



# YOUR GIFTS ARE CHANGING LIVES

Find out how inside



# A YEAR *in giving*

Your gifts, no matter what size, make a real impact on campus and beyond. This map demonstrates some of the ways your gifts to the Innovation and Immediate Impact Programme have made a difference this year. Thank you for your support.

## Thank you

If it wasn't for the generous donations of alumni and supporters like you, I wouldn't be where I am today, following in your footsteps at the University of Birmingham.



The Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme has changed my life. The thought that there was someone out there who was willing to invest in a guy like me is overwhelming. This time last year, my mum was really ill and I was looking after my little brother, the house and studying. University seemed like a distant dream. But thanks to your generosity, I was able to continue in education and hope to make a positive impact on the world.

This is the reason I applied to be an Annual Giving student caller as I get to fundraise for other students like me, who wouldn't be able to come to university without your gifts. As you will see over the next few pages in *the Difference*, we are changing lives here at Birmingham. Your gifts, no matter what size, from £2 to millions, are having a transformative impact. I really enjoy my job as a caller as not only do I get to play a small role in giving back to the people who have helped me and fundraise for such great projects, but I also get to speak to alumni like you and hear about your memories of Birmingham and your advice for the future.

On behalf of everyone your gifts have supported over this past year, I want to say a massive thank you. You have made my dreams come true and are continuing to change lives around the world. Thank you.

**Judah Chandra,**  
Donor, A2B scholarship recipient  
and student caller  
First Year BA Social Policy

### Studentship

The Medical School's Class of 2012 graduation gift funded a summer internship for third-year medical student, Nick Coffin to undertake a work placement within the field of cardiovascular science. This invaluable experience provided Nick with firsthand experience of a live laboratory, where he gained an improved understanding of science at the bench and how this translates into targeted and effective therapies to patients at the bedside.



A unique human motor control facility with state-of-the-art Human Vibration equipment will house innovative clinical research into vertigo and balance as well as pioneering studies into driver safety and train passenger experience.

### Hydrogen train

Students and young researchers at Birmingham built the world's first hydrogen locomotive engine. The train used cutting-edge propulsion technology and was entered in the first Institution of Mechanical Engineering Railway Challenge.



### Human motor control lab

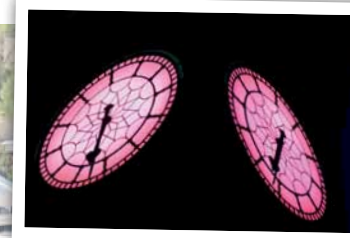
### Burkitt's Lymphoma

Staff and students raised more than £285 for our life-saving research into Burkitt's Lymphoma, an aggressive cancer which accounts for half of all childhood cancers in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a charity bake sale.



### In the pink

Old Joe joined historic landmarks across Britain, including Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square, by turning pink in October 2012 to raise awareness of breast cancer. As one of the UK's leading centres for cancer research, the University is working to ensure early diagnosis and the best possible treatment for breast cancer. A lecture from Head of Cancer Sciences, Professor Paul Moss, entitled 'Fighting cancer' provided a history of UK cancer research and a snapshot of Birmingham's work leading the fight.



### Guild performance space

A new bespoke performance and rehearsal space in the Guild of Students is meeting the changing needs of student societies, allowing more students to participate in theatre and performance activities.



### Bramall Music Building

420 supporters and friends gathered at the new £16 million Bramall Music Building at the end of November 2012 to witness internationally acclaimed soprano Carolyn Sampson (BMus Music, 1995), officially open the state-of-the-art facility.



## Off campus



### Delhi delegation

An undergraduate delegation travelled to the Academics Stand Against Poverty conference at the University of Delhi, India. The students learnt about the daily challenges faced by the global poor, met activists, academics and NGO representatives, and saw the vital research taking place to tackle these problems and how they can play their part back in Birmingham.



### Seeing the light

Dental students have been given an unrivalled opportunity to learn innovative filling techniques and train with specialised equipment. The new light-curing equipment, MARC (Managing Accurate Resin Curing), is improving clinical technique by enabling assessment of the effectiveness of fillings.



