

A collage of images showing people in a workshop or classroom. On the left, a man with glasses and a woman are looking at something. On the right, a young woman is looking at a laptop. The background is a blurred office or classroom environment.

# Donating to Dundee

Donor Impact Report  
University of Dundee  
2020-21

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# “Every donation to the University makes a huge difference...”

I took office as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University in January 2021 and already in that short time I have been struck by the generosity and commitment of the wider community in supporting our efforts to transform lives.

Every donation to the University makes a huge difference, whether it is helping students through times of personal crisis or helping them get to university in the first place, or supporting major research initiatives helping tackle Covid-19 and other major diseases such as Parkinson's.

There is a lot we can achieve on our own, but so much more we are able to do with the support of trusts, foundations, charities and individual donors.

And it is not just money. Our alumni volunteers and student ambassadors give their time and energy to support all sorts of events, from on-campus tours to international meetings around the world.

This report highlights the impact of just some of this activity. It is a privilege for me to be leading a University at the centre of an extended community that is helping make such positive changes.

Your support is something for which we are hugely grateful. Thank you.

**Professor Iain Gillespie**  
Principal & Vice-Chancellor

# “When our students needed you the most, you rose to the challenge.”

The University of Dundee only exists today because of the foresight and generosity of those who gave founding donations in 1881. Since then, philanthropy has continued to help us deliver our core purpose to transform lives, locally and globally, through the creation, sharing and application of knowledge. Throughout this time, with the exception of the war years, it would be hard to think of a more disruptive period than this pandemic and I want to thank you for helping our students and researchers when they really needed you.

Your support has been inspirational and I hope you enjoy reading about what you have made possible and the lives you have impacted.

Thank you!  
**Ellenore Hobkirk**  
Head of Development and Alumni Relations

With the impact of Covid-19, our student community has faced an unprecedented year of challenges and hardships. When our students needed you the most, you rose to the challenge. Your support has made a huge difference to so many of our students.

Thank you so much!  
**Scott Quinn**  
President, Dundee University  
Students' Association 2020 - 21



Ellenore Hobkirk  
Head of Development  
and Alumni Relations



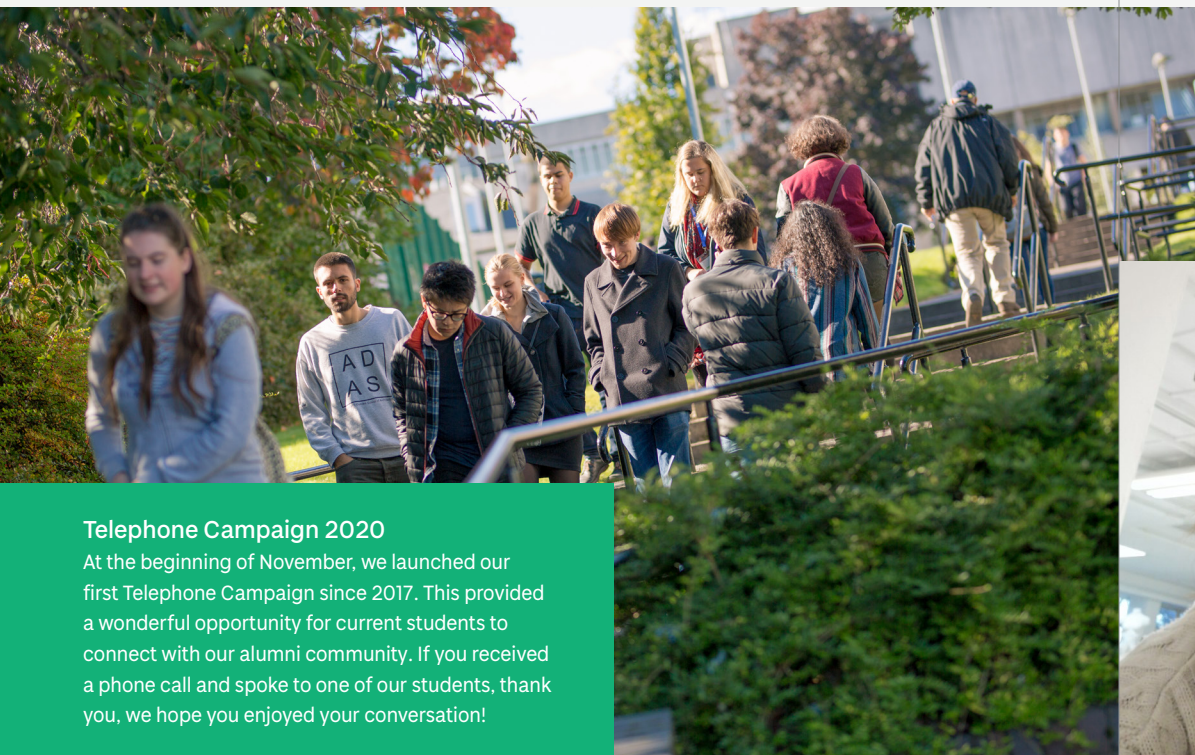
Scott Quinn  
President, Dundee  
University Students'  
Association 2020 - 21



