new radiation source is therefore vital in furthering the ICT's work in developing these innovative treatments.”*

Professor Sherif El-Khamisy, Director of the Institute of Cancer Therapeutics

The ICT is looking to raise £70,000 for the radiation source equipment, significantly enhancing our global impact in the fight against cancer. For more information about this important fundraising priority, please contact Philip Fisher, Senior Development Manager on [p.fisher@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:p.fisher@bradford.ac.uk).



Students working in the School of Life Sciences labs

## Standing up to prostate cancer



Gabriel Nwokolo, The Masonic Charitable Foundation Bradford Clinical Scholar

In 2022, the University received a significant donation from the Masonic Charitable Foundation to fund PhD studentships within the ICT. The new studentships, named The Masonic Charitable Foundation Bradford Clinical Scholars, will look at improving the efficacy of existing therapies for prostate cancer, as well as developing new treatments for the disease.

Two of these scholars will be starting in early 2024, including Gabriel Nwokolo. Gabriel's PhD will focus on the development of a novel peptide prodrug for metastatic prostate cancer co-supervised by Professor Robert Falconer, Professor Klaus Pors, Professor Paul Loadman, and Dr Chidi Molokwu.

# Supporting the Researchers of Tomorrow

Jamie Morton received a fully funded PhD studentship made possible thanks to the generosity of our donors. Prior to joining the Institute of Cancer Therapeutics (ICT), Jamie earned his undergraduate and masters' degrees at Newcastle University's Centre for Cancer.

Jamie's research focuses on the development of DNA repair therapeutics to overcome cancer resistance to chemotherapy. We caught up with Jamie to discuss his research journey and what receiving a funded PhD studentship means to him.



## What inspired you to join the ICT and further your research into cancer treatments?

"During my undergraduate and master's degrees at Newcastle University, I was involved in prostate cancer research at the Newcastle University Centre for Cancer. The work was incredibly interesting and engaging, permitting me to integrate knowledge gained from multiple study modules within a practical environment. My focus was 'the interaction between cancer DNA repair mechanisms and external signals, such as androgen/oestrogen signalling and DNA damage response elements'. This resulted in my interest in signalling pathways in cancer and their impact upon gene expression, and more specifically how the inhibition of elements of one pathway can also alter another pathway in unexpected and interesting ways.

"Post completing my masters, I decided to take a gap year, during which time I undertook a course in high-quality cooking at the Orchards School of Cookery before securing a contract as a chalet chef in Morzine, France. This enabled me to indulge my love of travel and skiing, and despite enjoying myself thoroughly, the experience served to reinforce my desire to complete a PhD and start a career in research."

## Can you give an overview of your current research?

"The main axis of my project at the Institute of Cancer Therapeutics revolves around hypoxia in cancer. Hypoxic cancer cells represent a subset of cells in solid tumours that are resistant to chemotherapy and other DNA-damaging agents. Researchers from Bradford identified Senataxin as a key player in this resistance, through its ability to resolve DNA structures called R-Loops. R-loops occur normally in cells during their lifetime, however when treated with chemotherapy, cancer cells will accumulate R-loops which, if left unresolved, will lead to DNA damage. Through continued research, we have found an enzyme (USP11) that controls the destruction of Senataxin. USP11 could be a drug target that would re-sensitise these cells to chemotherapy.

"Mitoxatrone is an already available chemotherapy compound that has been previously suggested to act as a USP11 inhibitor. Our plan moving forward is to synthesise and screen derivatives of this drug in the hope that we can identify suitable compounds that would target USP11 specifically, and test their ability to re-sensitise hypoxic cancer cells to chemotherapy."

## What does receiving this PhD mean to you?

"This PhD gives me the opportunity to work in a research environment surrounded by fantastic researchers whom I am already learning a great deal from. Additionally, I hope that my research will help us in the eventual development of effective treatments for a number of cancers.

"It is providing me with a solid foundation of practical research skills, in addition to enhancing my own abilities to design experiments and explore avenues of research. Finally, it is giving me an introduction to the greater scientific community, giving me the opportunity to interact and learn from several experienced persons and gain a greater understanding of research fields across the spectrum of science."