### Shakespeare Institute Summer School

English undergraduates benefited from a behind-the-scenes insight into Shakespeare at a special alumni-funded summer school. Acting workshops and cutting-edge research showcased the Bard's relevance today.



### e-Library

Access to a bespoke audio-visual library of learning resources is now available to medical students to help develop their specialised research skills. Many students complete their research abroad so the innovative online library ensures students have access to the best research support available and the opportunity to revise and develop their skills throughout their studies.

To make a donation to *Circles of influence*, use your mobile phone (see page 8), complete and return the enclosed form, or visit our website: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving). Alternatively, call +44 (0)121 414 8894 to give or +44 (0)121 414 7957 with any queries.



# Continuing to change lives

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, supporters and friends, we have been able to achieve all of this and so much more.

## Pioneering treatment for prostate cancer

Prostate cancer affects one in nine men in the UK, making it the most common cancer among the country's men. The University is pioneering new treatments to improve quality of life and find novel ways to treat the disease, including a groundbreaking clinical trial which combines two existing therapies in a unique way.

The trial uses High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) treatment which heats and cools the prostate to destroy the tumour, coupled with a powerful immune system stimulant to protect patients from the disease in a minimally invasive procedure.

'Unfortunately prostate cancer is a very common disease with up to 40,000 new cases a year,' says Dr Richard Viney, Senior Lecturer in Urology, School of Cancer Sciences and Consultant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. 'We hope this new trial will develop a novel way of managing the cancer to improve the lives of thousands of men across the country.'

The treatment is expected to improve life expectancy of advanced sufferers who have exhausted all other options and if successful, will act as an alternative treatment to chemotherapy and radiation for newly diagnosed patients. Richard adds: 'Thanks to advances such as this, patients will live with prostate cancer instead of die because of it.'

Learn more  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/prostate-cancer.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/prostate-cancer.aspx)

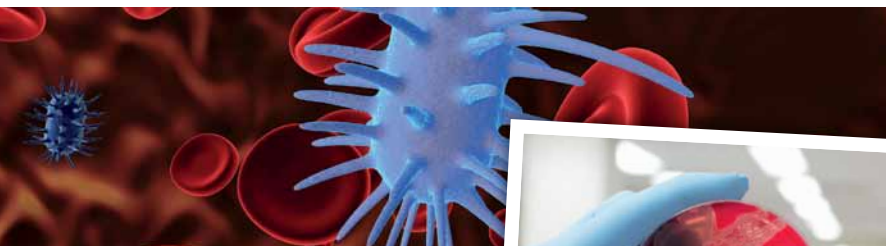
Scan me to find out more about our pioneering treatment for prostate cancer.



## What giving means to me

*Having spent more than 30 years in clinical cancer research in Birmingham, I have benefited from charitable funding of medical science. The need for such giving is obvious. The presence of a thriving, productive cultural dimension is no less important for the life of a university and the region it serves. The arts and humanities help us to understand and civilise ourselves. That's why I give to the Barber Institute of Fine Arts and the Brindley Music Building.'*

**Professor Michael Cullen**, (Occ UG Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music, 2009)



## Gift boosts fight against global threat

Funding of £500,000 from the Wolfson Foundation will enable the University to make a major impact in the war against infection and drug resistance in a groundbreaking new interdisciplinary centre.

Building on a long tradition of microbiology research and substantial investment from the University, the Birmingham Interdisciplinary Centre for Antimicrobial Drug Discovery (BICADD) will be a world-class facility to find new drugs for use against everything from hospital-acquired 'superbugs' to tuberculosis.

