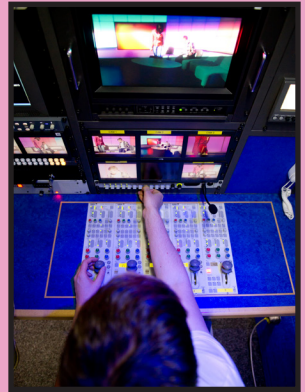




UNIVERSITY of
BRADFORD

Giving to Bradford

Donor Newsletter 2024





The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bradford, Professor Shirley Congdon

A message from the Vice-Chancellor

As we reflect on another successful and busy year, I would like to thank you for choosing to support the University of Bradford. It is thanks to your donations that we can continue to support ground-breaking research and cultivate an inclusive environment where students from all walks of life can truly flourish in a place that helps them to make a difference.

With Bradford's time as the UK City of Culture 2025 quickly approaching, we are thrilled to be one of several major partners supporting and celebrating the very best of Bradford. As part of this, we are looking forward to showcasing our rich arts and cultural offer at our recently refurbished Theatre in the Mill, which you can read about on page 16.

We are exceptionally proud to have been named the University of the Year at the Social Mobility Awards 2024. The Social Mobility Awards provide valuable recognition for organisations who are leading the way in social mobility. Alongside this achievement, the University has been shortlisted for two Times Higher Education Awards – the higher education version of the Oscars – firstly for 'Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community', and secondly, for 'Outstanding Contribution to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)'. The University is proud of the way we cocreate and generate impact with our communities as well as our commitment to our EDI principles. Our recognition in these awards demonstrates our ability to not just talk the talk, but to truly walk the walk.

After awarding our first Bradford Futures Fund Scholarships in 2021, thanks to your ongoing generosity, in 2022 we were able to increase the amount awarded to recipients to £1,500 per year. It is with great pride that we watched our first cohort of Bradford Futures Fund recipients graduate from the University this summer. In this edition of Giving to Bradford, you will hear from Sulafa, who graduated this year, about how the Bradford Futures Fund supported her during her degree. We look forward to hearing about how, thanks to your support, our graduates flourish in their future lives and careers.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our donor and supporter community. Your generosity – both in time and resources – enables us to foster a nurturing, dynamic, and forward-thinking institution. Thanks to you, the University of Bradford can continue to be a safe, welcoming, thriving destination for students to make a difference in their lives and to the wider world.

Professor Shirley Congdon
Vice-Chancellor

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Donor-funded scholarships supported 44 students in 2023/24

£1,024,744 received from individuals in 2023/24

£451,746 received from Trusts and Foundations in 2023/24

£75,307 received from companies in 2023/24

£1,551,796 total income received in 2023/24

201 donors in 2023/24

£375,446 raised for scholarships in 2023/24

£106,897 raised for cancer research in 2023/24

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University of Bradford number 1 for social mobility

We will start 2025 as the top university in the UK for social mobility, after being crowned as the winner of the University of the Year category at the Social Mobility Awards (SOMOs) 2024.

Our work in this area to improve the life chances of our students includes; support for those who have spent time in residential or foster care, loans, and scholarships for individuals who would otherwise struggle to access or remain in university education – including many donor-funded awards. A range of further support for students and graduates, including careers advice for up to five years after graduation, is also available.



The SOMO Awards highlight organisations who are making a difference and leading the way in their respective industries to have a transformative impact upon people's lives. The University was recognised alongside other winners including KPMG, Sky, PwC, and Nationwide.

Receiving the award, **Professor Udy Archibong, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion**, said:

“This award is a wonderful recognition for the staff and students at the University of Bradford. We are delighted to receive the award which emphasises the University's vision of a world of inclusion and equality of opportunity where people want to, and can, make a difference.”

This is the latest in a long list of accolades. We have been ranked first in the Higher Education Policy Institute's Social Mobility Index for the last three years – 2021, 2022 and 2023. The index is a way of ranking universities based on the 'social distance' travelled by graduates through data relating to access, continuation, and graduate outcomes.

We would like to thank you for the part you have played in helping Bradford to win University of the Year for social mobility. The wide range of activities you support that were included in our winning entry simply would not have been possible without you and your decision to make a difference at Bradford, and this is an award that is as much for you, our supporters, as it is for the University.

We pride ourselves on being not just the University of Bradford but the University for Bradford. With your continued support, we can strive to address inequality, to create opportunity, and to improve people's chances to succeed in the future regardless of their start in life.

Across the pages of this edition of Giving to Bradford you will hear about scholarships, research, enterprising programmes, and arts and culture activities all supported by generous donations. We remain immensely grateful for your generosity and the difference you are creating here.