## Following your PhD, what are your plans for the future?

"Currently, my plan after my PhD is to continue to pursue a career in research - whether that be in academia or in the pharmaceutical industry - with the hopes that my research could help improve cancer patients' prognoses."

## What would you like to say to the donors who have made your PhD studentship possible?

"I personally would like to thank those who have supported my PhD studentship. Your support has helped me to follow my passion for research and pursue my goals of discovering, designing, and developing therapies, treatments, and management options for a variety of cancers. I sincerely hope that my research will help in the development of new therapeutics."

# Sharing Your Expertise

The University of Bradford is profoundly enhanced by a growing number of volunteers who contribute their time, skills, and expertise to support our students. Becoming a volunteer can be rewarding on many levels and can be an excellent way to reconnect with Bradford.

Our alumni volunteers help the University and our students in many ways, from career networking sessions to guest speaker events, and many provide an invaluable service as career mentors or offer student internships and graduate roles.

If you would like to find out more information about how you can get involved in our volunteering programme, please contact our Alumni Team on [alumni@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@bradford.ac.uk) who will be happy to work with you to find the right opportunity.

In January we welcomed back alumnus and entrepreneur Vin Chinnaraja, to speak to aspiring entrepreneurs on our entrepreneurial programmes, led by Professor Paul Thorning.

Vin is an early-stage tech and media investor, who founded and successfully exited a number of businesses including Branded3, a search engine marketing company, and is now an investor in companies including Connective3, Forde Baker and Lion + Mason. His inspirational talk on his own life journey left our students inspired and equipped with the knowledge to follow in Vin's entrepreneurial footsteps.

*"It was a privilege to share my entrepreneurial journey at my alma mater. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and the students made it special. Going back to Bradford brought back fond memories of my time there, and as well it reminded me that Branded3's journey started there, from my education days to the initial start-up phase."*

*"The University of Bradford has always had entrepreneurial ambitions and I can't wait to get involved in the University's future plans and vision for helping budding entrepreneurs"*

*and start-ups. The future of entrepreneurship at Bradford looks bright, and I am sure it will continue to develop as a great place for dreamers and go-getters to start a business there."*



Vin Chinnaraja, BSc Hons, Electronic Imaging & Media Communications 1999

# A Lasting Legacy

This unique and outstanding institution could not achieve all it does without the generosity of our donors and pledging a gift in your will to the University ensures that you can make an impact on the areas that matter most to you.

Like you, some alumni have chosen to be a part of the difference Bradford makes by making a gift, whether towards the scholarship that helps a student to graduate, or a vital piece of research equipment to enable the next breakthrough in cancer research, and we thank you for your support.

Students supported by The Baroness Lockwood Memorial Scholarship are just one example of the difference a legacy can make.

*"Going to university was a significant milestone for me. My school always thought I wasn't good enough for them, let alone a university, as I am disabled and working class. I didn't fit with their idea of intelligence, so they wrote me off as a student and didn't support me in areas where I needed extra support compared to non-disabled students."*

*"I want to thank The Baroness Lockwood Memorial Fund for providing women in engineering with assistance in their studies at Bradford. This scholarship will allow me to have significantly more financial security for the rest of the term."*

2022/23 Baroness Lockwood Memorial Scholarship recipient

A legacy gift is one of the most significant gifts we can make - it is your legacy, a lasting expression of your values and commitment to a cause, and an investment in the future for generations to come.



Graduation in the Great Hall, May 1967



Graduation in the Great Hall, December 2022

If you would like more information or are considering leaving a gift in your will to the University of Bradford, the Development Team will be pleased to have an informal discussion with you.

£177,836  
received through  
legacy gifts  
since 2019

£775,000  
pledged through  
legacy gifts in  
2022/23

13  
students supported  
through scholarships  
funded by legacies

Gifts in wills are  
worth £3bn a year  
to UK charities



# Out of this world



Professor Ifiok Otung and colleagues at the Space for Everyone Tour



Dr Muhammad Ali with pocket cube prototype in the anechoic chamber

## Pocket Rocket

Since the launch of the Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI in 2022, our researchers, academics and students have worked on creating a satellite that will be launched into orbit in 2024.

In July this year, the UK Space Agency's 'Space for Everyone Tour' visited Bradford, which included a 72ft replica rocket situated in Bradford's Centenary Square. The Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI used this opportunity to showcase a prototype of the 'pocket cube' satellite they have been working on.

