

Your Impact: Student Support

WINTER/SPRING 2024

Dear friend,

We're so grateful to the Aberdeen family for being there for our students over the past 12 months. Your incredible generosity has made a world of difference.

Your donations have given students the chance to live University life to the fullest through extracurricular activities and scholarships. Your altruism has been vital in providing much needed support to students who are facing financial difficulties.

We're excited to share an update on how your donations have been put to great use! Your kindness means the world to us, and we can't thank you enough.

With best wishes,

Katrina Allan,
Head of Alumni Relations & Regular Giving

You are changing lives through scholarships

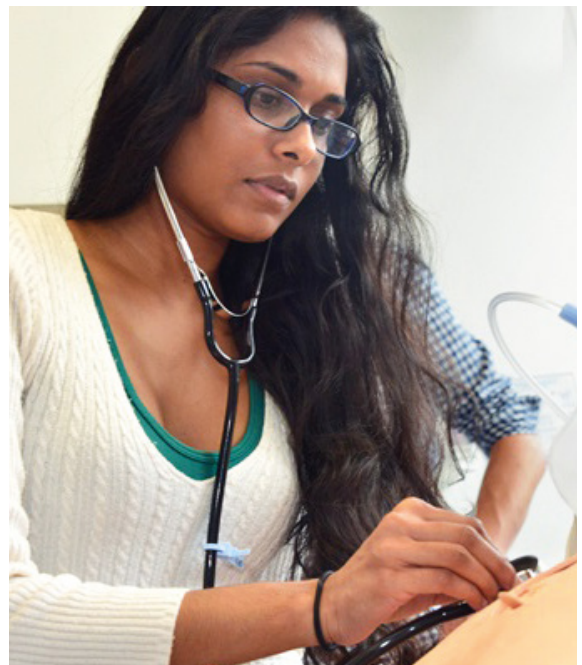
"The scholarship has helped me considerably to progress my studies. The cost of living crisis has been hard for many families – but especially for mine. My mother is a single parent living on a minimum wage, and with other children to support.

"I was able to purchase an iPad, which transformed my approach to managing my dyslexia. My self-confidence as an independent learner has grown rapidly, and I now engage far more effectively with my studies.

"This scholarship has not only provided me with financial support, but it has also improved my self-esteem – given your confidence in my abilities – and greatly enhanced my motivation to succeed. For all of the above, I am most grateful."

Deepti *

2nd year Medicine, Alumni Annual Fund scholarship recipient



ABERDEEN
THERE FOR THEM

YOUR GIFT MATTERS

* Student name has been anonymised, and photo above is posed by a model.

We love to hear from our supporters and would welcome your comments on this impact update. You can contact us with any feedback you may have at giving@abdn.ac.uk.



Open To All – Offer Holder Day

Hundreds of prospective members of the Aberdeen family were invited to our Offer Holder Days, to see our wonderful campus and have the opportunity to find out what it's like to be an Aberdeen student.

However, having the time and resources to take part in this important day is a privilege that many of us may take for granted. Your gifts allowed our team to offer bursaries to those from disadvantaged backgrounds so that they didn't miss out.

Dr Sally Middleton, Access & Articulation Manager, says, "So far, you have helped 106 students attend our offer

holder or open days. This includes a range of students such as care experienced young people; young carers; those in receipt of free school meals and people with refugee/asylum seeker status. Fifteen percent of those students live in island communities further supporting our work to ensure these young people have the same opportunities as those living on the mainland of Scotland."

Supporting the Student Voice Through The Gaudie

Since 1934, *The Gaudie*, the University of Aberdeen's student newspaper, has stood for quality and independent journalism while focusing on issues important to the students of Aberdeen.

The Alumni Annual Fund has supported 10 print runs of the publication this year, helping members build communication skills, develop writing and editing skills, and engage in media and public relations networking. *The Gaudie's* online presence allows them to break exclusive stories, many of which are picked up by major news outlets. You can read the latest at: www.gaudie.co.uk

"*The Gaudie would like to express our sincerest thanks to you, the donor, whose commitment to students has meant that we can take part in something many of us are deeply passionate about and believe is important.*"

Isabelle Hampton-Zabotti
Editor-in-Chief



Gaudie staff at the Student Publication Association Conference

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Your Gift Supports Cycling Scheme for Students

The Students' Union has benefitted from the Alumni Annual Fund to help make their free bike hire scheme more accessible.

Their fleet of upcycled bikes has been upgraded to include six specially adapted cycles – including some with electrical assist. Since entering service the bikes have been used extensively by over 20 students.

In the first two months of the Students' Union having these bikes, a student who had never been on a bike before was able to try cycling for the first time. Another student was able to accept a

summer job that she otherwise would have struggled to travel to. A third student was able to take part in a cycle trip event that he otherwise would have been unable to attend.