Left to right, Aleem Bashir, CEO of the University of Bradford Union of Students and Professor Udy Archibong receiving the University of the Year Award at the Social Mobility Awards



Anita Rani, Chancellor of the University of Bradford

Anita Rani champions women's education

Following her installation as the seventh Chancellor of the University of Bradford in March 2023, TV and radio personality Anita Rani announced her own scholarship at the University. The Rani Scholarship is born out of Anita's drive to support women to gain access to higher education, offering female students who are facing disadvantage the opportunity to study and succeed at university in subjects and industries where they are most underrepresented. Two home and two international students per year will receive financial support through a generous scholarship for home recipients and a significant fee reduction for international recipients. This will help them to achieve things they never thought possible.

“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.” – **Anita Rani, Chancellor of the University of Bradford.**

It is thanks to the generosity of donors like you that we welcomed our first cohort of Rani Scholarship recipients to the University this autumn.

“The Rani Scholarship gave me hope when I felt like I had no other options left.

“The scholarship is incredibly important to me, not just academically, but personally. As an immigrant girl, attending university was a dream I didn't think was possible, even in my home country. This scholarship has given me the chance to work toward a future I always hoped for. It also helps me ease the financial burden on my family, which is a huge relief. It motivates me to work hard not only for myself but for my community and to give back in the future.” – **Anum, BSc Computer Science and Rani Scholarship recipient.**

A life changed by the Sanctuary Scholarship

Gloria, alongside members of her family and her late husband's parents, at her graduation

We are proud to be a University of Sanctuary, meaning we are continually looking at new ways to welcome asylum seekers and refugees into the University community. One way in which we do this is through the University of Bradford Sanctuary Scholarship, which provides a tuition fee reduction, a living cost stipend, and other support to enable new students seeking asylum, or those already granted refugee status who cannot access student finance, to participate in higher education.

Gloria, who graduated with a first-class honours in BSc Adult Nursing and in February 2024 went on to take up her dream job as an NHS nurse, is just one of the Sanctuary Scholarship recipients to have had their lives changed through this support.



Gloria and Vice Chancellor, Professor Shirley Congdon, on her graduation day

Even before she arrived in the UK in 2002, Gloria had already endured significant hardship, losing her father, brother, and sister to illness in her native Zimbabwe. Once in the UK, she became the victim of modern slavery, and for 16 years was forced to work for little or no money, until one day she decided enough was enough.

She heard about the University of Bradford Sanctuary Scholarship and decided to apply, which she said was one of the best decisions she ever made.

“The University has been so supportive of me. People have been there for me. I was a little bit afraid of entering higher education, but Bradford has given me lots of support, they even did a dyslexia assessment and supported me mentally through counselling sessions.”

But during her time here she was to endure further hardship: her husband, James, whom she married in 2020, died of cancer in February 2023 aged just 35.

“It was a very difficult time. Suddenly, the person who had been supporting me through everything, the person I loved, was no longer there.

“Some days I felt like I couldn’t do it. Going to university was something I always desired. I used to sit and watch students and I so wanted to be like them. Being here now, today, being able to work in the UK as a nurse for the NHS, is a dream come true.”

It is thanks to the generous support of donors that we can continue to support students like Gloria and transform the course of their lives through the opportunities provided by a university education.

The opportunities provided by the Keith Howard Foundation



We established the Keith Howard Opportunities Programme with the generous support of the Keith Howard Foundation, awarding scholarships in the 2024/25 academic year to help white working-class male students during their university studies, and increase the number who come to study with us.

Students from these backgrounds currently represent around 1.7% of our student body against a higher education sector average of 4.6%. We knew we could do better, so the Keith Howard Opportunities Programme was born, driven by the University’s and the Foundation’s shared commitment to improving life chances.

The inaugural scholarships have been awarded to four students who joined us for the 2024/25 academic year, making a significant difference to each of them in being able to make the decision to attend university.

“Thank you for selecting me for this scholarship and enabling me to pursue my career in diagnostic radiography. Being a mature learner, the scholarship will take some of the financial pressure away from me not being able to work

full time and still support my young family. The easing of pressure will allow me to focus more on my studies and achieve the best grades possible in order for me to embark on a new career path.” – **Adam, Keith Howard Scholar.**

The Keith Howard Foundation supports activities that create opportunities for communities in Yorkshire, in the areas of the arts, sport, social mobility, and animal welfare. Originally established in 2008 as The Emerald Foundation, the charitable arm of Emerald Publishing, it was renamed and became independent in 2022 following the passing of Dr Keith Howard OBE.