Professor Ifiok Otung, Director of the Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI, and Professor of Space Engineering said:

*"Space technology is critical for tackling some of society's biggest challenges, such as climate change, natural disasters, world poverty, the digital divide, and a rapidly increasing data consumption and demand for ubiquitous broadband connectivity."*

*"The Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI brings together a multidisciplinary team of experts from academia and industry to deliver research and training that drive a low-cost and sustainable exploitation of space to meet some of these challenges."*

Our 'pocket cube' satellite is about the same size as a Rubik's Cube and contains an array of sensors including a camera, temperature sensor, GPS module and accelerometer.

The Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI and this exciting research has been made possible thanks to a multi-million-pound donation from Bradford alumnus Dr Murthy Renduchintala, who studied at the University from 1983-1991, during which time he gained a BEng degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, a PhD in Satellite Communications, and an MBA.

## The Sky's Not the Limit

The Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI aims to be recognised as the centre of excellence in Space AI Technology to advance research and to stimulate innovation in the area of distributed computing, automation, and information technologies, exploiting the latest artificial intelligence and embedded technologies for applications to space systems.

Thanks to the generosity of Dr Murthy Renduchintala, scholarships worth £10,000 each have been awarded to students studying on the MSc in Satellite Systems Engineering course, with the initial ten students having started their journey with Bradford in September 2022. Olatunji Olatunbosun Tosin is one of the MSc in Satellite Systems Engineering students who received this scholarship.

*"I have always wanted to study a telecommunications-related course, but due to some education issues in my home country of Nigeria, I ended up studying computer engineering. My passion for Space technology is enormous, coupled with the career opportunities in the space sector. Satellites play a crucial role in various*

*aspects of our lives, including communication, weather forecasting, disaster management, and scientific research. By studying satellite systems engineering, individuals can contribute to the development and improvement of these systems, benefiting society as a whole.*

*"I wouldn't have been able to study this course due to financial constraints, but the scholarship made it easier for me financially and granted me the opportunity to pursue my passion."*

*"I would like to say a big thank you to Dr Murthy Renduchintala for the opportunity given to me to pursue my dream and take my career to the next level."*

Ten further scholarships will be awarded for the 2023/24 academic year, split over two intakes in September and January. We hope you will join us in wishing them the best during their time at Bradford.



Olatunji Olatunbosun Tosin, MSc in Satellite Systems Engineering

# Celebrating Years of Success

In 2023, the University celebrated two major milestones, the 60th Anniversary of the School of Management and the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Peace Studies and International Development.

We are proud to say that we are one of the oldest Business Schools in the UK and are part of an elite group of business schools worldwide with the triple-crown of accreditations - awarded to fewer than 1% of business schools globally. In 1967, The University of Bradford acquired The Heaton Mount building, which became the School of Management's Executive Education and Development Centre. In 2019, the School moved to its new home, the Bright Building, at the heart of the University campus, which has a wealth of technology including the Bloomberg Trading Room and the SAS Data Analytical Centre and Innovation Hub. Our new on-campus location

supports the overall learning experience through mixing and sharing learning with the wider student community, both from an academic and social perspective.

Throughout the year, we have celebrated this milestone anniversary through several events, including the first-ever MBA Management & Leadership Summit in June, which included guest talks from Ian Adams, Director at NHS Resolution, and Paul Donovan, Chair of Eku Energy Group & action.ai - both MBA graduates themselves - and Nicola Thompson, ex-CEO of MADE.com.



The School of Management's Executive Education and Development Centre, Emm Lane



The Bright Building, University city campus



60th year celebration at the House of Lords

In May this year the Department of Peace Studies and International Development celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a reception at the House of Lords. The Department was established as the School of Peace Studies in 1973 (later merging with The Bradford Centre for International Development in 2016) and was partly funded by a public appeal organised by a group of Quakers which raised £75,000, with that funding matched by the University. The Department of Peace Studies and International Development continues to be generously supported by the Quaker Peace Studies Trust today. There are currently 75 students studying across the BA International Relations, Politics and Security Studies courses, and more than 600 students across eight Master's programmes, as well as PhD students.