# Supporting Students in Hardship

The Student Financial Aid Fund is providing a lifeline for students who continue to face financial crisis and uncertainty. Thank you for supporting these students when they needed you the most.

We asked for your help by email and during the telethon, your response was overwhelming. Together donations totalled **£132,648**, many of you giving for the first time.



## Telephone Campaign 2020

At the beginning of November, we launched our first Telephone Campaign since 2017. This provided a wonderful opportunity for current students to connect with our alumni community. If you received a phone call and spoke to one of our students, thank you, we hope you enjoyed your conversation!

Because of your generosity our Student Services have provided emergency financial aid to help students with no other means to pay rent, utility bills, access broadband and eat.

“Thank you so very much. This is such a weight off my shoulders.”  
 “Thank you so much for your continued support throughout this challenging time.”

### New fund

Your collective generosity has allowed a new fund which supports students who have grown up in care, have caring responsibilities, or are estranged from their family. These students have faced many challenges during the pandemic, magnifying their lack of support. The fund will provide access to activities allowing them to participate more fully in the University experience and provide opportunities to build friendships and support networks.

### Thank you to the Trusts and Foundations who supported our students...

Thank you to the Batchelor Trust who provided £21,500, supporting fifteen students facing financial difficulties due to Covid-19, essential aid that will allow them to continue their studies.

“I would like to thank the trustees for their help. This year has not been easy for anyone, but without their help it would have been much more difficult.”

A Trustee of the Leng Charitable Trust heard about the plight of our students when they received our spring appeal. As a result, the Trust agreed to award a generous grant of £3,000 to ensure students have access to emergency aid during the pandemic.



“As a University of Dundee student I had the support of student hardship funds at a particularly challenging time. These funds are so important especially at this difficult time for students and their families.”  
 - Donor

# Coronavirus Research Fundraising Campaign



2020 was an extraordinary year with Covid-19 posing an enormous challenge. We are incredibly proud of our community's efforts during this time. When news of the virus hit, they immediately sprang to action to help their community and the international research efforts taking place. Ultimately bringing hope and comfort to others.

The Coronavirus Research Fundraising Campaign was established to assist our scientific community to develop vital research into long term Covid-19 healthcare solutions. Researchers were invited to apply for funds to help them develop their research and react quickly to emerging Covid-19 discoveries. Thanks to generous donations two vital Covid-19 studies have been able to proceed.

From the School of Medicine, Professor James Chalmers, one of the UK's leading lung experts, was a successful recipient. Professor Chalmers and his team are developing a simple blood test to identify patients at increased risk of death from Covid-19. This test would allow doctors to quickly identify and treat patients that develop severe Covid-19.

Dr Charis Marwick, an expert in infectious diseases at the School of Medicine also received funding to study the disproportionate impact the virus had on care homes. This study will examine how specific characteristics of care homes and their residents have influenced the infection rate and death toll during the pandemic.

Our work continues to be recognised internationally and we are grateful many Trusts and Foundations have chosen to support us.

**"We are delighted to be able to support the University of Dundee Coronavirus Research Fundraising Campaign. We strongly believe that research is the only way to protect people from Covid-19. The medical community has never faced a more urgent need for research than the unprecedented situation we face today. We know that scientists here in Dundee have the skills and expertise to improve outcomes and deliver results for our local communities and we are privileged to be able to help progress this vital research further and faster."**  
- The Trustees, Northwood Charitable Trust, the associated charity of the Thomson family

To find out more about Dundee's response to Covid-19 please visit:

**[dundee.ac.uk/coronavirus-fundraising](https://dundee.ac.uk/coronavirus-fundraising)**

**"We are delighted to receive this award, particularly knowing that this funding was provided by the generous support of members of the public."**  
- Prof. James Chalmers



Dr. Charis Marwick  
Coronavirus Research  
School of Life Sciences



Prof. James Chalmers  
Coronavirus Research  
School of Life Sciences

# Our Year at a Glance 2020 - 2021

The University of Dundee has a clear mission - to transform lives, locally and globally, by the creation, sharing, and application of knowledge.