Dr Howard was an alumnus of this university (PhD in Business Administration 1977, Honorary Doctor of Education 2012). He had a long-standing relationship with the University, having formed Emerald Publishing alongside University colleagues in 1967. We are honoured to continue our association with Dr Howard and honour his memory through these awards.

British Council success for women from Türkiye



According to the United Nations Scientific Education and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), less than 30% of the world’s researchers are women and only 30% of female students select science, technology, engineering, or maths (STEM) related fields in higher education. Following the devastation of the 2023 earthquake in Türkiye, thousands of students were left without access to education, causing further disadvantage to female learners.

This inspired Dr. Behruz Khagani, Lecturer in Biomedical Engineering and Regenerative Medicine, to successfully apply for a British

Council STEM Scholarship grant, creating the British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM for students from Türkiye.

“This scholarship helps students to overcome cultural, financial, and social barriers that women in STEM often face. This opportunity provides a vital step toward gender equity in fields traditionally dominated by men, aligning with our goal of helping young women engineers become pioneers or role models in their communities.” – **Dr Behruz Khagani.**

Scholarship recipients were able to study on a number of MSc

programmes with us in STEM subjects. Students received fully funded tuition fees, a generous living cost scholarship, and other support including travel costs to the UK and visa fees. Their education with us will enable them to develop innovative solutions to local challenges in their careers, and to apply their skills and knowledge to contribute to development in their own communities. Scholarship recipients are also encouraged to act as ambassadors and positive role models to promote STEM education to women and girls, and support the next generation of young people.

The birth of the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem

The Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem (BREE) is celebrating its first year of operation, made possible thanks to a £1.25 million donation from alumnus Dr Venkata 'Murthy' Renduchintala (BEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering 1987, MBA 1991, PhD 1990, Honorary Doctor of Technology 2019). Matched by the University, the Ecosystem builds on our long-standing history of successful innovation, including ground-breaking new medicines and pharmaceutical technology, digital enterprise and culture, to create an open platform enabling the people of Bradford to turn ideas into successful enterprise.

BREE is open to students, staff, and members of the community, bringing together ideas, talent, and resource into a thriving ecosystem, which actively supports business creation and growth, unlocking the potential in our diverse and entrepreneurial city.

Murthy, who held senior positions at Qualcomm and Intel, said:

“Great ideas and the people who have those ideas need a lot of help along the way. The whole idea of BREE is to provide access to the support required to get those great ideas to commercial viability.

“The University of Bradford has the cross-functional skills the ecosystem requires. If you look at its strengths – in engineering research, health sciences, the management school, the digital arena –those are all the areas that when you bring them together, they create a fertile ecosystem in which new ideas can be nurtured and grown.”

Following an inspiring launch event at the start of 2024 the Ecosystem has delivered a wide range of programmes. We have supported 77 staff, students and community members to date receiving intensive workshop-based training and support, leading to 35 new businesses now progressing to the start-up stage.

As part of BREE, we are demonstrating our commitment to local communities in Bradford through working with 20 survivors of modern-day slavery and supporting them to establish new businesses in our city. We are also introducing a Schools Enterprise Support Programme with 100 students across one primary and two secondary schools seeking to supplement their school income in resource-poor areas of the Bradford District.



Professor Paul Thorning, Director of the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem, speaking at the launch event

The Ecosystem has welcomed the appointment of an Advisory Board with talent and experience across all areas of entrepreneurship, including University of Bradford alumni Dr Mary Kerr (BSc Pharmacology, 1984, PhD 1988), Chris Rhodes (BEng Electrical Engineering with Business Studies 1994), Kevin Gaskell (BEng Civil Engineering 1981, MBA 1982, Honorary Doctor of the University 2016), Ishfaq Farooq (BSc Business and Management 2008), Andy Pearson (BSc Business Studies 1978), and of course Murthy himself. Our alumni and those interested are also able to support the Ecosystem as speakers, panellists on both mock and real investment panels, mentors, network builders, or supporting new enterprises with seed funding.

If you would like to hear more about how you can be part of the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem, please contact bree@bradford.ac.uk to discuss the ways in which you can support.

Advisory board spotlight – Dr Mary Kerr

Dr Mary Kerr is one of the University graduates volunteering their time and expertise to support the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem.

Mary held a range of senior leadership roles at GlaxoSmithKline for more than 20 years, including Senior Vice President and Global Franchise leader for the Immuno-inflammation and Infectious Diseases franchise.

She is currently Chief Executive Officer and Director at NeRRe Therapeutics Ltd, a venture capital funded UK biotechnology company and was Co-Founder and CEO of KaNDy Therapeutics. With a wealth of experience, she is an invaluable member of the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem Advisory Board.