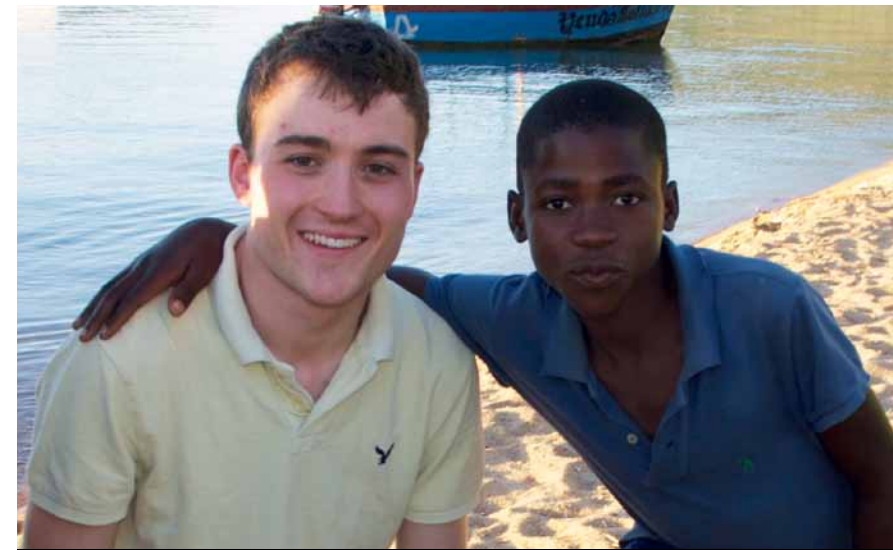
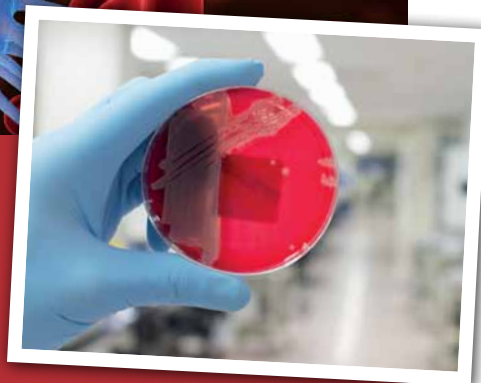
With a rich network of links to the pharmaceutical industry and the largest clinical trials unit in the country, BICADD can then move its discoveries quickly from the lab into clinical practice, benefiting patients as fast as possible.

'Infection represents an enduring threat to human health globally,' explains Del Besra, Bardrick Professor of Microbial Physiology

and Chemistry and recipient of the Wolfson Royal Society Merit Award. 'Across the planet, hospital-acquired infections, tuberculosis and malaria kill millions every year and in our hospitals, the success of modern medicine guarantees the prolonged survival of vulnerable patients, leaving them wide open to infection.'

Dr Luke Alderwick also speaks of the need for new drugs now to have any chance of controlling – or better still eliminating – these deadly bacterial pathogens. 'I would like to thank the Foundation for their generous support, which will enable us to make significant advances in this ongoing and urgent fight,' he says.

Learn more  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/biosciences/alderwick-luke.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/biosciences/alderwick-luke.aspx)



FRONT LINE: Student Blair Merrick treated Burkitt's Lymphoma patients in Malawi

## Your gifts saving children's lives

Joining the fight against Africa's most common childhood cancer, one final-year medical student saw firsthand how your support is saving lives.

Blair Merrick worked in a Malawian hospital for his medical elective, treating patients with a pioneering new combination of drugs for Burkitt's Lymphoma. The aggressive form of cancer is 50 times more common in Sub-Saharan Africa than the Western world and sees tumours double in size daily.

'It was a really daunting but rewarding experience being able to see the research move from the laboratory into clinical practice,' explains Blair. 'I was mainly recording the outcome of the trials, so I got to see firsthand the difference the treatment was making to the lives of these children and their families.'

Your gifts enabled the research team to complete this first trial, and nearly every single child treated had a positive response, with their tumour halting growth and even shrinking.

Lead researcher, Professor Chris Bunce in the School of Biosciences, explains: 'We are really pleased with the results. Next we will explore a different drug combination and if this is successful, will combine the two to hopefully create the most effective treatment.'

Just £500 funds one child through this trial; more than 200 children have already been funded. If you want to give a gift and save a life, turn to page 3 to find out how.