In celebration of the 50th year, 60 guests gathered in The Attlee Room at the House of Lords, including peers, members of parliament, academics, alumni, notable peacebuilders, and members of the Quaker community, to celebrate the milestone anniversary of the Department of Peace Studies and International Development.

# The Bestway to Inspire our Students

The Bestway Foundation has been a longstanding supporter of the University for over a decade. It is thanks to their generosity that the Bestway Foundation Scholarships for Students from Pakistan were created, enabling students from Pakistan to study for a life-changing degree in the Faculty of Engineering and Digital Technologies and the Faculty of Life Sciences. To date, 55 students have been supported through these prestigious scholarships.

In August, the Bestway Foundation invited our 2022/23 scholarship recipients and members of the Development Team to visit their head offices in London. The scholarship recipients had the opportunity to meet with Sir Anwar Pervez OBE, founder of the Bestway Group, and Lord Choudrey, Chief Executive Officer, along with other Bestway Foundation Trustees to discuss their time at university and their aspirations for the future.

*and uplift communities. The recent visit to the Bestway Foundation offices reaffirmed the value of unity in pursuing positive change. With gratitude, I eagerly anticipate immersing myself in Bradford's diverse culture, both as a student and as a bridge builder among cultures."*

Latif Ullah, 2022/23 Bestway Foundation Scholarship recipient

*"The Bestway Foundation's support has not only empowered my educational pursuits but also fuelled my commitment to serve*

We extend our thanks to the Bestway Foundation for their continued support of the University and our students.



Bestway Foundation scholars with The Lord Choudrey CBE, CEO of the Bestway Group



Bestway Foundation scholars with Chairman of Bestway Group, Sir Anwar Pervez OBE, and Trustees of the Bestway Foundation

# Bradford's Hidden Past

Our Queen's Anniversary Prize winning School of Archaeological and Forensic Science is a leading teaching and research centre, training the next generation of archaeologists and forensic scientists and developing ground-breaking new technology and techniques.

Students and academics work on projects both near and far, from excavating Viking longhouses in Iceland, to unearthing a Victorian street right here on our Bradford campus. Now, thanks to a generous donation from Colin Crawford, MBA 1998, students and early career researchers from the School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences are set to uncover more of Bradford's rich archaeological history with excavations at Lister Park and Bolling Hall.

Dr Ben Jennings from the School said:

*"The Great Bradford Exhibition of 1904 in Lister Park was very much the predecessor of Bradford's upcoming year as UK City of Culture 2025. It was a significant cultural event, but*

*few tangible traces remain. One of the key areas of interest we have long wanted to discover is a Somali village, home to a Somali population of approximately 100 people who were invited to establish a village there from May 1904 to October 1904."*

Enabled by this donation, the excavations will also be an opportunity for teaching and career development, with early career researchers and postgraduate students taking an active role in supervising and teaching undergraduate students on site.

*"Geophysical prospection carried out in April identified some really promising targets for excavation. We now hope to excavate in 2024 from March to April."*

*"We are immensely grateful for Colin's generous support which has allowed this project to go ahead, developing the archaeologists of the future and helping us to uncover Bradford's hidden past."*

A further excavation of another site supported by Colin's donation, Bolling Hall, is also being planned. Geophysical prospection will be undertaken in the first semester of this academic year, with excavation planned for Spring 2024.



Undergraduate archaeology student on an excavating trip



Bolling Hall



Lister Park



Dr Ben Jennings, Associate Professor, Faculty of Life Sciences

# Closing the Gap

<p><b>1.8%</b> of our student body are White Working-Class Males (WWCM)</p>	<p>Only around a third of white working-class males pass their Maths and English GCSEs</p>	<p>Only 9% of white working-class males will go to university*</p>	<p>White males from low HE participation postcodes account for just 3% of total UK HE enrolment*</p>
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\* Source: UCAS data

At Bradford, we pride ourselves on creating an inclusive community that allows everyone to access the benefits of a university education. We were named the top UK university for improving students' life chances for the second year running by the English Social Mobility Index in 2022, as well as a Top 10 university for social inclusion by The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024. We also have one of the lowest black attainment gaps in the country and our continuation rate for students from deprived areas is 6% higher than the national average.

We are aware, however, that white working-class males (WWCM) comprise just 1.8% of our student body against a sector average of approximately 4.6%.