“I am a product of, and feel a strong affection for University of Bradford, where I gained a first degree, PhD, and post-doc in Pharmacology. The strategy of focusing on achieving ‘more than a degree’ resonates as it is even more important today.

“I love the ambition behind Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem. I look forward to connecting, exchanging ideas and sharing the knowledge and experience gained throughout my career with the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem community.”



Dr Mary Kerr, Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem Advisory Board member



Dr Efstathios Vassiliadis (pictured fourth from left) with representatives from BREE

The impact of international volunteering

There are many meaningful ways in which our alumni and supporters can give back at Bradford, including through sharing their time and expertise with our students and staff.

This September, we welcomed Dr Efstathios Vassiliadis back to campus. Efstathios is CEO of Evnia, a global organisation that brings transformative medical devices to market through regulatory and clinical processes.

Efstathios delivered an inspiring talk titled 'Venture Odyssey - Connecting the dots of your past experience to develop future value'. He reflected on his entrepreneurial journey, highlighting the importance of surrounding yourself with like-minded, ambitious people, and finding valuable lessons in your failures.

This talk was part of the Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem's (BREE) Expert Speaker Session Series, which invites successful alumni from diverse backgrounds to share their inspirational business stories with our community.

Sonya Bachra-Byrne, Enterprise Development Manager for BREE said:

"Hearing Efstathios speak about the real challenges of being a start-up founder, and the tools he's used to overcome them, was inspiring. His insights deeply resonated with the audience, empowering new founders, and inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators."

"I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to share my career journey as part of the BREE project. The thoughtful organisation and warm hospitality made this experience truly special. It was an honour to be part of such a meaningful conversation."
– Dr Efstathios Vassiliadis, CEO of Evnia.

If you would like to give back by volunteering at the University, there are plenty of ways to get involved. Whether through an Expert Speaker Session like Efstathios, hosting a guest lecture, or offering your insights in another format, we would love to hear from you. Get in touch with the Development Team to explore how best to connect your expertise with our community.

A new partnership with Santander

In May 2024, we signed a three-year partnership with Santander to help students kickstart their careers. Through this partnership, we join the bank's Santander Universities network, which aims to remove barriers to higher education by providing grants, scholarships and internships to students, and funding budding entrepreneurs to launch and grow their businesses.

The partnership with Santander includes a £150,000 package of support over three years, providing funding for our students across three areas: education, entrepreneurship, and employability.

Matt Hutnell, Director, Santander Universities UK, said:

"At Santander we are committed to supporting education, employability, and entrepreneurship. We have a long-standing relationship with Bradford, which is home to one of our six head office sites.

"We are delighted to be extending our relationship with the city and establishing a new partnership with the University of Bradford. We look forward to working with Professor Congdon and her colleagues to provide opportunities for students, staff, and the local community to develop skills to help them achieve their full potential."

Santander has invested over €2.2 billion in the programme since it was founded in 1996, helping over one million people achieve brighter career prospects through education, employability, and entrepreneurship and making Santander one of the largest private contributors to education in the world. In 2022 alone, the bank dedicated €100 million and helped over 250,000 beneficiaries of scholarships, internships, and entrepreneurship programmes.

Left to right: Jonathan Powell, UK Partnerships Director - Santander Universities UK; Matt Hutnell, Director, Santander Universities UK; Tamzine Miller, Head of Financial Support for Santander; Joanne Beaumont, Associate Director: Careers, Employability and Engagement at the University of Bradford; Professor Shirley Congdon, Vice-Chancellor and Paul Watson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching & Student Experience) at the University of Bradford



Transformational new equipment for the Institute of Cancer Therapeutics

Our Institute of Cancer Therapeutics (ICT) is at the heart of advancing our understanding and ability to treat cancer – in Yorkshire, the UK, and around the world. Cancer remains a primary cause of global mortality, and we are leading the way in developing personalised therapeutics tailored to an individual's genetic makeup, resulting in better prognoses, faster recovery, reduced side effects and overall improved quality of life.

Developing these innovative treatments involves testing different methods to find the best combination for specific cancers. Radiotherapy plays a key role in this process, and, until recently, the ICT had to rely on partners to provide the critical technology to deliver radiation as part of research projects.

Thanks to generous donations from a group of individuals and trusts, the ICT recently acquired a 'Precision X-Ray CellRad+Irradiation System' radiation source. The impact of this pivotal piece of equipment will be felt worldwide, as the ICT continues to develop ground-breaking new treatments for common forms of cancer, including breast, prostate, brain, and lung. These treatments, known as 'pro-drugs', can effectively destroy cancerous cells with minimal side effects, helping to transform long-term patient prognoses. Radiation testing is still crucial to ensure that the correct doses are delivered for specific tumours. With the addition of this new equipment, the ICT's ability to innovate and transform cancer treatments globally has been greatly enhanced, allowing more, and increasingly complex, research projects to be undertaken.