Philanthropic giving is at the heart of the University and began in 1881 when Miss Mary Ann Baxter made a founding donation to establish a college in Dundee, which would later go on to become the University we are now.

We are fortunate that over the years philanthropic giving has continued and made an impact on the lives of people locally and globally through the support of scholarships, key University initiatives and research.

## Legacies

An amazing 8 legacies were left to the University this year. A legacy in your will is the most personal gift you can make. It is a way for you to make a lasting difference and ensure that Dundee continues to transform lives. We are very grateful to those of you who have planned to leave a legacy to the University. Your legacy will last a lifetime and ensure future generations can access a world class education and opportunities that will change their lives.

If you are interested in setting up a legacy, please contact us at: [development@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:development@dundee.ac.uk).

## Alumni

Our alumni can give back their time in a number of ways including:

- Becoming a Global Alumni Ambassador
- Mentoring a student
- Providing a written or video testimonial about their time in Dundee and career experience since.
- Speaking to students in webinars about their Dundee experience.
- Taking part in an Academic School Focus Group.

If you are interested in finding out more about our volunteering programme, please contact us at: [alumni@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@dundee.ac.uk).

If you would like to keep up to date with our stories and developments you can request a copy of the Bridge, our alumni magazine. Please update your details at: [dundee.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-relations/alumni-magazine](http://dundee.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-relations/alumni-magazine)

## Autumn 2020 Telephone Campaign

**194**

→ 194 Donors in the Autumn 2020 Telephone Campaign

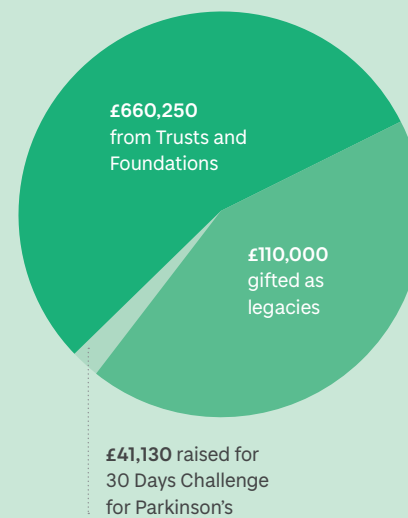
**£107k**

→ The Telephone Campaign raised £107,773 for key areas of support

**1,103**

→ Alumni had a conversation with one of our student callers in the campaign

## Parkinson's Research & Incisionless Brain Surgery



## Alumni Relations

- We launched our alumni volunteering and Global Alumni Ambassador programmes
- Over 500 hours of alumni volunteering recorded
- Over 450 alumni from across the globe signed up to volunteer for the University
- 41 Alumni Ambassadors based across 18 different countries

## Funds raised to support students

Donations during our 2020 Telephone Campaign	<b>£107,648</b>
Donations to support Robertson Scholars and Scholarships and Bursaries	<b>£70,000</b>
Donated by alumni, Trusts and Foundations for the Student Financial Aid fund	<b>£33,000</b>
Donated by the Batchelor Trust for the Student Financial Aid fund	<b>£21,500</b>

# Solving the puzzle of Parkinson's

Our team of researchers and physicians work with people living with Parkinson's every day. Their passion and commitment to improving patients' lives is truly inspirational.

Parkinson's disease is a puzzle that will take time and dedication to solve but with the support of our donors these dedicated researchers will be able to piece together a better understanding of how the disease can be diagnosed sooner, and how its progression could be slowed or stopped altogether.

**"The commitment, determination and drive of the research team and their belief that science will help to arrest, or even cure Parkinson's is hugely encouraging."**

- Marc Van Grieken

Your donations to the Dundee Parkinson's Research Campaign will allow our dedicated Parkinson's research scientists to purchase state-of-the-art technology to help understand the disease in all its complexity. Our world-renowned experts are passionate and determined about improving treatments and outcomes for patients. Your donations will help to advance our Parkinson's research further and faster.



## 30 Days Challenge for Parkinson's

In June staff, students and people living with Parkinson's took part in our 30 Days Challenge to raise funds for Parkinson's research. We are delighted to announce that they raised £41,130. We want to thank everyone who took part, the dedication and creativity shown by the fundraisers was phenomenal. The money raised will help piece together a more complete understanding of how the disease can be slowed down and reversed.