“ I cannot begin to express how much of a positive impact the bike has made on my daily life. I can now navigate through campus and nearby areas effortlessly, arriving at my classes feeling energised and ready to tackle the day's tasks.”

Musa
PGT Student



Helping Students in Financial Hardship

The cost of living crisis has left hundreds of students struggling with unprecedented financial strain. But your donations to the Student Hardship Fund have helped to extend a lifeline to those students facing money worries.

Thanks to the generosity of the Aberdeen family, the Student Support team has been able to swiftly respond to unforeseen financial hardships. Nick Edwards, Head of Student Support Services, says, *“Your gifts have been instrumental in ensuring that no student faces this journey alone.*

“ Your support has helped provide immediate relief, allowing students access to essential items vital for their

wellbeing and academic progress. From textbooks to food shopping, your generosity has truly helped these students through some of the most difficult times of their lives.”

The Student Support team is also equipping students with life skills such as budgeting guidance and assistance with navigating student funding.

Your dedication to the wellbeing of our students is so appreciated. Thank you for helping to ensure that no student has to face the cost of living crisis alone.

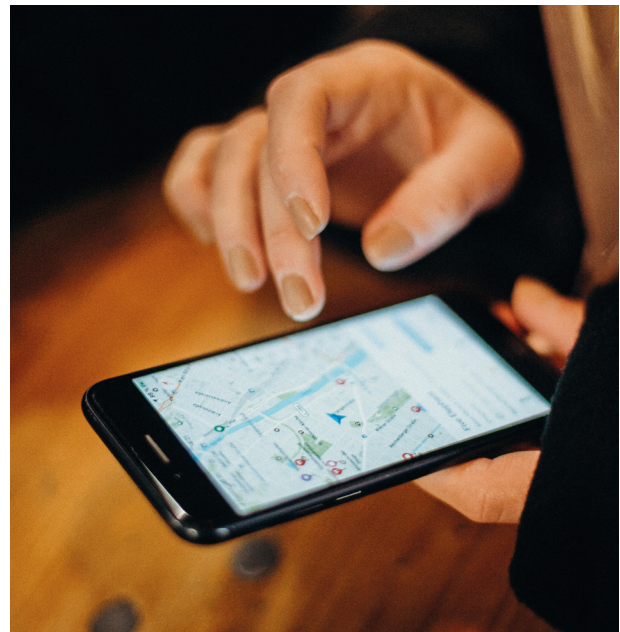
Finding Your Way Around Campus Just Got Easier!

Finding the right room on campus can be a daunting prospect for new students and veteran visitors alike.

But a dedicated and innovative team of engineering students, with support from the Alumni Annual Fund, have successfully developed an interactive map to guide you to your destination. The map, which currently features the MacRobert, Taylor, Fraser Noble and Meston buildings, as well as the Sir Duncan Rice and Taylor Libraries, allows visitors to plot a route directly to the desired destination, with step by step instructions on how to get there. The user can also enter route preferences such as avoiding stairs.

Klara Krämer, 4th year student says, “We hope that our work has enabled current and future generations of staff, students and visitors of the University to find their way around more easily, and reduce stress, frustration and anxiety on campus. All this is due to your kind help and support, which we greatly appreciate.”

You can access AtRoom by scanning the [QR Code](#) at the entrance to campus buildings, or by visiting: <https://atroom.at/map/BhvITE6DgJ9tS1sLqBOVc>



Celebrating Students' Sporting Successes

The sports bursary scheme helps outstanding student athletes to achieve their full potential, improves their student experience, and showcases sport, the University, and our facilities to prospective students.

There are currently 25 sports bursars supported by the Alumni Annual Fund, taking part in a range of sports from swimming and rowing to athletics and hockey. Performing at a high level can be costly but your support has helped to cover costs of training, competition fees, travel, and specialist equipment and clothing.

Some highlights include:

Faye Rogers: represented Team GB at the para swimming world championships

Olivia Burke: represented Team GB and the University at the World University Winter Games

Jane Davidson: placed 1st in the 100m Hurdles at the Scottish Universities Outdoor Championships

UoA Women's team: placed 5th overall and 1st from Scotland at the BUCS Indoor Championships

Read more about Faye's success at www.abdn.ac.uk/news/22139



If you would like to speak to someone about a gift to the University of Aberdeen please contact Claire Henderson, Regular Giving Officer on **+44 (0)1224 275354** or email claire.henderson@abdn.ac.uk.

All donations to the University of Aberdeen are administered through the University of Aberdeen Development Trust SCIO which is a charity registered in Scotland No. SC050996.

The University of Aberdeen is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC013683.