We are immensely grateful to all those who enabled the purchase of this vital equipment, including The West Riding Masonic Charities Ltd, In Sue's Name, The Charles and Elsie Sykes Trust, The George A Moore Foundation, The Hospital Saturday Fund, Lorraine Lucas, the Modiano family, and those who wish to remain anonymous.



Left to right, Professor Sherif El-Khamisy, Lorraine Lucas, representatives of West Riding Masonic Charities Limited, and Professor Rob Falconer, Director of the ICT



Supporter spotlight

"In Sue's Name is honoured to be a donor for this important new radiation source to push forward the critical work taking place at the University of Bradford.

"We established In Sue's Name in 2017 to raise money for brain tumour research following the death of our founder's daughter, Sue Blasotta, from a brain tumour at the age of 43. So far, we have raised over £550,000 towards ground-breaking research into brain tumours by hosting events and undertaking charity challenges.

"The charity's trustees were keen to diversify the projects they support, and myself and our newest trustee, Kirsty Drury, are both alumni of the University of Bradford. When the

Craig Rydqvist (centre) picks up the 'Best Charity to Donate To' award for In Sue's Name at the Enfield Business Awards

The space science stars of tomorrow

The Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI has continued to work in our local communities encouraging young people to think differently and consider an education and career in space science.

This year the Centre has run events with schools to kindle their interest in the study and application of space technologies, with more than 700 school pupils visiting the Centre's stand at the STEMfest event held in Bradford in July 2024. In October 2024, the Centre held its first 'Space Intro' event for over 70 A-Level and college students and their teachers. The event covered an introduction to satellites, electronics and coding, and a range of extension activities beyond the day itself to continue to engage young people in space science.

The Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI is both a research centre focusing on the applications of technologies that enable a smart and sustainable exploitation of space to meet some of society's biggest challenges, and a teaching centre with students studying towards an MSc in Satellite Systems Engineering. Those attending these events can go on to pursue our courses, including the MSc in Satellite Systems Engineering. A number of generous £10,000 scholarships have been made possible as part of Dr Murthy Renduchintala's £2 million donation that launched the Centre.

"At the Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI, we know how amazing careers in space science can be. As a university deeply engaged with our local communities, we are delighted to be working with hundreds of children and young people to excite them and let them know about the possibilities that come with studying this amazing subject." – **Professor Ifiok Otung, Director of the Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI.**



Prince Siaw, PhD student, addressing a group of college students in the Anechoic Chamber of the Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI

Faces of the future: meet the recipients

With cost-of-living pressures rising, the demand for our scholarship programmes is rapidly increasing. Thanks to donor funding, we are able to support more and more students each year, giving deserving people the opportunity to thrive at Bradford, regardless of their background.

We are delighted to introduce you to some of our scholarship recipients, who would like to thank you in their own words.



Aleena, Bradford Futures Fund recipient

“Receiving this scholarship will make a huge difference in my life. It will provide me with the financial support that I need to pursue my studies and achieve my goals. This scholarship will also allow me to focus more on my education without the stress of financial constraints.”

Samra, Bestway Foundation Scholarship recipient

“The impact of this scholarship extends beyond my studies, influencing my ability to contribute significantly to my community and profession. By gaining advanced knowledge and perspectives, I aim to bring valuable insights back to my hometown, addressing challenges faced by individuals with limited access to quality education. Becoming a successful Digital Civil Engineer will not only benefit my family but also inspire other women in my community to pursue higher education and excel in their chosen fields.”

Gabriel Nwokolo, Masonic Charitable Foundation Bradford Clinical Scholar

“Attending the University of Bradford and working with Professor Rob Falconer as my PhD supervisor has been nothing short of a dream come true. Completing a PhD is going to broaden and deepen my research skills so that I can contribute meaningfully to the development of cancer therapeutics.”

The Bradford Futures Fund – Sulafa’s story

2024 marked an exciting milestone for the Bradford Futures Fund, with the first cohort of students having successfully graduated from the University in July, including Sulafa, who graduated with a BSc in Occupational Therapy.

The Fund has developed rapidly since its inception. It has grown from supporting seven students in its first year to twenty-six in its third year. Of the students who applied, we were able to offer scholarships to 21% in 2023 (16% in 2021).

We are delighted to share an update from Sulafa on how the Fund impacted her time at the University of Bradford.