Photo: Dr Andy Howden, senior researcher in Parkinson's and top fundraiser. Andy completed a 770 km Triathlon for his challenge.



## Incisionless Brain Surgery

We recently celebrated the installation of Scotland's first Magnetic Resonance-guided, Focused Ultrasound technology, allowing incisionless brain surgery. This was made possible by generous donors who helped provide the £2 million for its purchase and use. The machine will be used to develop procedures to treat essential tremor and, in the future, tremors relating to Parkinson's and other neurological disorders.

<sup>1</sup>Dr Tom Gilbertson, a key clinician developing treatments for essential tremors by using MRI focused ultrasound.

<sup>2</sup>Peter Airy, one of the first patients in Scotland to receive this ground-breaking treatment for essential tremor.

## Transforming lives through legacies

We would not be in this position without the unwavering support, foresight and patience of our donors, particularly donors who remembered the University in their Will. This project was made possible due to the foresight of people who chose to do just this. We are grateful to the late Edward Gillespie and his family. Little did they know the impact they would have and the role they would play in transforming patients' lives. Their bequest ensured that the University could complete the purchase, making this life changing treatment a reality for patients.

**"My late uncle was very attached to his adopted city of Dundee. He often spoke fondly of his years as a Professor at the University and was eternally grateful for the excellent treatment both he and his wife received at Ninewells Hospital. He would be honoured to know that his gift had helped to fund such an important project which will no doubt transform the lives of so many people and is so close to his heart in many ways."**

- Dominic Gillespie,  
Nephew of the late Edward Gillespie

# Supporting Student Aspirations

Scholarships ensure there are no financial barriers to education allowing everyone an equal chance to succeed. Your gifts transform lives, enabling students to benefit from a world class Dundee education.



“The first-class education I received from the University of Dundee opened up a world of opportunities for me; I’d like to ensure the same is true for the next generation. Having come from a modest background myself, I wanted to play my part in reducing financial barriers to young people achieving their full potential.”

– David Peattie,  
Mechanical Engineering, 1976

“The scholarship has really helped with my studies. I have four young children at home, and I have worked part time whilst studying. The scholarship enabled me to take some unpaid leave during exam times to allow me to focus on my studies.”

– Joseph, 4th year BEng  
Mechanical Engineering,  
David Peattie Bursary Scholar

If you would like to discuss funding scholarships please contact us at: [development@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:development@dundee.ac.uk)

## Robertson Scholars, a Journey to Success

Your donations, are matched by the Robertson Trust providing an annual scholarship of £4,000, enabling young Scots who have the ability, but not the means to access a first class education. The Journey to Success programme helps scholars build new skills and develop networks to help make the most of their education.

The 1974 Medics’ year group are fundraising for Robertson Scholars studying medicine, honouring classmates who have died. The group have raised over £26,000, and will soon have raised enough to fund three scholars, a wonderful achievement! This builds on the success of funds raised by the 1967 Club who have funded 15 Robertson Scholars since 2018. None of this would be possible without our partnership with the Robertson Trust. Their programme means your donation is doubled and our scholars given outstanding opportunities.

Six new scholars joined us in 2020/21, bringing the total number of Robertson Scholars in Dundee to 49. Thank you for helping these students choose education as their route to a bright future. If your year group would like to find out more about fundraising, please contact us at: [development@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:development@dundee.ac.uk)



“I would like donors to know that their funding is very much appreciated. I strive to be successful so that I can give back to my community and help other students.”  
– Megan, 4th year Law (Scots and English) LLB (Hons),  
Robertson Trust Scholar

## Would you be a Dundee volunteer?

Many of your fellow graduates choose to volunteer to enrich the experience of our students through mentoring or by sharing their expertise in their field.

Recently some of our alumni contributed to online events as part of our outreach programme designed to encourage secondary pupils from backgrounds and schools that would not normally enter professions such as Medicine, Dentistry and Law. These pupils had the opportunity to hear first-hand the diverse paths these alumni have taken and to get answers to question which may have been holding them

back. The event was a great success as those who attended told us their confidence had grown and that they felt University could be the place for them.

“The discussion today was very interesting! I have more knowledge on the life of a surgeon and have a greater understanding on what I need to do in preparing to become a doctor.”

If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at: [alumni@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@dundee.ac.uk).





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update-your-details](https://dundee.ac.uk/alumni/stay-in-touch/update-your-details)

**Make an impact:**

[dundee.ac.uk/alumni/donate](https://dundee.ac.uk/alumni/donate)

**You can find us on:**



@dundeeuni



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