The Birkbeck Effect
Thank you

Thanks to our alumni and friends giving more generously, and in greater numbers than ever before, £5.2m was donated in 2014–2015 to provide bursaries and scholarships, to fund cutting-edge research and to improve our facilities.

We also experienced an increase in the number of volunteers providing pastoral support and imparting their knowledge and expertise to our students, all of which play an essential role in preparing students to study and supporting them in their careers.

As we begin to look ahead to the College’s 200th anniversary in 2023, your generosity will become increasingly important. We have significant ambitions and I am confident that, with your continued commitment, we can give Birkbeck the strongest possible platform from which to enter its third century.

Thank you for your kind support.

Professor David Latchman CBE,
Master of Birkbeck
Bursaries are making higher education accessible for 55% of our students.
We fundamentally believe in the power of knowledge to transform lives, so we go out of our way to make education accessible to the widest communities.

“The bursary has helped me to cover the essential costs of food, transport, books and other course-related materials, relieving enormous financial pressure. Thank you for investing in my future; it has genuinely been a life-changing opportunity.”

Alicia Caley, BA Global Politics and International Relations

Birkbeck is a world-class research and teaching institution, a vibrant centre of academic excellence and London’s only specialist provider of evening higher education.

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73% of our research is rated ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’
A £1.4m donation from the Pears Foundation to fund research at the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism was one of a number of generous gifts which helped maintain Birkbeck as a top 250 global university in the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings, 2015–2016.

In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) we confirmed our academic reputation with 73% of our research being rated ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’. Our academics, like our students, are special people. With over 90% active in research, our influential faculty boasts many world-renowned experts.
Establishing Birkbeck as a leader in Digital Humanities
A generous donation to the School of Arts seed-funded an innovative new model for open-access publishing.

Led by Dr Martin Eve, the project has already secured a further three-year grant of $741,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to create the Open Library of Humanities.

Readers do not have to pay to read peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles which will significantly broaden digital access to research. Over 100 institutions including Carnegie Mellon, Duke, Princeton and Yale have already signed up since the platform formally launched with seven journals in September 2015.
I donate to Birkbeck as a way of expressing my gratitude for the opportunities my education has given me. I choose to support students who value the importance of education but require additional financial support to help open up similar opportunities to those I’ve been fortunate enough to receive.”

Matthew Beddall,
MSc Applied Statistics and Operational Research
“I’ve chosen to leave a legacy to Birkbeck to offer opportunities to talented students who may be barred from higher education due to financial constraints.

I believe education is key to improving the life outcomes of individuals and enhancing the wider society. Birkbeck is a fantastic institution which extends opportunities to adults and it is a great comfort to me that after my death I will be helping others realise their potential.”

Jane Anderson-Craig, MA Contemporary History and Politics
£5,022,519.56

Donated in

2014–2015

to support our students and research
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Gifts received ranged from £2 to £1.4m

9 corporates

1,608 alumni and friends

£1.1m in legacies

4 grant-making trusts

Birkbeck is a world-class research and teaching institution, a vibrant centre of academic excellence and London’s only specialist provider of evening higher education.
46% of alumni called in the 2015 telephone campaign made a donation. Thank you!
Our alumni continue to astonish us. Almost half of those who spoke with a student caller this spring made a donation. This exceptional level of participation is among the highest in the UK higher education sector.

Whether it is £10, £20 or £250 per month, or a single donation, our former students are continuing their commitment to Birkbeck long beyond their time in our classrooms.
266 alumni volunteers

donated a record 1,242 hours of their time
In 2014–2015 our alumni and corporate volunteers helped us in all sorts of ways.

62 alumni and corporate mentors paired up with students as part of the Business at Birkbeck mentoring programme.

73 alumni met prospective students through the Get Talking programme to answer questions about studying at Birkbeck.

59 alumni took part in the International Alumni Friendship Scheme buddying up with first year international students to offer pastoral support.

52 alumni volunteered at our Open Evenings.

20 alumni sat on five What Employers Want panel sessions to share their personal experiences of finding employment upon graduating.

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Helping students get a foot on the ladder
A number of generous donors have supported our new *Learning Ladder* opportunity. This innovative way of giving allows alumni and friends to help students at all levels of study in one gift, from entry-level through to postgraduate research.

We know what makes us unique is our progressive approach to higher education and the special people this attracts. Donors supporting the *Learning Ladder* opportunity are helping ensure that money is not a barrier for committed, enthusiastic students from all backgrounds, careers and cultures.
New partnerships that help our students
We are building creative new partnerships with companies who are donating generously to support our students with bursaries, scholarships and prizes, to fund research or to improve the student experience.

Last year these donations totalled more than £250,000. Thank you to:

ArcelorMittal
Clifford Chance LLP
Good Energy
Hogan Lovells
J.P. Morgan
Santander
Texel Group
Winton Capital

and one anonymous donor.

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The generosity of our friends will play a central role in propelling Birkbeck into its third century.
We celebrate our 200th anniversary in 2023. A range of exciting new projects are planned to ensure that our third century is our most innovative and dynamic yet.

Our ambitions will be unashamedly large and the support of our alumni and friends will play a significant role in ensuring that, together, we can continue to deliver the best quality teaching and world-class research in an environment worthy of our students and academics.