“The Bradford Futures Fund has been instrumental in my success at university. The financial support has alleviated the burden of managing placement commitments alongside my studies, especially given the challenges posed by my disability,

and balancing these demands would have been significantly more difficult without it. Your assistance allowed me to focus fully on my placements, gaining invaluable hands-on experience and honing the practical skills necessary for my future career.

“Upon graduation, I plan to work as an occupational therapist, a profession I am incredibly passionate about. The comprehensive education and practical experiences I have gained during my studies have prepared me well for this role, and I am excited to apply my skills to help individuals improve their daily lives and overall wellbeing.

“Thank you once again for your kindness and generosity. Your support has not only impacted my time at university but has also laid a strong foundation for my future career as an occupational therapist.”

In September 2024 we were thrilled to welcome a new cohort of students to the University. We want to say ‘yes’ to as many students as possible who need a scholarship. Your generosity has made the difference in more applicants – just like Sulafa – being helped than ever before in the 2024/25 academic year. Thanks to you, we plan to award over thirty scholarships before the end of 2024.

Academic year	No. applications	No. awards made	% of students supported
2021-22	45	7	16%
2022-23	97	14	14%
2023-24	126	26	21%



Sulafa crossing the stage at her graduation ceremony

Preparing for our year as City of Culture

Bradford's year as City of Culture represents a once in a generation opportunity for our city and the University of Bradford. We are committed to playing our part in Bradford 2025 as part of our Cultural Plan. We will animate our campus through creative expression and make a lasting impact for young people in the region. As we prepare for this exciting year, our cultural venue Theatre in the Mill is benefiting from a number of donations to support their cultural activity.

Theatre in the Mill represents 'arts on campus' through its remit to develop artists globally and through diverse mediums, and aspires to meet the creative needs of academics, students, and neighbourhood communities, through its Gallery and Studio Theatre spaces.

"This is a special moment for Bradford and the wider region, shining a spotlight on what makes us so unique. Whilst we will enjoy a monumental year of celebrations, we will be working hard to ensure the people of Bradford reap the rewards for years to come. This includes our young people, students and alumni, who we hope will benefit from a growth in investment and skilled jobs that this designation should bring." – **Eleanor Clyde-Evans, Associate Director (Engagement, Development and Communications), Bradford 2025 Strategic Lead.**



You're Havin' a Laff participants



You're Havin' a Laff comedy workshop at Theatre in the Mill

You're Havin' a Laff

Theatre in the Mill is staging 12 monthly comedy workshops for its 'You're Havin' a Laff' initiative, funded by a £5,000 grant from the BBC.

The workshops offer a safe space for global majority women and non-binary people, defined as those who are Black, African, Asian, dual-heritage or Indigenous to the global south, to develop their skills and build an audience around comedy that is ethical and inclusive.

Facilitated by Comedian Seeta Wrightson, the workshops aim to attract 30 female and non-binary participants to hone their comedy craft, with the target of some of the group performing at the 2025 Edinburgh Festival.

The workshops, also match funded by Arts Council England, give participants the chance to further develop their presentation and writing skills, build confidence, meet new people, and practice material.

Workshops also look to increase wellbeing, confidence, and empowerment for participants in the Bradford district.

Seeta said:

"It's been an absolute privilege to facilitate these workshops and help bring new comedy voices onto the scene.

"As a woman of colour and a comedian, I know how hard it is for diverse performers to find space in a comedy landscape where traditionally people who look like me are few and far between. The old adage 'you can't be what you can't see' stands true."

Dr Shabina Aslam, Artistic Director at Theatre in the Mill, said:

"Theatre in the Mill is delighted to be part of the BBC's investment into developing comedy in the north.

"With their funds we will further enhance and grow 'You're Havin' a Laff', our local initiative supporting female and non-binary comics to find their funny and broadcast it loudly."

Bradford thespian's legacy transforms University theatre

A generous legacy gift from the estate of a much-loved Bradford-born actor has allowed Theatre in the Mill to undergo a refurbishment to create a modern, welcoming, and accessible space, in time for Bradford's year as City of Culture in 2025.

These £200,000 works were made possible in part thanks to the donation from Bernard Hepton (1925-2018), known for his roles in *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* and *I, Claudius*, with further funding provided by the University.

The updated café and entrance area will offer improved accessibility, and allow the hosting of meetings, away days, and society events for up to 40 people. The new space also provides a relaxed environment for hosting shows, workshops, craft activities, and much more.



Bernard Hepton in a televised production of *The New Word* by J.M. Barrie

Shaping the future of archaeology and heritage



Our School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences has been buzzing with activity as students have been granted the opportunity to delve into real-world archaeological projects, blending cutting-edge technology with hands-on fieldwork, made possible thanks to the generous support of Colin Crawford (MBA 1998).

