

Birkbeck's commitment to making a positive contribution to society is as strong as ever. Our academics continue to push boundaries with their research, driving innovation and sparking debate on some of today's most pressing issues. Our offering to students is stronger than ever, providing routes to education for those who thought they would never have the opportunity to study and supporting our students to achieve not just their academic aims but their career goals.

All of this has been made possible in no small part by the time and gifts that our supporters give to the College. During the last year, supporters like you have given more than £3.9 million to the College and volunteered almost 3900 hours of their time. Thank you for your support. Over the next few pages, you can read about the impact you've had on our students and academics.

Professor David Latchman CBE Master





Your time and financial support played a crucial role in Birkbeck's successes last year. Below are just some of the ways they made a difference.

with a bursary or scholarship Students supported

Students helped to find the advice and support they need to get a head in the to get ahead in their careers

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Research projects supported that are changing the world



Monika's dream was to study for a university degree, but having been out of education for a number of years, and with a full time job, she didn't think this would be possible – until she found Birkbeck.

We offered her a place on one of our Foundation Year courses, which give non-traditional students a route to undergraduate education. Thanks to your gifts, we were also able to offer her a bursary to support her through her studies. She says:

"I had almost given up on my dream of studying and then I discovered Birkbeck's Foundation Year courses. I knew that I wouldn't be able to pursue the course without financial support. My bursary changed my life. With the extra time the bursary afforded me, I was able to achieve such exceptional results that I could skip the first year of the undergraduate course!"

Birkbeck exists for people like Monika, who want, or need, an alternative to traditional education systems. We are committed to enabling people to study regardless of their age, financial circumstances or the qualifications they hold on paper. More than anything, we are committed to helping people to achieve their potential. Your support helps us to do just that.

To support students like Monika, give online at bbk.ac.uk/donate



Sustainable eyewear. A smart bracelet to protect people in dangerous situations. An app that encourages Londoners to improve their recycling habits. These are just some of the business ideas that students on Birkbeck's *Pioneer Programme* developed last year. The programme, funded by Santander Universities UK, was an opportunity for more than 200 of our entrepreneurial students to turn their ideas into a reality.

Over the course of seven interactive workshops, students heard from inspirational innovators and entrepreneurs, who helped them to shape their ideas by giving valuable insights on topics including marketing, business planning, and pitching. Just as important as these insights was the professional network that the students developed by meeting with like-minded people, a network that, for many students, isn't available outside of Birkbeck. The Pioneer students have served as sounding boards for one another, provided honest feedback and have even become business partners.

Many of the Programme's graduates are continuing to develop their business ideas and all of them are using the skills they have learnt to get ahead in their careers – whether they want to start their own business, impress at interview or secure a promotion.

To support entrepreneurs like these, give online at bbk.ac.uk/donate



At a time when immigration is one of the most talked-about issues in current affairs, Birkbeck's *Refugees, Newcomers, Citizens* exhibition has been reminding the public of the invaluable contributions that immigrants made to the UK in the 20th century.

The exhibition focused on the lives of some of the 150,000 migrants who sought refuge, jobs and a new home in Britain between the 1930s and 1950s. Their stories were told through more than 60 prints published by *Picture Post*, the magazine that pioneered photojournalism and brought the lives of 'ordinary' people into the news. As well as featuring Kindertransport and Windrush-era migrants, the exhibition explored the histories of child Holocaust survivors brought to the Lake District to recuperate after World War II, and African-American servicewomen who ran Red Cross Clubs for black soldiers during the war.

This thought-provoking exhibition, supported by Peter and Jacqui Zinkin, The Robert Gavron Charitable Trust and an anonymous donor, served as a poignant reminder of migrants' role in rebuilding postwar Britain, promoting discussion and reflection on attitudes towards immigration today.

To support educational opportunities like this, give online at bbk.ac.uk/donate



Birkbeck is a champion of social equality. We believe that everyone has the right to the same opportunities regardless of their economic or social background, their race, gender or any other characteristic. With the support of your gifts, we have been tackling the lack of diversity in one of the UK's most exclusive sectors: the Arts.

People from BAME backgrounds, working class people and people with disabilities are hugely underrepresented in the Arts. This means that many of those who want to work in this competitive sector do not see themselves represented in it, particularly at the highest levels. As a result, fewer people from these backgrounds apply for jobs in the sector.

By offering scholarships and bursaries to people from a range of backgrounds, we have been encouraging people from underprivileged groups to study Arts subjects at university and to pursue their ambitions of working in the sector. These scholarships provide students with the money they need to cover their costs of study and, more importantly, show them that we believe in their abilities, giving them the confidence to take the first step towards a career they are passionate about.

To support our students, give online at bbk.ac.uk/donate



Many students come to Birkbeck to catalyse their careers. However, for those with a disability this isn't always straightforward and they are twice as likely to be unemployed as people without disabilities.

One of the ways Birkbeck is helping to address this is through our *Ability Programme*. The *Ability Programme* offers paid internships to students with disabilities, neurodiverse conditions and long-term health conditions. Richard spent a month gaining invaluable work experience at digital agency Azur. He says:

"I wanted to see if I could make an impact in spite of my hearing problems. My placement was fun and exciting and has given me confidence to be ambitious in my future career. What I liked most was that no one judged my disability – they judged me on the basis of what I was contributing to the company."

Richard's was one of 12 internships funded by the Ian Karten Charitable Trust. By building students' confidence and helping employers to understand how they can adapt to meet the needs of employees with disabilities, these internships are promoting change in industry.

To support students like Richard, give online at bbk.ac.uk/donate



Bacton Terminal in Norfolk supplies one third of the UK's gas. Dangerously close to a cliff edge, both Bacton and the UK's power supply are under threat from coastal erosion. This year, the first large scale sandscaping scheme was launched to protect it. Two Birkbeck academics, Professors Sue Brooks and George Roussos, have been working on evaluating this sandscaping scheme.

Sandscaping involves pumping sand onto the shoreline where it can form a large beach, providing a barrier between the sea and the cliffs. A similar scheme has recently been implemented in Holland but further research is needed to understand the fate of the new sand at Bacton. Professor Brooks and her team have developed a sensor to monitor the movement of the sand along the shore. By doing so, they ultimately hope to inform shoreline change not only at Bacton but across the region.

This project was supported by Birkbeck's *Research Innovation Fund*, launched this year thanks to your gifts to the College. The Innovation Fund provides seed funding for our researchers' most innovative ideas, giving them the chance to develop and deploy them to help better the world.

To support our academics and research, give online at bbk.ac.uk/donate



"MY GOAL WAS TO CHALLENGE MY VIEWS EVERY DAY AND THEN CHALLENGE OTHERS' PERCEPTIONS"

Željka Oparnica PhD History Birkbeck PhD students shape our understanding of the world – from furthering our knowledge of the risk factors for psychotic experiences in adolescence to exploring how cooperation with other countries can ensure a consistent supply of renewable energy. However, the cost of studying means that a PhD is out of reach for many students.

Thanks to generous philanthropic support, we are able to offer PhD scholarships, giving students the chance to develop their world-shaping ideas. Željka Oparnica was awarded one of these scholarships.

"My goal was to challenge my views every day and then challenge others' perceptions. My studentship brought me to one of the best places to do so. I still don't know just how profound the influence of the studentship will be; it can only rightfully be measured in decades."

Željka's PhD is funded by a legacy left to us by the late Margery Boughton. Margery's legacy will support PhD students in the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology in perpetuity, giving them a springboard from which to launch their academic careers.

To support future PhD students like Željka, give online at bbk.ac.uk/donate