Learn more  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/burkittslymphoma.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/burkittslymphoma.aspx)

## What giving means to me

*'We are very proud to have our name on the Brindley Music Building which is a wonderful facility completing the historic Aston Webb semicircle and bringing music to the heart of campus. We have always had a close affinity to Birmingham and have shared some very fond memories here. Music is an area that we feel passionately about and we hope these facilities will provide the department, and the people within it, with the tools they need to excel in every way possible.'*

**Dr and Mrs Bramall**, (Dr Terry Bramall CBE BSc Civil Engineering, 1964; Hon DUniv, 2011)



## What giving means to me

*'The grant from the Wolfson Foundation is absolutely key in our ongoing fight against the worldwide threat of infection and drug resistance, and will help to ensure our discoveries benefit patients as fast as possible. Thank you.'*

**Del Besra**, Professor of Microbial Physiology and Chemistry



## Lifting barriers lets talent shine

When Usamah Khalid (MEng Civil Engineering, 2012) was 16 years old, university was an aspiration that seemed outside of his grasp. However, thanks to the University's Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme, six years later, Usamah has a Masters in Civil Engineering and is now on a graduate scheme with the Highways Agency working towards achieving Chartered Engineer status.

'A2B is the reason for my success,' he says. 'My parents had no experience of higher education so it was unknown to me. The work of the team through school visits and summer schools addressed my concerns financially and socially before I arrived, allowing me to focus on my studies and enjoy my time at university without worrying.'

Funded by alumni and friends, A2B scholarships provide an opportunity for talented students from the West Midlands whose families have little or no experience of higher education to gain access to the University regardless of their personal or financial circumstances. Applications are continuing to grow and nearly 70% of students achieve at least a 2:1.

'A2B is so much more than financial support, it is an opportunity. Students can be dissuaded from applying because of personal circumstances but A2B overcomes this. It is something that I continue to support having left university and will no doubt give back financially when I can,' Usamah adds.

Learn more  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/A2B.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/A2B.aspx)



# The volunteers spanning the student journey

Alumni gave more than 3,000 hours of their time to the University last year – much of it directly helping students. Alumni and students told us why they help and the impact this can have. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Kerrie Holland via [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## Recruitment

### International student recruitment

'It is always a pleasure to offer advice to students looking to study at the University just as we were guided in making an application. Being at Birmingham was a great experience for me.'

*Renu Jonwall, PGDAV College, Delhi University (MSc International Accounting and Finance, 2011)*

## Open Day

### Open Day Speaker

'The University and Business School provided wonderful levels of support during my PhD. Sharing some thoughts on my postgraduate experiences was the least I could do.'

*Dr Darren Coleman, Managing Consultant (PhD Brand Marketing, 2009)*

## Welcome

### Welcome Speaker

'It was an honour to speak to new students. I wanted to show students how the future doesn't necessarily hold what you think it will; it can be something very different, and so much more.'

*Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services, Birmingham City Council (MSc Physics, 2009)*

## Careers

### Careers talks

'It is very inspiring to hear from alumni because it makes the pursuit of a specific career more attainable and relevant.'

*Elisha Owen, BA English with Creative Writing student*

### Graduations

'I feel proud and honoured to lead out the new graduates at the end of each degree congregation as they reach the end of their student journey at Birmingham.'

*Norma Broadbridge (BSc Botany, 1954; MSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 1992), President of the Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association*

### Mentoring

'In the current economic climate, it's important to focus on how studies translate to careers. I helped my mentee frame his skills and experience in a way that would be useful for employers, and shared my knowledge and experience.'

*M. Ilyas Malek, Economic Adviser, UK Department for International Development (BSc Mathematical Economics, 2004; MSc Public Economic Management, 2005)*

## Mentoring

### Internships

#### Internships

'My internship with Sony was a fantastic experience which gave me an insight into my dream industry and helped with my dissertation.'