At one of Bradford's most notable medieval sites, Bolling Hall, students had the opportunity to apply their training in geophysical prospection – a technique used to map and explore historical sites – using specialist tools and sensors to explore underground features. Students and technicians worked together to identify several potential excavation targets, and uncovered anomalies related to former gardens and flowerbeds, and even possible remains of buildings and other structures. Some of these features are identifiable on historical maps, confirming that maps of the time are indeed accurate representations of the landscape.

The upcoming collaboration between the School and the Council for British Archaeology's Festival of Archaeology taking place as part of Bradford 2025 will project this work onto a national stage, giving our students the opportunity to be part of something that will have impact reaching far wider than Bradford. This experience not only strengthens students' hands-on understanding of archaeological practices but also connects them to wider cultural heritage networks – an incredible opportunity only made possible by donor support.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, students in the School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences are gaining unparalleled opportunities to learn, grow, and contribute to meaningful research in archaeology and heritage conservation. From fieldwork at historic sites to using cutting-edge digital tools, these experiences are shaping the next generation of archaeologists, equipping them with the skills and knowledge they will need in their future careers.

Creating a legacy: a gift that lives on

The transformative and impactful work we do at the University of Bradford is only made possible by the generous support of donors like you.

One of the most meaningful ways people choose to make a difference is by leaving a gift in their will. We recognise that, for many, this is the most significant gift they will make – a profound expression of their values and vision for the future.

By leaving a legacy gift, your impact continues to be felt long into the future. Whether you wish to support ground-breaking

dementia research, pioneer new advances in space exploration, or improve access to education for those who need it most, a legacy gift ensures that the causes you care deeply about will thrive for generations to come.

If you share our commitment to trust, inclusion, excellence, and innovation, please do consider leaving a gift to the University of Bradford in your will. Together, we can create a lasting and positive impact on the lives of future students and the world they will shape.

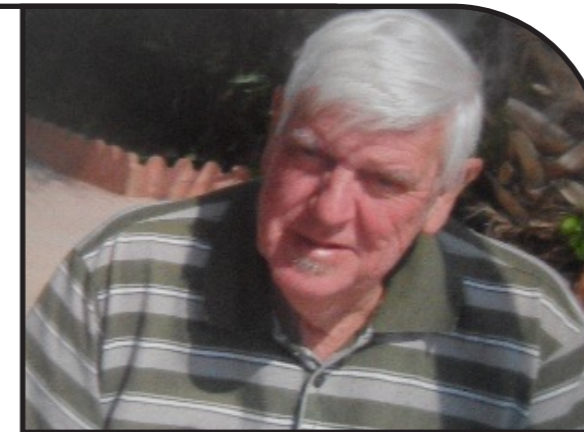
If you're considering leaving a gift to the University in your will, we would love to hear from you to discuss how you can create a meaningful legacy at the University of Bradford.

Generations of generosity

Dr Christopher Pass, who passed away in 2022, was an alumnus of the Universities of Bradford and Hull, who subsequently worked at the University of Bradford's School of Management. He spent over 50 years working at the University, until he was well into his seventies.

During his time at the University, Christopher became a Reader and authored several economics books alongside teaching students. This included a best-selling dictionary for Collins, which went on to sell over a million copies worldwide, with royalties still being paid today.

After Christopher's death in December 2022, his son, Stephen, whilst looking through his father's library, came across a book Christopher had won as a student in Hull. This sparked an idea: to use the royalties from his father's dictionary to pay for current students' books.



Dr Christopher Pass

Working alongside the University, Stephen has established the Dr Christopher Laurence Pass Prizes; financial awards made in his father's memory to the top undergraduate and postgraduate BSc International Business Management students.

Dr Christopher Pass loved working in the School of Management and cared deeply about the institution and its students. Thanks to this generous gift in his memory, he remains a part of the University and continues to inspire students in the School of Management.

Local tailor's donation supports scholarship recipients

Imran Khan, who runs IK Collections in Bradford, made a generous donation of blazers to students who are in receipt of the Bradford Futures Fund. This donation of blazers, available to all recipients currently studying at the University, is aimed at boosting the employability of the students.

IK Collections has made suits or jackets for a host of high-profile names including King Charles III, Keighley-born fundraiser Captain Sir Tom Moore, former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, ex-Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn and ITV Dancing on Ice judge Christopher Dean.

"I wanted to put something back into the local community, as some of the students may be disadvantaged and can't afford to buy a blazer. If they are going for an interview, it will help them look smart.