Across higher education, participation rates from white males fell by a staggering 10% from 2014 to 2021 - a period where almost every other student group saw significant rises. Our recruitment team has observed first-hand the challenges of engaging this group in particular - often because they do not believe they can afford to attend university.

The University is currently working on a distinctive and innovative partnership with The Keith Howard Foundation, to lead the way in engaging WWCM. Thanks to a generous donation of £61,953, the Foundation will provide the financial means for WWCM's to study for a life-changing degree, as well as support to raise aspirations, and activities to enhance employability and personal development.

The Keith Howard Opportunities Programme is a scholarship that will support four WWCM per year, from Bradford and the surrounding regions, with a monthly £400 grant towards living expenses for the duration of their time at university.

The University will also be working with young people from primary school to post-16 education and beyond, inspiring them to see university as a route to achieving their goals. We will be working with local sports teams, including Bradford Park Avenue FC, to show that university is a credible option as part of a joint programme with Bradford College.



University staff with potential students on Open Days



# Investing in Bradford

The University of Bradford is grateful to have a long-term relationship with Sovereign Health Care, having received an initial gift in 2004 as part of the Bradford Can Appeal, and in 2011 in co-developing the Bradford Crocus Cancer Appeal community fundraising campaign. Their partnership and kind donation of £200,000 was undoubtedly the catalyst for the campaign's success in raising over £1,000,000.

Sovereign Health Care was created in 1873 and is one of the UK's longest-established providers of health care cash plans to individuals and businesses, and in 2023 it celebrated its 150th anniversary. The company donates between 5 to 10 percent of its annual turnover through the Sovereign Health Care Community Fund, and in the last 13 years they have donated over £9 million to health and well-being causes.

Their generosity has enabled us to support the development of the next generation of healthcare workers and the health needs of the local community. In 2017 they made a donation of £20,000 to establish a Phlebotomy Training Suite within the University's Digital Health Enterprise Zone, and in 2019 £35,000 was used to support vital pieces of equipment for the new clinical skills teaching space. This donation enabled our Paramedic Science team to purchase six resuscitation mannequins and four monitors to enable vital training skills on campus for our students.

In 2023, Sovereign Health Care pledged £30,000 towards the Bradford Futures Fund. This generous donation will be used to support six students for the duration of their studies, starting in the 2023/24 academic year.

We would like to thank Sovereign Health Care for their continued support of the University, our students, and our research.



Paramedic science students using equipment provided by Sovereign Health Care



Paramedic science students using equipment provided by Sovereign Health Care



Equipment in the phlebotomy suite provided by Sovereign Health Care



AMAL

# Salt Eaters

Theatre in the Mill is proud to be collaborating with Amal, who have generously donated £22,000 towards the funding of a multi-sensory experience incorporating new hologram technology. Amal is a charity that works to tackle the root cause of the discrimination that adversely affects the lives of Muslims in the UK by supporting their creative potential through working with Muslim communities, artists, and mainstream arts and cultural organisations. This distinctive piece of art was created by dance artist Mez Galaria, a trained dancer and choreographer, who has worked across the Bradford district teaching both drama and dance.

Based on historical records detailing the relationship between the moral ideology of salt as a communal resource and source of recompense for artists, Salt Eaters has been created for small groups of women, to be part of an experience that transports them into the world of Umda - a Muslim dancer drawn from the history books of the Sambhar Salt Lake in Rajasthan.

The installation uses panoramic sound design, hologrammatic film, and sensory elements to submerge audience members into an intimate recreation of a moment

in the life of Umda, creating the sense of being in Rajasthan, witnessing the dance.

The aim of the project is to encourage Muslim women to participate in more creative activities, and enhance Theatre in the Mill's ability to better serve Muslim communities, by directly involving local groups in the creation and presentation of art based on historical Islamic dance. It will also be a fantastic opportunity to increase the visibility of Muslim artists in the creative sector, as well as around Bradford, as we build up to Bradford 2025.



Mez Galaria, creator of Salt Eaters

# Making Knowledge Work

Dr Murthy Renduchintala is a Bradford alumnus and a prominent supporter of the University. Having recently funded the Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI, which opened in October 2022, Murthy is now kindly supporting the creation of a self-sustaining entrepreneurial ecosystem at the University.

The Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem will launch in January 2024 and aims to establish the University of Bradford as the leading university for innovation in the UK, and a destination of choice for entrepreneurially minded students.

Through education, building founder teams, and mentoring, the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem will establish a foundation for enterprise growth. With seed and grant funding, budding entrepreneurs will have the foundation to translate opportunity into technology start-ups, establish technology ventures and partnerships, and create intellectual property for commercialisation.

Once the entrepreneur's business is generating revenue, the seed funding will be repaid and re-invested in the ecosystem to fuel further growth.

The new Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem programme will create the potential to grow research and innovation over time, and will foster an entrepreneurial culture amongst students, staff and our community. This will lead to the creation of new social and business enterprises in Bradford, and will enhance confidence and prosperity in our city.

*"We are incredibly grateful for this donation from Murthy, which will be transformative in developing*

*Bradford as the place to be as a budding entrepreneur and for start-up incubation. In creating the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem, Murthy has indicated that he shares our vision – to take advantage of the unique pioneering and entrepreneurial nature of the city and university to create a distinctive sustainable entrepreneurship education and enterprise programme."*

Professor Paul Thorning, Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Practice and Director of Open Innovation

There are many ways in which our alumni and donor community can support the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem programme and create a platform for students to develop their entrepreneurial aspirations.

Opportunities include volunteering to support budding entrepreneurs through mentoring or delivering guest masterclasses on specific relevant topics. You may be able to support by brokering introductions to funders, or by offering your time to allow students to practice their pitching skills. You may also wish to join Murthy in supporting this exciting new venture and donate towards the Enterprise Fund, which will provide seed and growth funding for our students, staff, and communities to turn a promising idea into a viable business.

If you would like further information about the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem, please reach out to the Development Team, who will be happy to discuss the different ways in which you can offer your support.



Professor Paul Thorning, Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Practice and Director of Open Innovation



Students taking part in the Entrepreneur in Residence, Career Booster Week sessions



Dr Murthy Renduchintala



# What Difference Makes

We are immensely grateful for your continued support of the University. It is through your commitment that we are able to achieve what we do. Your support has powered the research breakthroughs made by the Institute of Cancer Therapeutics and helped to impact the lives of many students facing significant financial hardship.

We would like to thank each of our donors for their generosity to the University, our students, and our research. Your support significantly contributes to our ability to impact the lives of not only our students but of the world through our research.

This year we reached out to all donors who donate monthly, quarterly, or

annually, to ask them to increase their donations to the areas they support. We were amazed at the response. Thanks to your dedication to supporting our students and research, a number of our regular donors increased their donations, and we were delighted to welcome new donors who chose to support the University. This additional income will enable the purchase of vital equipment

to enhance our ground-breaking research into cancer treatments and provide much needed financial support for students.

*We once again thank you for your continued support.*



The 2022/23 scholarship recipients

# Meet the Team

The Alumni and Development Team is proud to work in partnership with donors, alumni, and supporters of the University. If you would like to be involved or would like to find out more about our work, please feel free to contact us using the details below - we would love to hear from you.



**Eleanor Clyde-Evans**  
**Associate Director, Engagement, Development, and Communications**  
Eleanor ensures that the University maintains strong external relations with key stakeholders locally, regionally and nationally. She oversees alumni relations, philanthropic support, and events at the University.  
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**Philip Fisher**  
**Senior Development Manager**  
Philip leads the Development team and works closely with alumni, friends, and donors who want to support the work of the University.  
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**Dr Jack Massie**  
**Alumni Relations Manager**  
Jack manages the Alumni Relations Team and oversees a range of activities from alumni communications, events, and volunteering management programs to honorary graduate engagements.  
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**Aziza Mills**  
**Aziza Mills Development Manager (Trusts and Foundations)**  
Aziza builds and maintains relationships with trusts and foundations for a range of priority projects at the University.  
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**Vicky Roden**  
**Development Services Officer**  
Vicky creates and builds relationships with donors and supports the team with the organisation of stewardship and events. She works on identifying funding opportunities to support the University's areas of excellence.  
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**Holly Saville**  
**Alumni Marketing and Communications Officer**  
Holly ensures the delivery of marketing and communications both internally and externally for alumni relations. She also works on communication tasks for both the Alumni and Development teams.  
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