*Ashleigh Lloyd, BSc Accounting and Finance student*  
'The internship was an overwhelming success and Ashleigh was a credit to Birmingham. As a result, we are planning to continue the programme.'  
*Sarah Fahy, Vice President, Global Tax Office Europe, Sony (BCom Industrial Economics and Business Studies, 1986)*

### Guest lectures

'I hope students gain some practical experience from my guest lectures. To learn the theory is fantastic, but I want to give an insight into how I run my business and the sort of decisions I need to make.'

*Matthew Key, CEO of Telefonica Digital (BSocSc Economics, 1984)*

## Guest lectures

## Graduations

# How will you be remembered?

Almost three-quarters of people in the UK give regularly to charities and yet only 7% remember them in their Will. You can do great things with a legacy to Birmingham.

Christine Thomas (BSc Geography, 1984), a former teacher and educational consultant, lost her battle with secondary bone cancer last year after her breast cancer spread. Christine's legacy will always live on through a gift to pioneering research at Birmingham.

'The University formed such an important part of Chris' life and is renowned for research on many types of cancer,' explains her husband David Crane. 'As a family, we wanted to support breast cancer research and Birmingham was the obvious place. We hope that it can help in some way to make a difference.'

Christine's legacy has funded an incubator for Dr Jo Morris, Senior Lecturer, School of Cancer Sciences, and her team who are conducting a new trial to improve understanding of how and why hereditary breast cancer develops. The incubator will keep cells alive, protecting them from contamination as the research is carried out.

Legacies left to the University can have a worldwide impact by funding lifesaving research such as this; supporting bursaries and scholarships for those who would otherwise be unable to come to the University; funding life-changing work experience; or improving students' learning experience by supporting the University's resources.

Whatever your legacy, Birmingham will receive all of your gift as any legacies left to a charitable organisation are exempt from Inheritance Tax.

Learn more  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving)

## DID YOU KNOW?



APPROXIMATELY 7 OUT OF 10 PEOPLE IN THE UK DIE WITHOUT LEAVING A WILL

18

ANYONE OVER 18 CAN MAKE A WILL

TAX FREE

AS THE UNIVERSITY IS A CHARITY, YOUR LEGACY WILL BE EXEMPT FROM INHERITANCE TAX

The BARBER Institute of Fine Arts

THE BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS WAS GIFTED TO THE UNIVERSITY AS A LEGACY

HELPING STUDENTS IN FINANCIAL NEED IS THE MOST COMMONLY CITED REASON FOR LEAVING A LEGACY TO BIRMINGHAM



10%

ANYONE LEAVING 10% OF THEIR TAXABLE ESTATE TO CHARITY WILL QUALIFY FOR A REDUCED RATE OF INHERITANCE TAX



## What can I leave to Birmingham?

- **Residual bequest**  
All or part of your estate's remainder after all other bequests are made.
- **Pecuniary bequest**  
A specified sum of money.
- **Specific bequest**  
A particular named item such as shares, jewellery or a piece of art.
- **In memoriam donations**  
Instead of funeral flowers, friends and family make a donation to the University in your honour.