"It is great to be working in partnership on this with the University, and I want to do my bit to help look after the local community." – **Imran Kahn, owner of IK Collections.**

"We are immensely grateful to Imran Khan for this generous donation, boosting the employability of recipients of the Bradford Futures Fund." – **Philip Fisher, Senior Development Manager at the University of Bradford.**





University of Bradford's Peace FC side after winning the 2024 Tolstoy Cup



50 years of one goal – peace

In 1973, we launched the UK's first ever Peace Studies school, thanks to the generous support of the Quaker Peace Studies Trust. Over the past 50 years, our Department of Peace Studies and International Development (PSID) have established themselves as proud pioneers in the field. Today they are a leading centre for conflict resolution and international development, known and admired around the world. PSID academics have lent their expertise to organisations globally, including the UK Government, United Nations Peacekeeping and NATO. They have worked alongside peacekeepers in conflicts including the Balkan Wars and the Iraq War and have been instrumental in supporting grassroots peace movements.

In June 2024, the Golden Jubilee Conference marked the culmination of a series of celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford. Alumni and delegates were welcomed to campus to celebrate half a century of pioneering, forward thinking, that has made a difference across the world.

The conference also marked the return of the Tolstoy Cup for the first time since 2018, a once annual football match between the University of Bradford's Peace Studies and King's College London's War Studies departments. The Cup – named after Leo Tolstoy's 1869 novel War and Peace – once featured in the Financial Times as one of the top five college sporting rivalries, with Peace Studies winning nine of the 12 matches since its inception.

Our Peace FC side, featuring staff from our Peace Studies department, beat King's College London's War Studies 3-2 in the clash, with players on each side bearing the names of figures notable respectively in the fields of war and peace.

It is with thanks to the support of the Quaker Peace Studies Trust and other generous supporters that the Department has been able to flourish into the admired and respected centre for knowledge and excellence that it is today.

Celebrating your support on campus in 2025

In 2025 we will be inviting you to attend our annual Supporter Celebration event on campus to celebrate the difference you make, speak with those who have benefited from your generosity, and meet with fellow members of our Bradford supporter community.

At our event in the previous academic year, we were delighted to invite our guests to Bradford to be welcomed and thanked by our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shirley Congdon.

This event specifically celebrated the ten-year anniversary of fundraising for cancer research at Bradford. Professor Sherif El-Khamisy, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation and former Director of our Institute of Cancer Therapeutics, shared his vision for the next ten years of the Institute, and provided supporters with a special preview of our intention to fundraise for a revolutionary new piece of equipment.

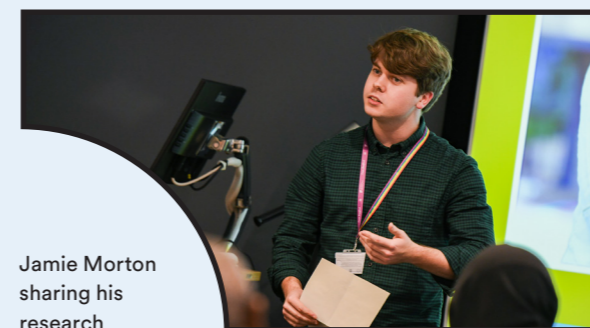
Fundraising for this is now complete – you can read more on page 12.

Attendees also heard from Jamie Morton, a PhD student within the ICT who is fully funded thanks to our donors. He shared his impactful research and the difference the support has made to him. Nehemie Bushiri, a BSc Biomedical Sciences student, told attendees about how her time at Bradford has been made possible by a scholarship from the Bradford Futures Fund.

While those in attendance enjoyed a special afternoon tea, individuals who had benefited from your generosity, both scholarship recipients and researchers, were also present on each table to talk to guests about the difference that they are making here at Bradford.

Please look out for your invitation to the upcoming Supporter Celebration event early in the new year.

Professor Sherif El-Khamisy (left) with a guest at the Supporter Celebration event



Jamie Morton sharing his research



Nehemie Bushiri at the Supporter Celebration event



As we reflect on another year full of activity, we remain immensely appreciative of your continued support to the University of Bradford. Our global community of supporters enables us to push the boundaries of cutting-edge research, make positive impacts on the lives of students who would otherwise be unable to access higher education, and remain a forward-thinking institution.

In the 2024/25 academic year, your generosity has supported more students than ever.

From financial support of scholarships to volunteering your time, we thank you for your continued support.

Meet the team

The Alumni and Development Team are 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 at development@bradford.ac.uk – we would love to hear from you.



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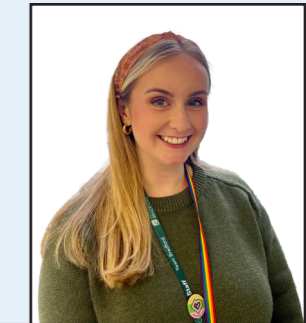
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