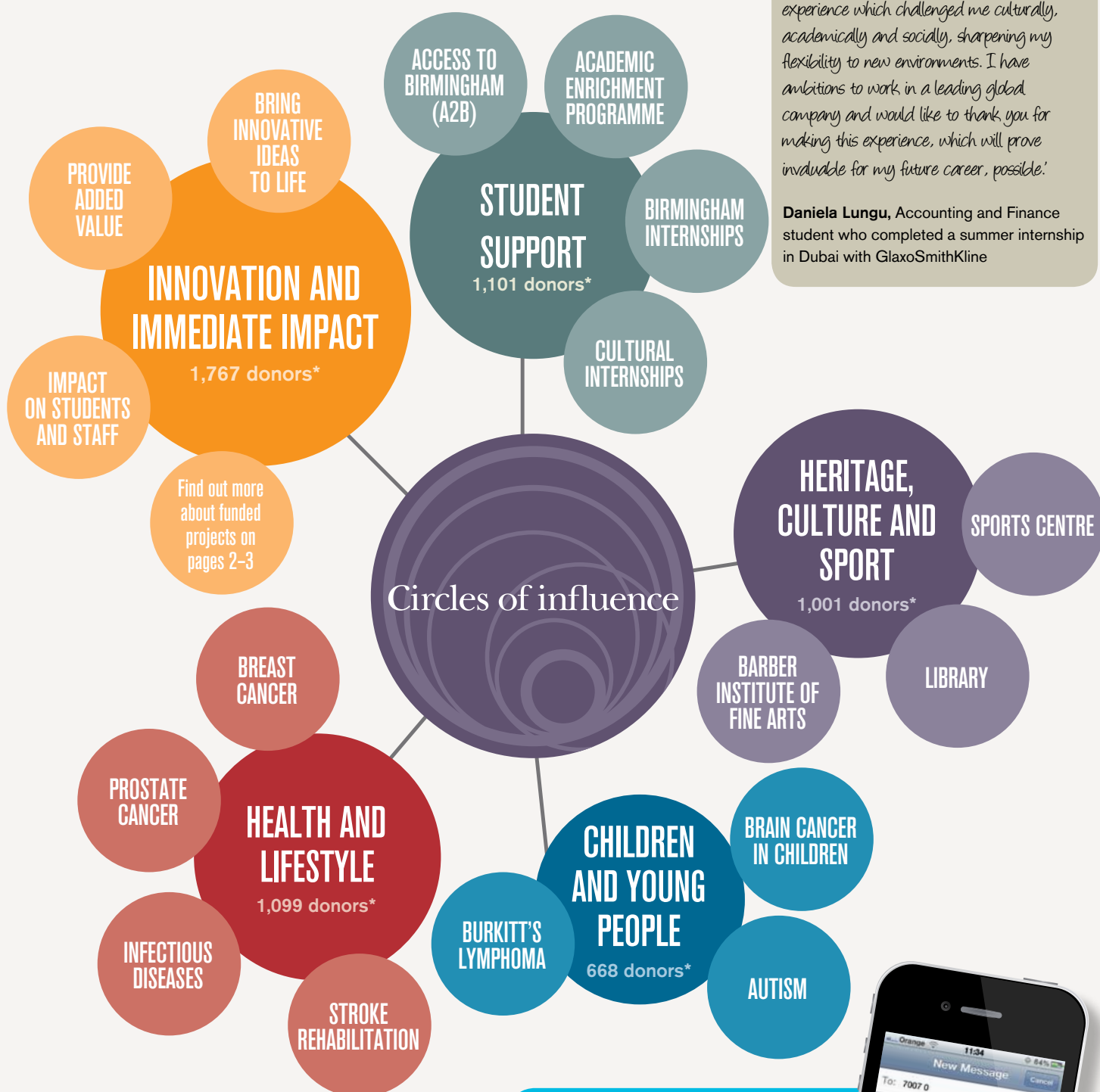
In all cases you may specify where you would like your legacy to go, in consultation with the University. To leave your legacy, or find out more contact Christian Burden via [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## What giving means to me

'I enjoyed my time as a student at Birmingham Medical School and felt that I gained much more than a degree and a leading career. I felt I had been given so much with such a profound effect on my life, that it was only right to give something back.'

**Dr Sheelah James** (MBChB Medicine, 1961), legator

# CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE: THE NEXT PHASE



## What giving means to me

'My internship was such a fantastic experience which challenged me culturally, academically and socially, sharpening my flexibility to new environments. I have ambitions to work in a leading global company and would like to thank you for making this experience, which will prove invaluable for my future career, possible.'

**Daniela Lungu**, Accounting and Finance student who completed a summer internship in Dubai with GlaxoSmithKline

## THANK YOU

### Inspired?

Please complete your donation form,  
text to give or give online at  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence)

## Which project will you support?

Text the code below followed by the amount you wish to give to 70070  
CIRC02 Innovation and immediate impact  
CIRC03 Children and young people  
CIRC04 Heritage, culture and sport  
CIRC05 Health and lifestyle  
CIRC06 Student support

